

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting: Date:	Trust Board 28 March 2019
Title:	Medical Directors Report: Research & Development
Lead Director:	Dr Maria O'Kane - Medical Director
Corporate Objective:	Safe, high quality care
Purpose:	For assurance
Summary of key issues and risks for Trust Board: Research & Development	
<u>Key issues:</u> <u>Interreg VA, ECME Project – Three PhD Students at Craigavon Area Hospital</u> <u>Regional HSC Research and Development funded infrastructure Review</u> <u>Research Governance support for Northern Ireland Ambulance Service</u> <u>Occupational Therapy Achievement – Intertrade Ireland – Fusion Grant</u> <u>Health and Life Sciences, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council</u> <u>Clinical Trials and Research Studies</u>	
<u>Key risks for discussion:</u> No risks have been identified in relation to the above initiatives	
<u>Summary of SMT challenge/discussion:</u> To provide an update on Research & Development issues	

Research and Development

1.1 **Interreg VA – Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre Project – Three PhD Students allocated to Craigavon Area Hospital**

Professor Jim McLaughlin, Ulster University was Lead Partner for the Interreg VA application entitled 'Eastern Corridor – Medical Engineering Centre (ECME) – An Innovative Cross Border Integrated Research Programme' awarded €8.3 million. The Trust's allocation of €641,390 was for the placement of three PhD Students at Craigavon Area Hospital with the focus on Cardiology. The PhD Students would be under the academic supervision of Ulster University.

The aim of the Project was to enhance research and innovation infrastructure and capabilities to develop excellence and promote centres of competence. Other academic partners included Dundalk Institute of Technology, University of Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Dublin City University and University College Dublin. The Trust was the Clinical Partner represented by Dr David McEneaney, Consultant Cardiologist. The Project would continue until December 2020.

Since 2014 the Trust has a Memorandum of Understanding with Ulster University to enhance the quality of education, training, practice development, research and innovation in health and social care.

Two PhD Students, Dr Rob Brisk and Mrs Kathryn Owen commenced in June 2018 and the third PhD student Miss Xusho Zhang commenced in January 2019. The PhD research titles and Supervisors were as follows:-

- Data analytics to improve virtual simulation-based training in emergency medicine (Dr David McEneaney)
- Improved Cardio Risk Assessment – Image analysis of ultrasound derived carotid intima-media thickness in correlation with associated cardiac biomarkers (Dr Ian Menown)
- Point-of-care Lateral Flow analysis for cystatin C based kidney function diagnostics (Dr Peter Sharpe and Dr Derek McKillop)

1.2 **Regional HSC Research and Development funded Infrastructure Review**

In 2017 the HSC Research and Development Division initiated an on-line Survey to review the HSC Research and Development funded Infrastructure focusing on the themes of structure and organisation; collective working; breadth and depth, capacity building, efficiency and benefit.

The results of the Survey were developed by the HSC Research and Development Division into broad themes such as delays in gaining approvals, burden of paperwork for researchers etc. A Workshop held on 6 February 2018 was attended by Directors of Research & Development, Research Managers and Universities. The information gathered at the Group Sessions during that Workshop was reviewed by the HSC Research and Development Division to develop a consultation document on the way forward. A Change Manager was appointed to take forward the initiative.

An initial paper was developed and issued restricting comments to Directors of Research & Development and Research Managers. That response was submitted on 7 November 2018. Throughout the process and in that response the Director of Research & Development and Research Manager emphasised as essential the need for consultation to include Trust Medical Directors and Chief Executives before any new arrangements were put in place. Also highlighted was the fact that performance levels must be maintained in terms of approval times for Clinical Trials and research Studies.

1.3 Research Governance Support for the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

PHA Research and Development Division had sought interest from Trusts in providing research governance support for the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service. On 7 November 2018, Professor Ian Young and Dr Janice Bailie wrote to Dr Peter Sharpe inviting the Trust's R&D Office to undertake that role. Dr Sharpe confirmed that the Trust R&D would be pleased to provide that function for the NI Ambulance Service.

A meeting was held with Mr Ciaran McKenna, Clinical Service Improvement Lead on 19 December 2018 and since then a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted by Trust Research & Development for consideration by the NI Ambulance Service. Senior Management Team approval will be sought on the Memorandum of Understanding.

Since January 2019 a member of NI Ambulance Service has been a member of the Trust's Research Governance Committee.

1.4 Occupational Therapy Achievement – Intertrade Ireland – Fusion Grant

Mr Daniel Harte, Advanced Occupational Therapist was successful in a joint application with Torpeys, a Sports Company from County Clare in being awarded an Intertrade Ireland, Fusion Grant of €60,000. The Company is a leading manufacturer of Hurleys and GAA products in Ireland and internationally and will employ a Management Graduate for 18 months for prototyping and testing. The Trust will receive £27,000 of the funding to enable Mr Harte to be released two days per month for 18 months.

The application related to the design, manufacture and commercialisation of a high performance protective sports glove to prevent hand injuries in sport.

1.5 Health and Life Sciences – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough established a Health and Life Sciences Forum to:-

- Develop linkages between Industry, healthcare and academia
- Focus on innovation, knowledge transfer and take up of new technology
- Focus on supply chain development, attracting new businesses
- Consider employability and skills issues in line with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- Work with local businesses to scope and map issues affecting growth in the life sciences across the area

The Council's Strategy and Action Plan for Life and Health Sciences Sector was launched on 29 October 2018.

1.6 Clinical Trials and Research Studies

In the previous report two Genomics Medicine Ireland Studies in relation to Multiple Sclerosis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease were highlighted. Since then Dr Jamie Campbell, Consultant Neurologist and Dr Seamus Murphy, Consultant Gastroenterologist were invited by Genomics Medicine Ireland to fulfil the role of Chief Investigators for those Studies. Neurology and Rheumatology were new areas of research both having had Clinical Research Nurse support funded by Charitable Funds which enabled Studies to progress.

More recently discussions have taken place between Genomics Medicine Ireland and Dr Nicola Maiden, Consultant Rheumatologist who has agreed to undertake a Study entitled The Genomic Basis of Spondyloarthropathies (long term disease of the joints) in Ireland.