

## Expression of Interest for NIHR Southampton BRC Candidate Research Themes

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The NIHR Southampton BRC is running an open call inviting proposals from eligible individuals and research teams across the University Hospital Southampton – University of Southampton partnership for BRC Candidate Research theme proposals. The call offers researchers considerable flexibility to focus on any subject area or topic, providing that it falls within the BRC remit of [experimental medicine](#).

We particularly encourage ambitious and novel research proposals addressing experimental medicine that translate advances in biomedical research into benefits for patients. We are keen to encourage fresh ideas from new researchers, and all proposals are welcomed.

**The decisions on which themes will form part of the BRC Application will be based on a number of criteria:**

1. World-class research.
2. Acknowledged excellence in your area (top 3 nationally) within the NIHR overall and specifically amongst the other BRCs.
3. Credible leader(s) who meet(s) the criteria laid out below.
4. Critical mass of aligned researchers within the UHS-UoS partnership.
5. Capacity and capability to drive innovation in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ill-health through early translational (experimental medicine) research.
6. Ability to translate advances in biomedical research that responds to and meets the priority research needs of the health and care system and the population.
7. Commitment to improving research culture, inclusivity, and equality across our staff, participants and PPIE contributors, including addressing the needs of diverse communities and regions with significant health and social care challenges.
8. Credible component of the NHS contribution to our nation's international competitiveness.
9. Record of partnership with patients, service users, carers and communities to improve the relevance, quality and impact of our research.
10. Capacity to attract significant investment from external funders.
11. Effective integration with other research themes.

**Criteria for the theme leadership role include:**

- i) Track record of research impact that has benefited patients
- ii) A sustained record of excellence in research activities in their relevant subject area
- iii) Top 10 publications
- iv) National/international reputation in experimental medicine
- v) Demonstrable experience in improving research culture, equity, diversity and inclusions in the research workforce and developing an inclusive research portfolio that addresses health and care inequalities
- vi) Membership of regional or national advisory bodies, learned societies

Please contact Professor Mike Grocott ([mike.grocott@soton.ac.uk](mailto:mike.grocott@soton.ac.uk)) to discuss this opportunity.

**The closing date for this application is 12.00 midday on Friday, 28th March 2025.** Please return your completed application form to [BRC-applications@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:BRC-applications@uhs.nhs.uk), along with the proposed theme lead(s) CV (2-page IRAS format).

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by a selection panel consisting of senior research leaders from UoS and UHS, including patient/public representatives. The outcome will be notified to the proposed themes' leaders and co-leaders in May 2025.

NIHR

Southampton  
Biomedical Research  
Centre

Expression of Interest

BRC Candidate Research Theme

Title of Candidate Research Theme:

Full Name of Theme Lead

Position:

Institution

ORCID

Top 10 publications

Full Name of Theme Co-Lead (if applicable):

Position:

Institution

ORCID

Top 10 publications

[illegible]

Please complete the information requested below:

**BRC Candidate Research Theme (please outline max 500 words):**

- Please describe theme vision, strategy and key research hypotheses and address THEME criteria 1, 2 and 5-11 above.

**Theme leader(s) profile (max 200 words each):**

- Please address THEME LEADER criteria i-vi above.

- Please address THEME CO-LEADER criteria i-vi above (IF APPLICABLE)

**Please highlight how your theme will address innovation, inclusion and impact (500 words):**

- Demonstrate how the areas to be addressed and/or the approaches to be taken will drive innovation in the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of ill-health through early translational and experimental medicine research.
- Please explain the approach to maximising research inclusion including of under-represented groups.
- Please outline how you anticipate the likely research outputs will have potential for further translation to deliver benefits for patients and the public, the health and care system and the broader economic gain.
- The relevance of the expected outputs to the health of patients and the public and/or the health and care system. This should demonstrate how the research is addressing patients' or public needs across the diversity of the population (including support for research activities being conducted in areas with the greatest disease burden in collaboration with local investigators).

**Partnerships/collaborations required to support the Theme (500 words):**

**Where relevant, please provide details of how any proposed additional partners, universities or NHS organisations will contribute to the Theme. This should include details of:**

- The additional expertise they will bring to the Theme;
- Roles that they will contribute to the Theme;
- Examples of previous successful research collaborations between the additional partner(s), universities or NHS organisations, and the NHS and/or university partners.

**Please list current grants held (funder, amount awarded, start date and finish date)**

*Add rows below if necessary.*

| Funder               | Title of grant | Amount awarded | Start:<br>mm/yyyy | Finish:<br>mm/yyyy |
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| <b>TOTAL FUNDING</b> |                | <b>£</b>       |                   |                    |

**Theme leads e-signatures:**

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