

# **The Centre for Therapeutic Innovation**

## **Charter**

**November 2020**

The main mission of CTI is to facilitate therapeutic developments through interlinked research themes leading to innovation and translational research. The common thread in this interlinked engagement is precision medicine.

The classical pathway to therapeutics has been based on drug development, formulation, toxicity testing and statistical appraisal of clinical outcomes of large-scale all-comer patient trials.

In today's era of 'precision medicine' where medicines-design and use are not aligned with the traditional one-size-fits-all therapeutic approach, linking molecular pathways or biomarkers to patients and exploiting new sensing, and quantitative prognostic techniques is paramount. One major trajectory will be to utilise novel advanced imaging with specific artificial intelligence tools and bioengineering to address mechanistic disease questions, for transforming new therapeutic approaches, leading to personalised medicine.

A major objective of CTI in 2020-2022 is to implement creative approaches to secure a larger portion of funding pools available in the post-COVID19 era, as well as opportunistically moving into spaces created by this environmental crisis. We will target our core Themes, which include "Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases", "Medicines Design", "Cancer", "Advanced Bio-imaging" and "Pharmacogenomics". Cross-disciplinary opportunities in areas such as "AI and Data Science in Pharma" and "Sustainable Technologies linked to Therapeutics" will be targeted in partnership with other Centres as part of the strong networking CTI has established across the University.

The Centre will support grant applications around Therapeutic Innovations and closely related areas. This will build upon the experience around "Call-to-Arms" initiatives during COVID-19; this initiative will continue and benefits from the strong interaction and partnership established with complementary critical mass efforts across the University, notably CSCT, C3Bio and IMI.

The benefits of being an active member of the CTI framework are that it will facilitate and support cross-discipline dialogues with colleagues throughout our campus, building a critical mass of researchers with complementary skills, shared goals and objectives. This collaborative environment will lead to novel ideas and generate high quality, internationally competitive, academic and industrial funding proposals. Active members will also be able to benefit from the ease of access to CTI steering committee for constructive peer-review of their CTI-related proposals. Membership of CTI gives access to support and review of applications from the CTI leadership team, as well as access to research and clinical networks established by that team. Moreover, in the near future there will be the prospect of access to Centre funds and/or PhD studentship opportunities.

This increased focus on collaboration across disciplines and applying regularly for UKRI, Industrial partnerships and other interdisciplinary grants has prompted revision and updating of CTI's infrastructures focus and requirements and make clear to all colleagues the new expected contributions for membership.

These are outlined below:

### **Steering Committee**

The CTI steering committee will reflect the focus of the Centre. The responsibility of the Steering Committee will be to peer review the relevant grants from our quarterly “call to arms” to ensure the highest standard of submission. They will annually review the performance of the Core Members. The steering committee will identify future large scale initiatives and advise on the prioritisation.

### **Research Theme Leaders**

The Heads of Themes are expected to show a prominent contribution to the evolution of their themes, participate actively in encouraging the core and affiliated members to generate new ideas for submission of grant proposals, acquire new International and National members for their themes and encourage Prize Fellows to join the core members. The Theme Leaders will be reviewed annually by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of CTI in discussion with the Board of Governance.

### **Core Members**

Core members are expected to **submit a minimum of at least one grant** per year of £250k and above. They can be either PIs or Co-Is of the grant proposals. They need to, per annum, **publish** one interdisciplinary research paper and **submit one other** interdisciplinary publication, related to the research themes in CTI. The core membership will be reviewed annually against the above criteria.

### **Affiliated Members**

Affiliated members are expected to be involved with the planning and preparation of CTI showcases, seminars, the annual scientific report and retreats.

- There will be an annual review of all affiliated members by Theme Leaders.
- If affiliated members meet the requirements of core members, they will be moved into core.
- If affiliated members of CTI fail to meet the minimum requirements their performance will be assessed on an annual basis and asked to leave the CTI by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of CTI.