



## Future ECMC Network discussion Pre-read

### Background

The ECMC network is an initiative funded in partnership by Cancer Research UK and the four UK health departments. Launched in 2007, this infrastructure award supports an adult and paediatric network. Funding supports salaries of staff associated with the delivery of early phase trials.

The current **ECMC Vision** is:

To build a truly collaborative, internationally competitive national network of early phase experimental cancer medicine centres, translating the most promising innovations from the academic and industry sectors into the cancer medicines of tomorrow.

We are coming to the end of the current funding cycle of the ECMC network [2017-22]. We are therefore taking the opportunity to examine the current network. We want to ensure that we position the ECMC network for success so that we can:

- Accelerate the advancement of experimental cancer research
- Ensure that UK patients continue to have access to innovative treatments

The focus will be on the adult network as the paediatric network is developing its own plans.

From this discussion we are looking for you to input from an R&D management perspective. We will hold separate sessions to gather insight from other key stakeholders i.e. Industry, NIHR and groups within the ECMC community.

### Objectives for this project

We want to:

- Understand your vision for the network
- Understand current challenges
- Explore opportunities
- Develop a set of recommendations for implementation from April 2022

### How we will do this

We are looking to capture the thoughts and expertise of those within the ECMC network and other key stakeholders (industry, regulators and other research infrastructure). We want to hear your vision for the network, strengths to build on, as well as obstacles you face in advancing early phase oncology clinical research. Collectively we can then explore opportunities, to overcome barriers and enable advancement, with a view to developing recommendations for Funder consideration.

### Insight gathering meeting for R&D Forum

At the meeting you will be introduced to the project and then asked to consider the following questions.

1. What would excellence in experimental cancer medicine look like 10 years from now?
2. How far away from this do you think the ECMC network is today (strengths and weaknesses)? [enablers or obstacles in the broader ecosystem]
- 3.

*Please note that we are not expecting written feedback prior to the meeting, we are sharing these questions just to help you prepare for discussions on the day.*

Once all insight gathering sessions have completed, we will collate and share the output to enable preparation for the next stage of the discussion which will focus on development of recommendations.