

# Call for Expressions of Interest:

## NIHR Southampton BRC Director 2028-2033/35

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The University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHS) and University of Southampton (UoS) are inviting expressions of interest for the role of the Director for the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Director 2028-2033/35, subject to Southampton being awarded a BRC from 2028. Successful applicants will act as BRC Director Designate from appointment in 2026, leading the preparations for and submission of the NIHR Southampton BRC 2028-2033/35 application.

Applicants should be an NIHR Senior Investigator and/or a renowned academic with national and international standing as a leader in their field.

Formed through partnerships between England's leading NHS organisations and universities, NIHR BRCs conduct translational research to transform scientific breakthroughs into life-saving treatments for patients.

Staffed by expert investigators and clinicians, NIHR BRCs are leaders in translating lab-based discoveries into new cutting edge treatments, technologies, diagnostics and other interventions in clinical settings.

The aims of NIHR BRCs are to:

- drive innovation in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ill-health
- translate advances in biomedical research into benefits for patients
- provide a key component of the NHS contribution to our nation's international competitiveness by making the best Centres even better.

The NIHR Southampton BRC 2022-2028 is hosted by the UHS/UoS Clinical Research Partnership.

The NIHR Southampton BRC 2028-2033/35 will build on the success of the previous award and thus applications for the Director role will be open to theme leads and senior researchers engaged with the current BRC.

The Director will be appointed to lead the application for the next NIHR funding application and, if successful, lead the NIHR Southampton BRC initially for the term awarded and subsequently pending review.

Expressions of interest should be made through submission of an up to date curriculum vitae (CV) to [Louise.ward@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:Louise.ward@uhs.nhs.uk). The deadline for submissions of expressions of interest is **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**.

**To discuss the role, please contact Diana Eccles ([D.M.Eccles@soton.ac.uk](mailto:D.M.Eccles@soton.ac.uk)), Karen Underwood ([Karen.Underwood@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:Karen.Underwood@uhs.nhs.uk)) and Mike Grocott ([mike.grocott@soton.ac.uk](mailto:mike.grocott@soton.ac.uk))**

Expressions of interest will be shortlisted. An interview will be scheduled for shortlisted applicants.

See Appendix 1 for job role and person specification.

## Appendix 1

### JOB ROLE

Role title:	Director of National Institute for Health and Care Research Southampton Biomedical Research Centre 2028-2033/35 <sup>1</sup>
Role accountable to <sup>2</sup> :	UHS CEO <sup>3</sup> Dean of UoS hosting faculty <sup>4</sup> Appropriate Board within NIHR Southampton BRC Governance structure <sup>4</sup>
Post reporting regularly to:	UHS Director of R&D UoS Faculty Associate Dean for Research – in practice, this is the Dean
Posts responsible for:	NIHR Southampton BRC Management Team Research staff in their role delivering NIHR Southampton BRC activities

Job purpose
<p>To provide local, national and international leadership in the delivery of the NIHR Southampton BRC, developing further the international reputation of Southampton Experimental Research, through the accountabilities below.</p> <p>To demonstrate a significant national and/or international reputation for leadership and innovation in education and research in the field of Experimental Medicine, characterised by a sustained and continuing track record of academic excellence. They will be recognised as eminent leaders in their field of study.</p> <p>To provide an environment which drives growth and delivers impact to support the health and wealth of the nation and support the Lifesciences industry</p> <p>To provide effective academic leadership across the NIHR Southampton BRC and UoS and UHS clinical research partnership, undertaking management, research and educational activities, including the supervision of PhD students. Also making judgements at a strategic level and contributing to the development of the hosting UoS Faculty, and the clinical research partnership with the UHS.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Director Designate for period prior to BRC 2028 – 2033/35 award start date

<sup>2</sup> Line management arrangements for the substantive post within which this role sits will remain unchanged

<sup>3</sup> Or delegate

<sup>4</sup> Post will also be responsible to appropriate Board within governance structure see point 8 in key accountabilities/primary responsibilities.

Key accountabilities/primary responsibilities	% Time
Director of NIHR Southampton BRC 2028-2033/35	40%
1. Provide local, national and international leadership in the delivery of the NIHR Southampton BRC, developing further the international reputation of Southampton in experimental medicine/translational research.	
2. Develop strong strategic relationships and alliances with internal and external partners, for mutual benefit in the delivery of the NIHR Southampton BRC contract and wider agenda.	
3. Lead the delivery of world class research through high quality outputs and impact.	
4. Maintain and develop an inclusive and supportive research culture engaging with patients and researchers as equal partners.	
5. Provide the infrastructure to secure additional grant and external funding to assist with the development and delivery of the NHR Southampton BRC, to maximise impact, drive growth, and further experimental research.	
6. Be responsible for the strategic allocation of resources within the NIHR Southampton BRC.	
7. Be accountable to UHS and UoS as hosts and the Joint Research Executive for the overall leadership, management and performance of the NIHR Southampton BRC plan.	
8. Ensure governance arrangements are in place with appropriate representation of NIHR Southampton BRC partners to ensure robust and transparent oversight of BRC activities and to provide a mechanism for assurance to UHS and UoS as hosts, enabling UHS and UoS to meet hosting legislative and contractual obligations.	
9. To provide effective academic leadership within the UoS, undertaking management, research and educational activities, including the supervision of PhD students, to make a significant contribution to the overall success of the UHS/UoS clinical research partnership and NIHR Southampton BRC research collaborations.	

Internal and external relationships
Develop and maintain strong relationship with UHS as Host for the NIHR Southampton BRC Contract.
Develop and maintain strong relationships across the UoS and participating Faculties to maintain cohesiveness and to encourage cross-group working and collaboration in the NIHR Southampton BRC.
Develop and maintain productive relationships within our BRC partners and with other National BRCs and NIHR partnerships.
Develop and maintain relationships with regional, national and international bodies to promote both the UHS/UoS partnership and NIHR Southampton BRC.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications, knowledge and experience</b>	<p>PhD or equivalent professional qualifications and experience in experimental medicine / translational research.</p> <p>Detailed knowledge of experimental medicine / translational research.</p> <p>A clinical academic with significant national and international reputation in experimental medicine / translational research.</p> <p>A sustained record of excellence in teaching and learning activities in experimental medicine / translational research.</p> <p>A sustained record of excellence in research activities as indicated through high impact publications and citations in experimental medicine / translational research.</p>	<p>Membership of national or international advisory bodies learned societies.</p> <p>Experience of and engagement with NIHR at senior strategic level.</p> <p>Involvement in national and international academies of science and organisations in scientific areas of relevance to the NIHR Southampton BRC.</p> <p>NIHR Senior Investigator status.</p>
<b>Planning/Leadership and organising</b>	<p>Proven ability to champion and oversee key contributions to translational research &amp; in NHS and local settings.</p> <p>Proven ability to maintain and develop an inclusive and supportive research culture.</p> <p>Proven ability to lead research activities, grants and/or contracts of national and international importance.</p> <p>Proven leadership ability in University, NHS and other settings.</p>	<p>Qualification in leadership or attendance of a Leadership course (e.g. NIHR Future Focussed Leadership Programme).</p>
<b>Problem solving and initiative</b>	<p>Proven ability to implement successful change management initiatives and formulate strategic plans that reflect and support the priority needs of the NIHR Southampton BRC, NIHR, NHS, University, UHS/UoS clinical research partnership and other local stakeholders.</p>	
<b>Management and teamwork</b>	<p>Proven ability to oversee people and resource management processes in</p>	

	<p>order to deliver key research and implementation activities.</p> <p>Proven ability to make a sustained contribution to academic leadership at a senior level.</p> <p>Proven ability to demonstrate leadership abilities in multiple settings and to raise performance standards through own work areas.</p> <p>Proven ability to recognise and deal with obstacles and difficulties so that the team can deliver.</p> <p>Proven ability to mentor and support career development in others.</p>	
<b>Communicating and influencing</b>	<p>Proven ability to establish and build major relationships with stakeholders.</p> <p>Proven ability to act as the main figurehead for key activities, developing important national and international contacts.</p> <p>Able to contribute to the development of the NIHR Southampton BRC and UHS/UoS partnerships profile in the UK and internationally.</p> <p>Proven ability to use influence to develop positions or strategies.</p>	
<b>Other skills and behaviours</b>	<p>Compliance with relevant Health &amp; Safety issues.</p> <p>Positive attitude towards colleagues and students.</p>	
<b>Special requirements</b>	<p>Able to attend national and international conferences as required.</p>	