

Role profile

Help us understand the issue of diversity in clinical trials



Type of opportunity

Focus group



Time commitment

Up to 4 online meetings



Payment and expenses

Payment offered (see details below)

Summary of the opportunity

Are you interested to help us understand and address the lack of diversity in clinical trials? At Cancer Research UK (CRUK) it's essential that we put people with lived experience at the heart of our work. We want to hear from patients, carers, and members of the public from diverse backgrounds to make sure our clinical research work and activities reflect the needs and opinions of the UK's diverse population.

Clinical trials are a key part of our work. They're medical research studies that aim to find out if a new treatment or procedure is safe, better than any existing current treatment, helps patients feel better, or give them a better quality of life.

We're exploring the current barriers faced by different patient groups who currently are not very well represented in clinical research, such as those from minority ethnic backgrounds, those living with long term illnesses and disabilities, or members of the LGBTQIA+ community. If you identify **as being part of one of these groups, we'd** really like to speak to you to understand what stops people from being approached about and recruited to a clinical trial.

If this sounds interesting to you, we'd love to hear your opinions and for you to join the focus groups!

In these focus groups, you will help to shape...

- Our understanding of challenges and barriers faced by different groups in relation to clinical trials
- Our future plans to make sure our clinical trials are more representative of the UK patient population
- The information we provide to patients, public and the research community to address

this issue

- Our engagement with diverse groups to improve their awareness and understanding of clinical research.

We're looking for people who...

- Identify as coming from one of the following groups:
 - people from a minority ethnic background
 - people from the LGBTQIA+ communities
 - people living with disabilities
 - people living with any long-term illnesses or diseases
 - people from any other group who may be under-represented in clinical research
 - We will also be looking to ensure the group represents a broad range of ages from 16 and over.
- Have an interest in, a basic understanding/experience of, or a willingness to learn about research and clinical trials
- Are comfortable and willing to share their experience and opinions, and listen to the opinions of others
- Can participate in active conversations with a range of people
- Can objectively represent the needs of a broad range of people and think beyond their personal experience

You do not need to have:

- Any knowledge of CRUK or the work we do
- Participated in a clinical trial
- Experience working in science or research
- Previous experience volunteering.

Equal Opportunities and diversity:

At Cancer Research UK, we're committed to creating an inclusive space to involve all people affected by cancer, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender, age, religion or belief. We respect, champion and value the visible and invisible differences between each other.

We actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and cultures and believe that a range of views and insight will help us represent all people affected by cancer.

We're able to make reasonable accessibility adjustments for people who need them. Please let us know if this is the case.

In this role, you will be required to...

- Prepare for, attend and take an active part in about 4 focus groups online, sharing your honest and constructive opinion. We may also ask you to reply to short surveys etc.

- Represent your broader community and your own perspectives
- Respect and listen to the views of other people during meetings
- Review any documents before meetings to be fully prepared to contribute effectively
- Work with the CRUK staff responsible for the group meetings to suggest items for discussion and potential next steps
- Give us with feedback during your role
- Have access to a computer/tablet/mobile (with mic/webcam) and a good internet connection to take part in online meetings on Microsoft Teams.

In this role, we promise to support you by...

- Giving you with a key contact who will answer any questions you have about your role.
- Offering you an optional telephone introduction.
- Creating a safe and open environment for feedback, so that you can share your views about how the panel is working and suggest improvements.
- Sending you an introduction pack to learn more about CRUK's work and our activities in clinical research and specifically our plans in improving the diversity of our trial participants.
- Providing timely, clear and easy to understand information about clinical trials to make it easy for you to understand and share your opinions.
- Offering your feedback and asking for your feedback to understand and improve your experience of the role.

Your responses and opinions will feed into the ongoing development of our work. CRUK will provide information about the outcomes of each consultation and of your work when this information becomes available.

Additional Information

Length of role: This group would meet every 3 months from November 2021-November 2022 (up to 4 meetings total).

Confidentiality: Some of the information that CRUK shares with you may be confidential or commercially sensitive. Therefore:

- You'll be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- You'll need to treat the information you receive from CRUK as confidential and will not share it with any other individual or organisation.

Reviewing the role and requesting feedback: CRUK will continually review your work to shape longer term plans for involving people affected by cancer in its work. To support the review, you'll be invited to share any feedback about your experience on an ongoing basis.

Payment:

In accordance with our involvement payment policies, Panel and Committee members can claim payment (honorary) in recognition of the time spent attending virtual and in-person meetings and for completing the meeting pre-work.

The following payments will be offered (claiming is optional and may affect benefits/tax):

- Up to 2 hours = £30
- Up to 4 hours/half day = £50
- Up to full day = £80.

We will also offer a £5 virtual meeting allowance (£5 per meeting).

Travel expenses: As meetings will be online, travel expenses will not be provided.

How to join the panel?

If you would like to join this group, please contact involvement@cancer.org.uk to request and complete a quick application form for us to find out more about you. Please, return it to us by **Friday 22nd October**. If you have any questions, please contact us.

If you're interested in this work, but unable to commit to taking part in in these particular focus groups, [join](#) Your Involvement Network to be kept up-to-date about all the latest opportunities to shape our work.

Interested in finding out more about how people affected by cancer are shaping our work?

See the latest opportunities to shape our work:

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/patient-involvement-at-cancer-research-uk/involvement-opportunities>

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Find out how people affected by cancer have shaped our work:

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/patient-involvement-at-cancer-research-uk/impact-of-patient-involvement>