**COVID-19 and Clinical Research Oversight Group**

**Terms of Reference**

**Background**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) is a partnership between Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) and the University of Cambridge, in collaboration with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Trust and the Royal Papworth Hospital. It is the key vehicle for supporting, delivering and providing leadership for biomedical and clinical research within the NHS, both locally and nationally.

The COVID-19 outbreak is impacting on all aspects of clinical research. All or parts of many research studies are being suspended to protect participants or to free up resources to support the NHS response to COVID-19. In parallel, the NIHR Cambridge BRC has expertise and infrastructure to support COVID-19 related research at both a local and national level.

**Remit**

The COVID-19 and Clinical Research Oversight Group will provide oversight and strategic direction of biomedical and clinical research in relation to COVID-19 in accordance with guidance from NHS England and the Chief Medical Officer.

Roles will include:

* Reviewing and providing access to available capacity, capability and infrastructure for COVID-19 related research
* Reviewing, with external advice as needed, proposals for COVID-19 related research
* Prioritising research and assessing requirements for resource and access to research infrastructure
* Supporting expedited regulatory and governance approvals of COVID-19 related research studies
* Coordinating the impact of COVID-19 on existing research and supporting investigators of existing studies

The Oversight Group will make decisions relating to the conduct of existing or proposed research studies on behalf of the Sponsor where this is Cambridge University Hospitals as sole Sponsor or Cambridge University Hospitals jointly with University of Cambridge, seeking advice as needed. This will include a risk assessment of regulatory, insurance and contractual requirements.

**Membership**

* Director NIHR Cambridge BRC (Chair)
* Director Elect NIHR Cambridge BRC
* Regius Professor of Physic
* Theme leads (or designated representative):
	+ Anti-microbial Resistance
	+ Infection, Inflammation and Immunotherapeutics
	+ Respiratory Disease
	+ Population and Quantitative Science
* NIHR Respiratory Disease CRF representative
* CRF / research nurses representative
* R&D Director Royal Papworth Hospital
* R&D Director Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
* PHE representative (Dr Nick Brown)
* Head of Cambridge University Hospitals R&D legal team (Dr Mary Kasanicki)

*All members may need to designate representatives*

Additional members may be co-opted to the group, and subcommittees may be established to consider specific aspects of COVID-19 research.

**Reporting**

Reporting will be through the silver and gold command structure established to handle the threat of COVID-19.

**Quorum**

Five members, which must include one of the Director / Director Elect of the BRC or the Regius, with decisions by simple majority and casting vote from the Chair if necessary.

**Frequency of meetings**

Weekly with teleconference facilities.