

Co-create to Translate

Achieving impact through collaboration

Joint NIHR Biomedical Research Centre
& UK Clinical Research Facility Network conference

Public Contributor Conference Guide



14-15 July 2025



The ICC, Birmingham

Public Contributor Guide: Joint NIHR Biomedical Research Centres and UK Clinical Research Facility Network Conference

Welcome!

We are pleased to invite public contributors to join the upcoming joint National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) **Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)** and **UK Clinical Research Facility (CRF) Network Conference**.

This is a unique opportunity to gain insight into clinical research, engage with professionals, meet other public contributors, and contribute to discussions about how clinical research is designed and delivered.

About the Conference Organisers:

- **Biomedical Research Centres (BRC):** These centres bring together researchers, doctors, and patients to develop and test new treatments, diagnostics, and medical technologies. They focus on experimental medicine, which means studying how diseases work and testing new ways to treat them before they become widely available. They speed up the process of turning research into real-world healthcare improvements.
- **Clinical Research Facilities (CRF):** A CRF is a purpose-built space, usually in a hospital, where medical research takes place. CRFs have expert teams, including nurses and doctors, who run the research studies and make sure everything is safe. CRFs also have specialist equipment, like research beds, labs, and scanning machines, to help test new treatments and improve healthcare.
- **UKCRF Network:** This is a group that connects and supports CRFs across the UK and Ireland. The Network helps CRFs share knowledge, improve how research is done, and makes sure studies run smoothly.



About the Conference

This is a professional conference attended mainly by staff working in clinical research, with a focus on skills development, research delivery, and clinical improvements. There is expected to be at least 800 delegates in attendance.

While public contributors are not the primary audience, we value your participation and the unique perspectives you bring. This is a great opportunity for you to expand your knowledge of clinical research and to support future research involvement activities.

The conference includes workshops on public involvement and improving access to research. A few sessions will include a presentation from a patient or public contributor sharing their experience.

- **Title:** Co-create to Translate: Achieving Impact through Collaboration

“Translate” in this context, means turning research ideas into practical improvements in healthcare. The conference theme is about how we are working together to achieve this goal. Healthcare research bridges the gap between discovery and real-life benefits to ensure that new ideas lead to better treatments and care for everyone.

- **Date:** 14-15 July 2025:
 - Day 1: 09:30 to 17:00
 - Day 2: 09:00 to 15:30
- **Venue:** International Convention Centre (ICC), 8 Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2EA ([click here for directions to the venue](#))



Defining 'Public Contributor'

'Public contributor' is an umbrella term used to describe members of the public who are involved in clinical research public partnerships activities.

We use the definition of 'public' to include patients, potential patients, carers and people who use health and social care services as well as people from organisations that represent people who use services. In other contexts, other terms are used, for example public members or public partners.

What to Expect as a Public Contributor

- **Engagement & Learning:** Listen to talks and take part in workshops to learn about new areas of clinical research.
- **Networking:** Meet and chat with professionals and other public contributors throughout the conference.
- **Reserved tables** at breaks to help you meet other public contributors.
- **Posters:** Read about research and projects being carried out in CRFs and BRCs. You might also have the chance to help create posters with staff at your local CRF or BRC.
- **Flexibility & Breaks:** The conference will be busy, so feel free to take breaks whenever you need. We'll provide information on quiet areas and places to relax.



Conference Highlights

- **Working Together:** See how clinical trials are planned and carried out with input from researchers and the public.
- **Join discussions and activities** designed to help researchers understand how to better integrate public involvement in clinical research.
- **New Ways of Working:** Find out how technology, including artificial intelligence (AI) and digital data, is improving clinical trials.
- **Meet and Connect:** Chat with researchers and other public contributors.

More Information

- **Registration:**
 - Public contributors are invited to attend the conference and register online, [via the UKCRF Network website](#).
 - The closing date for registrations is 12 June 2025.
- **What's included?**
 - Access to all sessions including interactive workshops.
 - Refreshments and catering provided across both days.
 - Staff to assist with queries and accessibility needs.
 - Access to the conference app.
 - Optional evening dinner on Day 1 (19:30 to late), which includes a street food experience, welcome drink, limited drinks with dinner and entertainment.
- **Ticket price:**
 - Two-day ticket: £370
 - One-day ticket: £190
 - Gala dinner: £80
- **Funding:**
 - Your local CRF or BRC may be able to support your attendance by covering the cost of your ticket, travel, and accommodation. We encourage you to discuss funding availability directly with them.
 - A limited number of funded tickets (for both BRC and CRF Public Contributors) are available through the UKCRF Network (learn more, including how to apply, [on the UKCRF Network website](#)).
 - CRF and BRC public contributors are also welcome to attend on a self-funded basis where other funding is not available, should they choose to do so.
- **Payment:** Please note that payment for contributor time will not be offered. However, attending offers an opportunity for engagement and learning.
- **Accessibility:**
 - We want to make the conference as accessible as possible. While we can't guarantee every request, we'll do our best to support your needs.
 - The registration form therefore includes a question about your accessibility needs, covering a wide range of options, and space to provide more details.
 - Someone will be in contact to discuss your needs.

- If you need to discuss these before registering, please email:
CRFBRC-CONFERENCE2025@uhb.nhs.uk
- Please also refer to the venues [accessibility map by clicking here](#).
- **Support on the Day:**
 - A main contact from the conference planning team will be available to assist public contributors before and during the conference.
 - Contact details will be provided shortly after you register.
 - Your associated CRF or BRC are also encouraged to provide a local contact who will be at the conference.
 - There will be a quiet space available for all attendees to access at any time across the two days.
 - There will also be a help desk and volunteers for extra support.
- **Pre-Conference Materials:** We will provide some key background information on session topics in advance, where possible.
- **Conference Programme:**
 - The programme is mainly for research staff, but public contributors are welcome to attend workshops on public involvement or any other sessions that interest them, whether to contribute, listen, or learn.
 - [Click here](#) to view the conference programme
 - [Click here](#) to view the learning outcomes of the workshops

Next Steps

- Contact your local CRF or BRC teams to discuss this opportunity
- Apply for the UKCRF Network funded ticket [via the website](#).
- Any questions for the conference organiser please contact: CRFBRC-CONFERENCE2025@uhb.nhs.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference.

