



UK Kidney MedTech Research Network (UKKMT Research Network)

Terms of Reference

Scope

The UK Kidney MedTech (UKKMT) Research Network was established to ensure that patients with kidney disease benefit from the huge potential of medical technology by bringing together expertise and experience from a range of specialists in this field to advance research.

The UKKMT Research Network sits under the auspices of the UKKRC.

Purpose

The network aims to:

- Transform the way we diagnose, treat and monitor kidney disease through the best use of medical technologies
- Develop a network of people with a broad range of expertise to support the development of new MedTech research and develop the right evidence base for established and new technologies
- Encourage new research incorporating medical technology and support collaboration to advance innovation in MedTech, including with existing UK Kidney Research Consortium (UKKRC) Clinical Study Groups (CSGs) and other Research Networks.
- Seek to better understand and address the pathophysiology and impact of kidney disease through the use of diagnostics, technology, devices, apps and associated data.
- Act as a reference point with a broad range of expertise from membership to help innovators and investigators to develop and refine MedTech research projects with a view to delivery of quality research, successful funding applications and publication.
- Influence funding bodies and strengthen opportunities for research in medical technology to benefit patients with kidney disease
- Become a stronger voice and draw on health economic arguments and greater efficiency to influence policy makers
- Help to ensure any published MedTech research is seen through to broader and sustainable clinical utility and implementation to improve prevention, diagnosis and healthcare of kidney patients
- Ensure that research into novel technologies considers the needs of all patients and does not further marginalise groups of people, including those with lower technology skills and poorly served communities.

- Encourage, advance and support multi-disciplinary, multi-centre, grant application activity in MedTech research
- Ensure Kidney patients and carers, are core members of the network and are integral to the design, delivery and dissemination of research in health technologies
- Support education, peer support and mentoring for trainees and early career researchers to build future capacity for MedTech research
- Collaborate with wider stakeholders to leverage funding and influence relevant funding bodies and policy makers to strengthen opportunities for health technology research activity
- Work with the commercial sector where there is a clear clinical need and defined clinical outcomes to maximise the use of technology for the benefit of kidney patients.

Membership

Membership should include representatives of a multi-professional team, researchers and innovators, and patients with an interest in kidney health technologies. Clinical trainees with an interest in MedTech research will be invited to join the network. Equality, diversity and inclusion principles will be actively considered in all recruitment and network activities in line with the UKKRC Terms of Reference. See full [UKKRC Terms of Reference](#) here.

The UKKMT Patient Advisory Group will be open to patients with kidney disease recruited through Kidney Research UK's 'Kidney Voices', the UK Kidney Association Patient Panel and the Kidney Patient Involvement Network (KPIN). Patient members will be asked to agree to the Terms of Reference for the Patient Advisory Group.

A minimum of two, and maximum of three co-chairs will be appointed following open advertisement through the UK Kidney Research Consortium. Co-chairs will serve a term of three years, at which point 'Co-chairs-elect' should be appointed for a handover period during the fourth year. To ensure continuity, a minimum of one co-chair will remain in the leadership team for 6 months after the commencement of office of the second co-chair-elect. Applications to leadership roles will be advertised widely through the UKKRC and Network members will be selected by a panel comprising UKKA, Kidney Research UK and representatives of the Patient Advisory Group. The maximum term for a Chair will be four years as defined by the UKKRC Terms of Reference. The leadership team will meet monthly.

Stakeholders

The Network will encourage and support cross-working with other Clinical Study Groups and Networks across the UK Kidney Research Consortium (UKKRC), including the UK Renal Trials Network and the UK Renal Health Data Research Network.

The Network will identify, develop and maintain key stakeholder relationships with initiatives and organisations as required to progress the development and implementation of MedTech applications. This may include, but is not limited to, the MedTech and in vitro diagnostic collaboratives (MICs), healthcare providers, commissioning groups and regulatory bodies, regional MedTech initiatives, UKKA Special Interest Groups, funding bodies, MedTech companies and professional bodies.

Reporting

The Network will provide reports of activity to the UK Kidney Research Consortium at least twice per year.

The patient advisory group and the UKKMT network will report into the UKKMT Leadership team.



Conflicts of interest

It is inevitable that members will at times have conflicts of interest relating to a particular topic, either as a result of financial interests or as a result of being in competition with other members in the Network for funding. All members will be required to declare any potential conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting. The Network will operate on the assumption that collaboration between members with complementary skill sets is more likely to generate successful grant applications than competition between smaller groups with narrower skill sets.

Meeting arrangements

Secretariat and administrative support for organisation of meetings will be provided by Kidney Research UK. By default, four meetings of the UKKMT Research Network will be arranged each year.

Resources

Venue hire for meetings and reasonable travel expenses will be borne by Kidney Research UK.

Deliverables

The success and impact of the Network will be measured by:

- The number and value of successful research grant applications arising from discussions within the Network
- MedTech Research resulting in eventual clinical utility, thereby improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease.

Approval and review

These terms of reference shall be approved by the leadership team and reviewed every 3 years.

Approval date: 13.09.2022