

Consultation responses  
Cooksey Review Secretariat  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ

26 July 2006

### **Review of UK Health Research – response from The Institute of Clinical Research**

The Institute of Clinical Research welcomes this opportunity to submit comments to your Review and will be pleased to discuss in more detail the matters set out below, when we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August.

We believe this review to be timely and fundamental to the future of health research in the UK.

In response to your Review Questions, we have discussed questions 1, 2, 4 and 5:

1. The strength of MRC and NHS R&D is their experience of medical research. This is also their weakness because they are convinced that they know how to do drug development research. Both organisations are too academically focussed and unwilling to ask professional associations like ourselves for help.
2. The key scientific and organisational challenges facing health research in the UK over the next decade are:
  - Addressing local aspects - the EU Directives in practice in the UK
  - Industry funded own process and infrastructure which the NHS is not taking seriously
  - There is a need for a quality circle, at the moment there is a broken circle
  - Forming a meaningful partnership with Industry and Clinical Research Professionals rather than paying lip service to it. We are currently not using our clinical research resources which are the best in the world. There is thought to be an arrogance that 'industry' knows better
  - The MHRA should be more visible
  - The UK expect changes to the protocol and informed consent form - this is going away from harmonisation- causing extra work to companies wishing to do trials in the UK
  - Agreements need to be generic to fit in within Europe and the regions of ICH
  - There are lessons to be learned from other countries, less bureaucracy.
4. What is the appropriate balance between economic and social benefits?
  - Political climate - change of direction with every new minister. Improvements are not seen in public health structure due to this
  - Access to advice on regulatory issues and drug development needs to be in place
  - Researchers' salaries in the NHS and Academia, a 'brain drain' of expertise moving into pharmaceuticals instead
  - The career structure and training needs of medics should include training in clinical research. Networks of expertise can be set up in academic institutions and hospitals and professionals can feed into these networks. There is scope for advisory roles of clinical research professionals in the NHS/Academia
  - Investigator-led studies are not always transparent and do not apply the same standards as industry: in peer review publishing, ethical standards etc. There is often also poor infrastructure in these studies.

5. How have results of publicly funded health research in the UK been used?

- Key stakeholders are missed out in consultations such as these - professional bodies need to be involved in decisions of policy
- There should be more transparency of where public funds are spent.

We look forward to our meeting with you on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August at 11.00am.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. John Hooper  
Chief Executive

### **The Institute of Clinical Research**

The Institute of Clinical Research has been in existence since 1978. With an expanding global presence, it is already established as the largest professional clinical research body in Europe. Putting members first, its vision is to be internationally recognised as the premier organisation for clinical research, respected as a key influencer, promoting knowledge and understanding by engaging the healthcare community and the general public.

#### **Mission:**

- To enhance the professional identity of Members of the Institute
- To facilitate communications between Members by providing a forum for discussion
- To promote good relations with other healthcare related groups
- To provide opportunities for learning and development to enhance professional competence
- To enhance public confidence and understanding of clinical research

