



## Innovative Trials: The Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) Network Approach

Holding statement and update for Funders

The clinicians and staff of the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) Network are at the forefront of developing and delivering Innovative<sup>1</sup> Trials. These are clinical trials that can encompass testing several novel therapies across several disease areas and/or established drugs for use in diseases that are different from those the drug was originally designed for. Often the trial is based upon the genotype of the patient giving rise to the term personalised medicine. These trials are efficient in allowing the evaluation of multiple interventions with faster decision making, but the well-established ECMC Network, with its 18 adult centres and 11 paediatric locations, makes the UK uniquely positioned to deliver these trials country-wide. Innovative Trials are the way forward for drug research in that they will provide patients with the opportunity to be part of cutting edge research.

The ECMC network recognise that successful delivery of Innovative Trials requires close and streamlined interactions between regulators, NHS, pharma partners and academia. Given the importance of Innovative Trials, not only to patients but to the UK, we believe we have a responsibility to ensure that the delivery of these trials becomes well established. As a first step towards achieving this, the ECMC network brought together researchers, patients, regulators and industry in a series of workshops to collaborate on the writing of a consensus paper around the set up and delivery of Innovative Trials. A writing workshop was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 where all stakeholders had an opportunity to input into the document. Subsequent to the anticipated publication of the paper in Autumn 2018, the group will again collaborate on producing guidance and training for researchers, regulators, patients and industry on the most efficient approach to Innovative Trials. By leading the international research community on the networked delivery of Innovative Trials, the ECMC network would like NHS patients to be the first to benefit from cutting-edge cancer research.

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<sup>1</sup> The term Innovative Trial in this statement includes: platform, umbrella, basket, bucket, complex, and adaptive study designs