



UKCRF
NETWORK

**Public Contributor Guide:
UK & Ireland
Clinical Research Facility
Conference**

9 & 10 July 2026,
Trinity College,
Dublin, Ireland

Welcome!

We are pleased to invite public contributors to join the upcoming **UK & Ireland Clinical Research Facility Conference**, hosted by the UKCRF Network and Ireland Clinical Research Facilities / Centres.

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:

- **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.

Defining 'Public Contributor'

'**Public contributor**' is an umbrella term used to describe members of the public who are involved in CRF 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.



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 500 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:** Two Islands, Many Voices – Future-scaping Trans-National Clinical Research

Future-scaping Trans-National Clinical Research means thinking ahead about how researchers and healthcare teams across the UK and Ireland can work together in new ways. This conference is about sharing ideas, learning from each other, and planning the future of clinical research so it can deliver better treatments and care for everyone. By bringing many voices together, we can shape research that truly benefits patients across both islands.

- **Date: 9 – 10 July 2026**
 - Day 1: 09:15 to 16:50
 - Day 2: 09:00 to 16:05

Please arrive in good time on both days to allow for sign-in and finding your session room.

- **Venue:** Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin, 182 Pearse St, Dublin 2, D02 F6N2, Ireland



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 conference delegates, including other public contributors throughout the conference.
- **Posters:** Read about research and projects being carried out in CRFs. You might also have the chance to help create posters with staff at your local CRF.
- **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 24 June 2026.

- **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.

- **Conference tickets**
 - Two-day conference ticket: €475 (£412) (free for eligible public contributors, subject to availability)
 - One-day conference ticket: €275 (£238) (free for eligible public contributors, subject to availability)
 - Gala dinner: €105 (£91) +VAT (optional)

- **Free Public Contributor places (capped)**
 - A limited number of free conference tickets are available for patients and members of the public who are actively involved with a UK or Ireland Clinical Research Facility/Centre as a research partner or public contributor.
 - Free places cover the conference ticket only (not the gala dinner) and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - Public contributors who are also speaking at the conference will also be given a free ticket to the gala dinner (optional).

- **How to access a free place:**
 - Eligible public contributors must register using a discount code.
 - To request a code, please email ukcrf.network@nihr.ac.uk, confirming:
 - the name of your CRF/Centre, and
 - the name and contact details of the PPIE Lead or main contact at your CRF/Centre.

- **If free places are no longer available**

Your local CRF/Centre may be able to support your attendance by covering the cost of your ticket, and/or travel and accommodation. Public contributors may also choose to attend on a self-funded basis where other funding is not available.

- **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: ukcrfn@conferencepartners.com
- **Support on the Day:**
 - A main contact from the conference planning team will be available to assist public contributors before and during the conference.
 - Your associated CRF is encouraged to provide a local contact who will be at the conference.
- **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.
 - Please visit [our website](#) to view the programme.
 - [Click here](#) to view the learning outcomes of the workshops

Next Steps

- Contact your local CRF teams to discuss this opportunity
- Visit the website to register
- Any questions for the conference organiser please contact: ukcrfn@conferencepartners.com

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference.



