Supporting research activity in the NHS in Scotland
- >11.5% of UK health research expenditure in Scotland$^1$
- Scotland has 8.5% of UK population

$^1$NETSECC data excluded
Nodal Working

Permissions
Co-ordinating Centre

Industry Liaison Office
Information Systems

Contracts
Costing
Education and Training

Governance
SHARE Register
Website

Ethical Approvals

R&D Permissions

Study Management

Study Delivery

Research
Infrastructure

Regulatory Approvals

Clinical Research
Governance
Regional working – 4 hubs
- Ethics
- R&D permissions

NRS Functions
Grampian – NRS Permissions CC
Glasgow – NRS IT lead (SReDA)
Lothian – NRS Contractual Issues and National training.
Tayside – NRS Governance Issues and national SOPs
SHIL/ GJNH – General Management Services
NRS Operational Units

- Clinical Research Facilities
- ‘Safe Havens’ Health informatics research
- Research imaging platform
- Tissue acquisition service
  Biorepositories
NRS Infrastructure investment (£11m)

Core research dedicated staff in NHS

- Clinical trials support: 33 WTE
- Governance: 22 WTE
- CRF nurses: 63 WTE
- Imaging: 26 WTE
- Biorepository/Tissue Bank: 29 WTE
- Informatics Research: 16 WTE

Total infrastructure investment over £15m p.a (supporting ~ 270 WTE staff).
Clinical Research Facilities
Scottish Network

Aberdeen

Dundee

Edinburgh

Glasgow

Inverness
Clinical Research Imaging
Scottish Network

Multi-detector Computed Tomography
High-field Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Positron Emission Tomography
Cyclotron & Radiochemistry
Biorepositories

• Governance of accredited banks and collections
  – Registration of collections, tracking
• Existing disease specific tissue banks
  – Cancer, brain bank
• Access to pathology archives
  – GG&C adds 100,000 patient cases / 300,000 per year
• Bespoke/ strategic collections (national, local)
  – Arthritis, diabetes, IBD, bariatric surgery, vascular disease
• Tissue acquisition service – surplus tissue
  – Fresh tissue for physiological/ toxicology testing (linked to stratified outcomes)
  – Frozen tissue
• Stratified Medicine initiatives
  – Collection and distribution service
Informatics: Uses

• eRecruitment
  – Commercial
  – Major studies eg NIHR, EU, MRC etc

• Electronic follow up in clinical trials

• Improvement in clinical care

• Public Health strategies Scotland/UK/EU
Supporting NHS staff in clinical research

- NRS Researcher Support
- Service Support Costs
- NRS Clinical Research Fellows
- Clinical academics
NRS Researcher Support

- A specific budget stream from CSO to Health Boards.
- Funding is activity based and determined by a formula.
- To be used by boards to support staff, especially at consultant level in the pursuit and conduct of research projects.
- About £11 million per year.
Consultant level activities

- time spent on pre-protocol work
- writing applications (both for funding and approval
- project coordination and local study management at participating sites of ongoing studies (AcoRD Part B activities).
- dissemination (including writing papers)
- general research-related activities such as participating in peer review of other proposals
General research activities of NHS staff

• time spent on collecting research data (AcoRD Part B activity or in other circumstances where low-level activity is not met by the research funder)

• research related admin and clerical support for research active NHS employees.
Capacity building
NRS Clinical Fellowship scheme

- Protected research time for young NHS consultants (up to 40%FTE)
- No decrease in service provision
- 3 year tenure (performance review)
- Now in third year with commitment to continue programme
- 74 appointed
- £7 million funding
Industry focussed initiatives
Promoting health and wealth gain

NRS Career Research Fellows
Increased capacity & capability

NRS Infrastructure
Access to tissues
Access to patients
Data mining

NRS Industry Liaison Manager
R&D Commercial Managers
Delivery management

NRS – Industry Partnership Forum
Solving problems together

Strategic Alliances
CROs Pharmaceutical companies
Increased workflow
Summary

- NRS Researcher Support provides to Boards and clinical directorates a specific funding stream to support consultants and other staff in conducting projects.
- Funding is linked to activity and can be used for long term job planning for full time staff and clinical academics.
- NRS Clinical Research Fellowship is an introduction to support for leaders of the future. Scheme provides capacity building.
- NRS Infrastructure is provided to support staff with key research technologies and dedicated facilities.
- Objectives are to promote a health and wealth gain and there is no differentiation between academic/publicly funded eligible projects and commercial trials.