



# Community Partner

Working in partnership with researchers & health professionals

## Indicative Role description

This document is an indicative role description for the Community Partner role. The final role description will be developed in collaboration with Community Partners once they are selected.

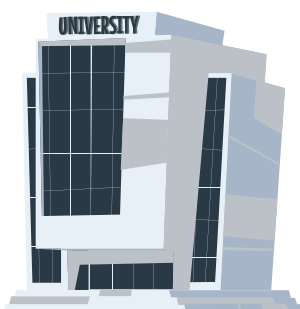
# BACKGROUND

## WHO WE ARE:

We are a network of researchers and health professionals who work at a centre called the National Institute for Health & Care Research (NIHR) Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (Imperial BRC).

The Imperial BRC is a partnership between:

**Imperial College, London**  
[University]



**Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust**  
[a group of hospitals including Queen Charlottes & Chelsea ,  
Hammersmith, Charing Cross, St Marys and Western Eye  
Hospitals]



The aim of the partnership between the University and Trust is to develop new treatments, diagnostic tests and medical technologies (e.g., health monitoring apps) for the benefit of patients, the public, and the health and care services in North West London (NWL; see map below).



The Imperial BRC has recently been funded for another five years by the NIHR from 1 December 2022 and will include research and activity focused on the following areas:



## Dementia, brain injury & mental health

Improving understanding, care & treatment of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, traumatic brain injury, cognitive impairment & mental health (e.g. depression, anxiety, personality disorders, addiction)



## Cancer

Improving cancer & leukaemia diagnosis, care and treatment



## Heart health

Improving diagnosis, care & treatment of heart conditions such as angina, heart attack, coronary heart disease, genetic or inherited heart issues, myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) or abnormal heart rhythm



## Diabetes, hormones, obesity & infertility

Preventing and treating obesity, type 1 & 2 diabetes, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, hormonal conditions and their complications, such as infertility



## Disease diagnosis

Improving diagnosis of cancer, gut health diseases & other diseases which are often missed or incorrectly diagnosed



## Lung health

Improving understanding, diagnosis & treatment of lung diseases such as wheeze, asthma, allergies, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis & pulmonary fibrosis



## Surgery & technology

Improving the quality & safety of heart surgery, cancer surgery, surgery after injury or surgery for hip, knee or other joint replacements, through the use of new surgical technology & procedures



## Our immune system

Improving the diagnosis & treatment of conditions which impact the way your immune system works including: systemic lupus erythematosus, thrombocytopenia and thrombosis, vasculitis, kidney transplantation & chronic kidney disease



## Multiple long term conditions (at the same time)

Prevention, management and treatment of multiple long-term or chronic conditions occurring at the same time



## Gut health

Improving understanding, treatment & management of conditions that affect the stomach and surrounding organs, including Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and Syndrome (IBS), Colitis, Crohn's disease, gastritis or food allergies (e.g. lactose intolerance)



## Infections

Improving understanding of bacterial and viral infections, HIV, and healthcare associated infections



## Digital health

Developing digital apps & devices to manage or monitor health, and using data (in electronic patient records) to improve patient care and treatment



## Health inequalities

Exploring the role of social (e.g. relationships, family structure), genetic and environmental (e.g. housing, pollution) factors on health



## Pregnancy & Premature birth

Improving pregnancy and birth outcomes for mothers and babies

# WHY WE WANT TO PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Your knowledge from living with a condition that affects your health, or having experienced your own care, or the care of others, is of great value to researchers.

While researchers may have the scientific knowledge about a health condition, they often do not have the experience of living with the condition themselves.

That is where your lived experience comes in! By contributing your experience and your views, you provide valuable knowledge that would otherwise be missing.

The Imperial BRC recognises that the involvement of the public is essential to improve the quality and relevance of research conducted within the centre

We also want to know what people in North West London think we should be researching to address the health issues in our local community.

That is why we have developed, in partnership with members of the public, the Community Partner role.

# WHAT DOES THE ROLE REQUIRE?

As a Community Partner, you will:

- work in partnership with one of the Imperial BRC research areas (listed on page 2).
- ask questions as a 'critical friend' to make our work more relevant to the NWL community
- provide advice on ways we can engage and involve communities in our work to make sure our work aligns with the health priorities of the NWL community.

Involvement will also be flexible and you will have the opportunity to choose how you would like to be involved. This could include:

- joining a face-to-face or online group meeting with researchers, health professionals or other community partners
- having 1-to-1 meetings with researchers/health professionals
- providing your feedback on plans/documents via email or over the phone.

We expect the role will take up to **30 hours of your time from February 2023 for 12 months**, with the possibility for extension.



# WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



## Community Partners will:

- **be 17 years or older and live, work or study in North West London**, for our work, this includes the boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow or Westminster
- **have existing community connections in North West London**. You may be part of a community organisation, charity or group linked to your faith, health condition, age, sexual identity, ethnicity or geographical location
- have **current experience (as a patient, carer, family member or friend)** related to our research areas (see page 2)
- be **passionate about improving the health of the local North West London community**
- not need any **experience or understanding of research**. **You just need a willingness to learn and attend training for which you will be paid**. You will receive training and support for this role
- **Be able to work as part of a team**. Listening and respecting others' views
- **Be comfortable speaking in front of others**. Including being confident to question information and explanations when they are not clear
- **Be comfortable reading and providing feedback** (from your lived experience) on written material which may be provided via email or post

# SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

To support you in this role we will:

- Regularly ask you about any training and development needs, and seek to offer relevant and accessible training
- Provide support and access to resources required to fulfil the role - you will be able to call or email your point of contact if you have any questions
- Keep you updated - we will update you with any relevant information or upcoming meetings/events relating to the research theme
- Send you (by the method you request) any relevant information and/or event details in an accessible and prompt manner
- Pay you for your time and reimburse your expense claims within a reasonable time
- Provide notes from meetings in an accessible and prompt manner
- Answer any questions you may have
- Provide regular feedback on the changes made as a result of your feedback.

## Further details on payment for time & expenses

You will be offered payment for your time (approx. £25 per hour) & any relevant reasonable expenses (e.g. a £5 contribution towards Wi-Fi, travel, childcare or carer costs). Payments/expenses are calculated following [NIHR guidelines \(Version 1.3- July 2022\)](#).

You are responsible for declaring payments received to HMRC. Payment for public involvement may affect benefits, further information is provided in the following NIHR guidance:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/payment-guidance-for-members-of-the-public-considering-involvement-in-research/>

If have any questions or require further advice, you are welcome to get in touch with us via the contact details on the next page.

# HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the role of Community Partner please complete the short form accessed by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code below. The deadline to apply is the 9th January 2023.



# CONTACT DETAILS

For further details about this role please contact the team at the Imperial Patient Experience Research Centre:

Maria Piggin (Partnerships & Training Manager)  
Phone: 0207 594 9774

OR

Halle Johnson (Public Involvement Officer)  
Phone: 020 7594 3822

Email: [publicinvolvement@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:publicinvolvement@imperial.ac.uk)





# GLOSSARY

**Biomedical Research Centre (BRC):**

Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs) are collaborations between world-leading universities and NHS organisations that bring together academics and clinicians to translate lab-based scientific breakthroughs into potential new treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies. There are currently 20 BRC's across England.

**Health research:**

The term research means different things to different people, but is essentially about finding out new knowledge that could lead to changes to treatments, policies or care. Health research is any research which ultimately aims to improve human health.

**National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR):**

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is the country's largest funder of health and social care research, meaning it gives organisations and individuals the money, support and technology to do research. NIHR is funded directly by the government, and is not a private company. NIHR's mission is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.