Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for clinical trials and research in the UK
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 27th January 2026
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER HEALTH FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Scott Arthur MP

9.05 **Assessing current issues in clinical research design and delivery, and opportunities for growth**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Updated UK clinical trial regulations and priorities for practical implementation**
Dr Kingyin Lee, Head, Clinical Trials, Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
Senior speaker confirmed from **Health Research Authority**
Questions and comments from the floor

10.05 **Implementation of updated clinical trial regulations and strategies for increasing public engagement**
updated UK Clinical Trial Regulations | *responsibilities for safety and monitoring* | *delivering trials in primary care and community settings* | *role of ICBs in supporting clinical trials* | *recruitment and accessibility* | *digital inclusion and reducing barriers to participation, including geographic disparities* | *use of the NHS App* | *data governance* | *tackling underrepresentation* | *use of Inclusion and Diversity Plans* | *trial design flexibility for rare diseases* | *pathways for highly personalised medicines* | *public messaging, confidence, and trust*
Toni Mathieson, CEO, Niemann-Pick UK
Dr Philippa Brice, Associate Director, Research and Impact, NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICS
Professor Pamela Kearns, Chair, IMPACCT (Initiative for Multi-stakeholder Partnership to Accelerate Children's Cancer Trials); and Emeritus Professor, Clinical Paediatric Oncology, University of Birmingham
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, data
Questions and comments from the floor

11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Scott Arthur MP

11.05 Break

11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.20 **'What should the priorities of the Health Data Research Service be to transform clinical trials and research in the UK?'**
Professor Cathie Sudlow, Review Lead, *Uniting the UK's Health Data: A Huge Opportunity for Society*; Director, Usher Institute and Head of School of Population Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh
Questions and comments from the floor

11.45 **Streamlining clinical trial delivery - key considerations for innovative technology, funding, the workforce, and data frameworks**
150-day target practicalities | *impact of the Combined Review* | *sponsor confidence* | *Health Data Research Service and public trust* | *interoperability across NHS datasets* | *potential use of AI to support trial design and conduct* | *workforce recruitment and retention* | *joint NHS-university roles* | *new delivery centres and regional research hubs* | *UK attractiveness for global partnerships* | *wearable technology and real-time data collection* | *data quality and coding standards* | *funding for research infrastructure* | *expanding both commercial and non-commercial trial capacity* | *immigration, visas, and international recruitment* | *regional consistency in career pathways and roles*
Taly Dvorkis, Director, Fieldfisher
Stuart Young, CEO, Panthera Biopartners
Professor Terry Jones, Director, Liverpool Head and Neck Centre; Director, Research, LUHFT and Cheshire and Merseyside ICS; and Director, NIHR Cheshire and Merseyside CRDC
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, investment
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Next steps for clinical trials and research policy in the UK**
Dr Louise Newport, Head, Clinical Trials Engagement and Governance, Department of Health and Social Care
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Health Forum