



UK Organ Donation
and Transplantation
Research Network

Vacancy for Co-Director (Research)

Unpaid, voluntary role

Closing date: 17:00 Monday 25th March 2024

Do you want to use your professional expertise, experience, and passion to make a real difference to how research is delivered in organ donation and transplantation in the UK?

If so, this is an exciting opportunity to collaboratively lead the UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Research Network (UKODTRN).

As the research Co-Director, you will work alongside the UKODTRN's other Co-Director, who leads on Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement. You will co-lead this multi-disciplinary collaboration which seeks to deliver on its vision to provide a research-ready environment that aims to facilitate world-leading impactful, collaborative, and inclusive research for patient benefit, one that is recognised internationally as a major strength for delivery of research in organ donation and transplantation.

There's a great team of clinicians, researchers, patients and charities already involved but there is still a lot to do if the Network wants to achieve its vision. Both Co-Directors, as part of the UKODTRN Executive Committee, will provide the leadership of the Network's work.

This role is supported by a deputy-director (yet to be appointed) and a part-time project manager who is responsible for the day-to-day management, coordination and delivery of the Network's activities.

Both Co-Directors will initially be instrumental in facilitating the delivery of the Network's research priority setting exercise. This is a substantial piece of work on solid organ transplantation in the UK which needs to be undertaken with enthusiasm and vigour to ensure the findings are sufficiently robust, meaningful, and patient-focussed in order to transform the findings into reality.

The UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Research Network

The UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Research Network (UKODTRN), set up in early 2020, is a collaboration between clinical, scientific, patient, and lay representatives, with academic and patient co-chairs, and strong links with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), the British Transplantation Society (BTS) and Kidney Research UK. It is a pan-organ network. A graphic illustration of the Network is given below.

Our vision is *Transforming transplantation research together*.

If we do this we believe we can:

- Improve donor management;
- Increase the availability of suitable donor organs for transplantation;
- Extend the lifespan of transplanted organs; and
- Transform the quality of life for transplant patients.

The UKODTRN aims to be a:

- Internationally recognised research-ready environment that supports and facilitates impactful, collaborative, inclusive research guided by a patient priority setting exercise.
- Significant resource for patient/public involvement and community voice in research, which is central to the work of the Network.
- First port of call for any researcher with a study/trial question or idea relating to organ donation and transplantation.

Immediate priorities for the Network include:

- The completion of the research priority setting exercise;
- Development and delivery of plain language summaries of organ donation and transplantation research for patients carers families and the interested public; and
- Delivery of a series of webinars for researchers to share news about their research to the public.

The intention is that the research priority setting exercise will help shape and define future activity for the Network and the new Co-director will play a pivotal role in leading this.

The Network also benefits from having Prof Lorna Marson as its Strategic Advisor. Lorna will use her experience and expertise at a strategic level (as required) to the UKODTRN, including to the Co-Directors, through support, guidance, advice, and challenge in such areas as (but not limited to): implementing the Network's strategies, direction, and priorities; funding and sponsorship bids; capitalising on opportunities and navigating any risks and issues; and having access to networks of contacts and partners.

Further details about the Network can be found here [our website](#).



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Co-Director (Research): UK Organ Donation & Transplantation Research Network

ROLE PROFILE

TYPE OF OPPORTUNITY	TIME COMMITMENT	EXPENSES
Co-Director (Research)	Approx. 12 hours per month Including chairing monthly Exec meetings	All reasonable expenses (such as travel) incurred will be reimbursed.

Role information

- Co-lead the Network to fulfil agreed aims and objectives and ensure effective working to position the Network as the foremost driver of facilitating research in the area of transplantation and organ donation.
- Co-lead the strategic planning, implementation, and continued development of a sustainable UKODTRN.
- Ensure Network membership includes representation from a wide range of stakeholders, organisations, patients, younger researchers, allied health professionals, and those with experience to address health inequalities.
- Be at the forefront of strategic discussions with partners to raise the profile of the Network, its positioning, and leverage opportunities.
- Lead funding applications to support the infrastructure of the Network and to support research delivery.
- Publicise the work of the Network, working with charities and others, through promotion at events and maintaining an on-line presence.
- Act as a point of contact for the Network to facilitate collaboration and work together with other potential academic, charity or industrial partners.

Term of office

The term of office for Network Co-Directors is three years. At the end of the second year, Co-Directors-elect will be recruited and appointed to allow a handover during the third year.

Your skills and experiences

In addition to the responsibilities outlined above, there are some additional criteria to fulfil the requirements of the role:

We are looking for an individual who...

- Is actively involved in organ donation and/or transplantation research in the UK.
- Understands the clinical and research landscape of solid organ transplantation in the UK.
- Has previous experience of a leadership role and is able to bring enthusiasm, energy and conviction to the role to deliver inspirational leadership.
- Has excellent communication, analytical, and networking skills.
- Has a collaborative approach and is able to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to deliver for patients.
- Has a commitment to meaningful patient and public involvement.
- Has a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Strong strategic and analytical skills, including a talent for crystallising key strategic options for discussion and decision.
- Proven ability to lead and deliver outcomes in a diverse environment without having direct oversight or control.

Selection process and how to apply

- You will need to submit a CV outlining your relevant experience and an Expression of Interest (no more than two-pages) highlighting your motivation for applying and what difference you can make to the Network.
- Your CV and Expression of Interest needs to be emailed to info@ukodtrn.org no later than 17:00 on Monday 25th March 2024.
- Candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application by 17th April 2024.
- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to speak with a small selection panel before an appointment is made.

Should you wish to discuss the role further then please contact Karen Rockell, Co-Director, at info@ukodtrn.org

UKODTRN

