

A305 Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

20th July 2011

Dear Colleagues

Re: Translational Research Partnerships

I am writing to you to highlight the activity of the Translational Research Partnerships in Inflammatory Respiratory Diseases and Joint and Related Inflammatory Disease.

The Partnerships emerged from the work of The Office for Life Sciences in 2010 and in their pilot phase were known as the Therapeutic Capability Clusters. Following a successful pilot, the programme was transferred to the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) to run. This is a suitable home for the long term given NOCRI's role in industry engagement with academic translational medicine centres.

Translational Research Partnerships are an internationally unique approach to supporting open innovation and collaboration with the life sciences industry. They provide a single point of access to collaborate with world-class investigators in the UK's leading academic and NHS centres. Working in partnership with industry, they drive early and exploratory development of new drugs and technologies.

With a launch date planned for the autumn, we are now actively seeking the involvement of companies with relevant candidate therapies and technologies to work with the Partnerships. Initial industry interest has already been strong and it is clear that the grouping of these world-class institutions and investigators into a common scheme is both unique and compelling.

From strategic advice, expertise in disease mechanisms, access to enabling technologies or the availability of well-characterised cohorts of patients, collaboration with the Partnership can take many forms. This represents your opportunity, as a company with an inflammatory respiratory or joint and related inflammatory disease focus, to engage early in this high-profile scheme and benefit your business not only from the Partnerships but also from the significant exposure their launch will attract.

If you would like further information about either of the Translational Research Partnerships then please don't hesitate to contact me either by email: lucy.allen@nihr.ac.uk or by phone 07850 312094.

Kind regards

Dr Lucy Allen
Research Collaboration Manager
NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure