MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

NEWCASTLE HEALTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY

Introductory Webinar

Professor David Jones OBE

Dean of Clinical Academic Development, Newcastle University

Director, Newcastle Health Research Partnership Academy

Professor Anne-Maree Keenan OBE

Associate Director, NIHR Leeds BRC

Professor of Applied Health Research, University of Leeds

Dr Wezi Sendama

MRC Clinician Scientist Fellow

Introduction

Building research Excellence Amongst Clinicians Of the North

Running order

- Background to the MRC Scheme
- Overview of Core and Broad BEACON
- MRC Remit and Funding
- Application Overview
- Timeline
- Resources
- Q & A

MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

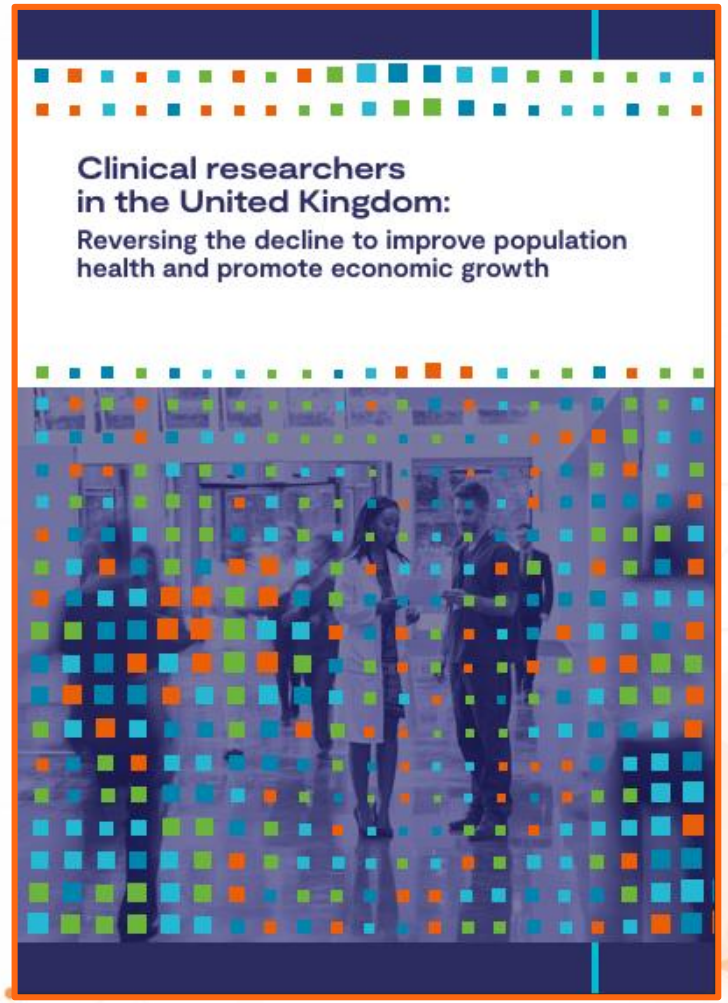
BEACON

Why BEACON is Needed

The clinical academic pipeline is under pressure

2025 OSHR report: Clinical research capacity is declining at the same time NHS research need is growing

- Fewer clinicians are staying active in research
- HE Institutions are facing financial pressures
- Returning to research is becoming harder



UKRI MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

Regional Accounts for Clinical Researchers (RACR)

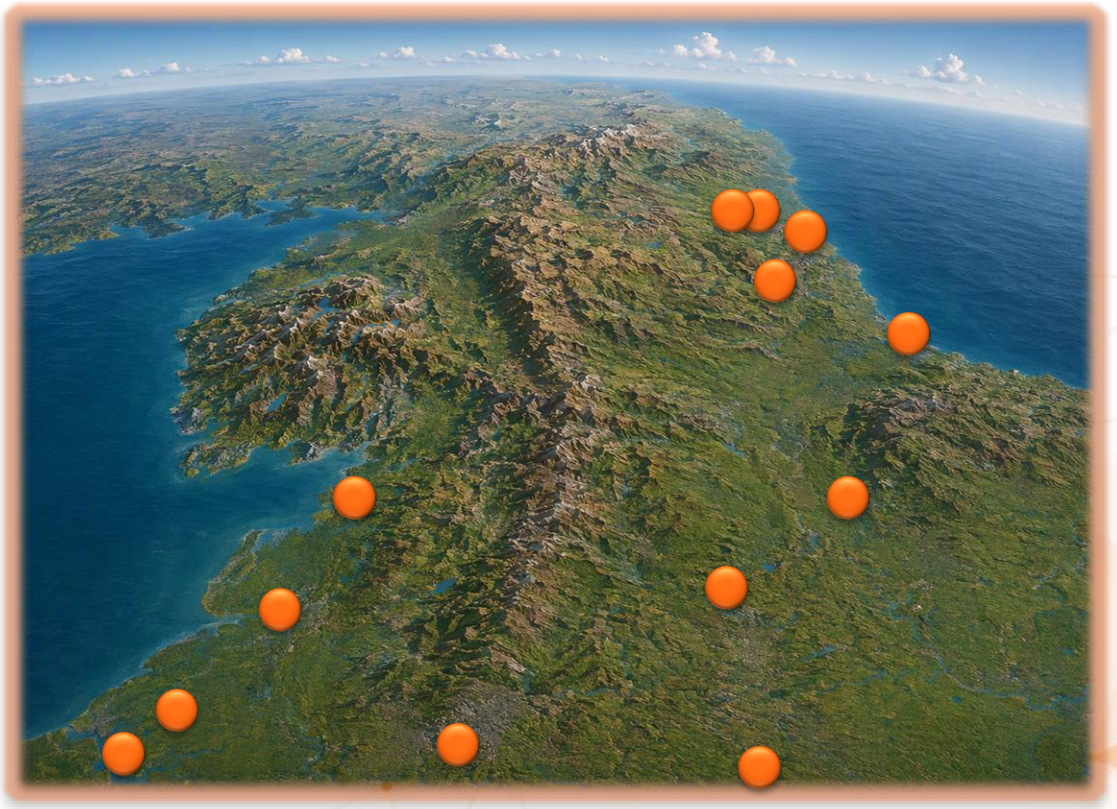
- 10 Awards: 50 research organisations and over 60 NHS organisations across the 4 Nations
- Pilot a regional solution to the challenges faced by clinical researchers
- Address lack of support at key career pinch points
- Deliver common career framework, mentorship by established figures, data driven decision making
- BEACON awarded £1.4 million across 4 years

MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

BEACON: Building Translational Research Excellence Amongst Clinicians of the North

- 13 partner HE institutions, 14 NHS trusts; an alliance grown out of the NHSA.
- Established centres with track records, and newer institutions with a rapidly growing role.
- The largest regional increases in clinical academic staffing in the North West (+49.1%), the North East (+34.6%)
- Unrivalled access to funding and career development for clinicians at key stages.
- Diverse range of external partners across sectors, with openings for future collaborations



DXCOVER

UCEA Universities & Colleges Employers Association

cpi

rosemere CANCER FOUNDATION

British Society for immunology

Graphnet Transforming Care

northwest cancer research

novo nordisk

Leeds Hospitals Charity

eurofins | Transplant Genomics

UK Health Security Agency

Health Innovation Leeds

NHS Blood and Transplant

HDRUK Health Data Research UK

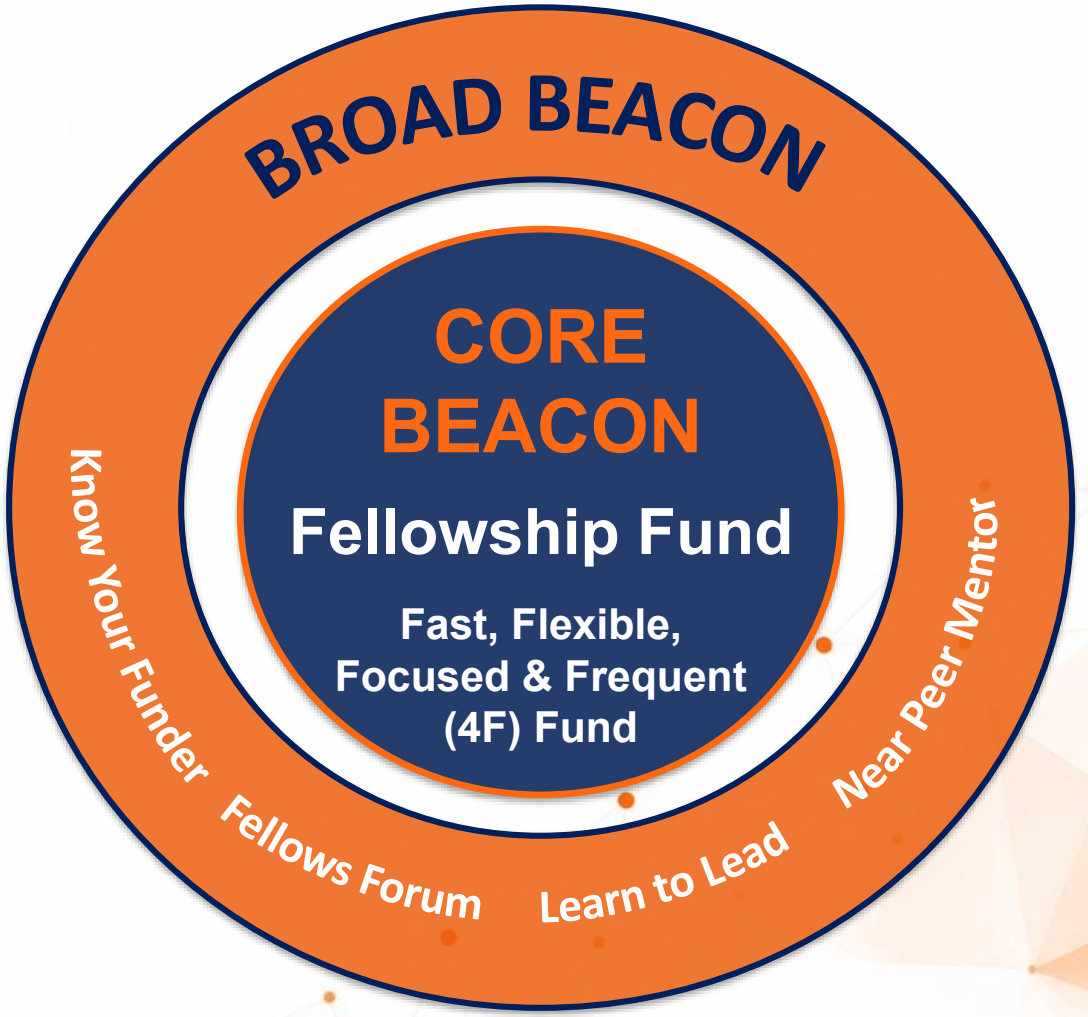
UKRI MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

BEACON Activities

What we will deliver

- **Core BEACON activities:** 2 funding programmes; Fellowship funding programme with salary buyout and research costs and Fast, Flexible, Focused & Frequent (4F) Fund programme with rapid access to funds.
- **Broad BEACON Activities:** Creating of academic development network across the consortium. Highlighted activities include a Fellows forum, Know Your Funder webinar series, Learning to Lead programme and Entrepreneur training.



UKRI MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

Medical Research Council Remit

MRC funds world-leading discovery and translational research to accelerate diagnosis, advance treatment and prevent human illness

Areas of MRC Remit

Global Health Research

Population & Systems Medicine

Molecular & Cellular Medicine

Neurosciences & Mental Health

Infections & Immunity

Translational Research

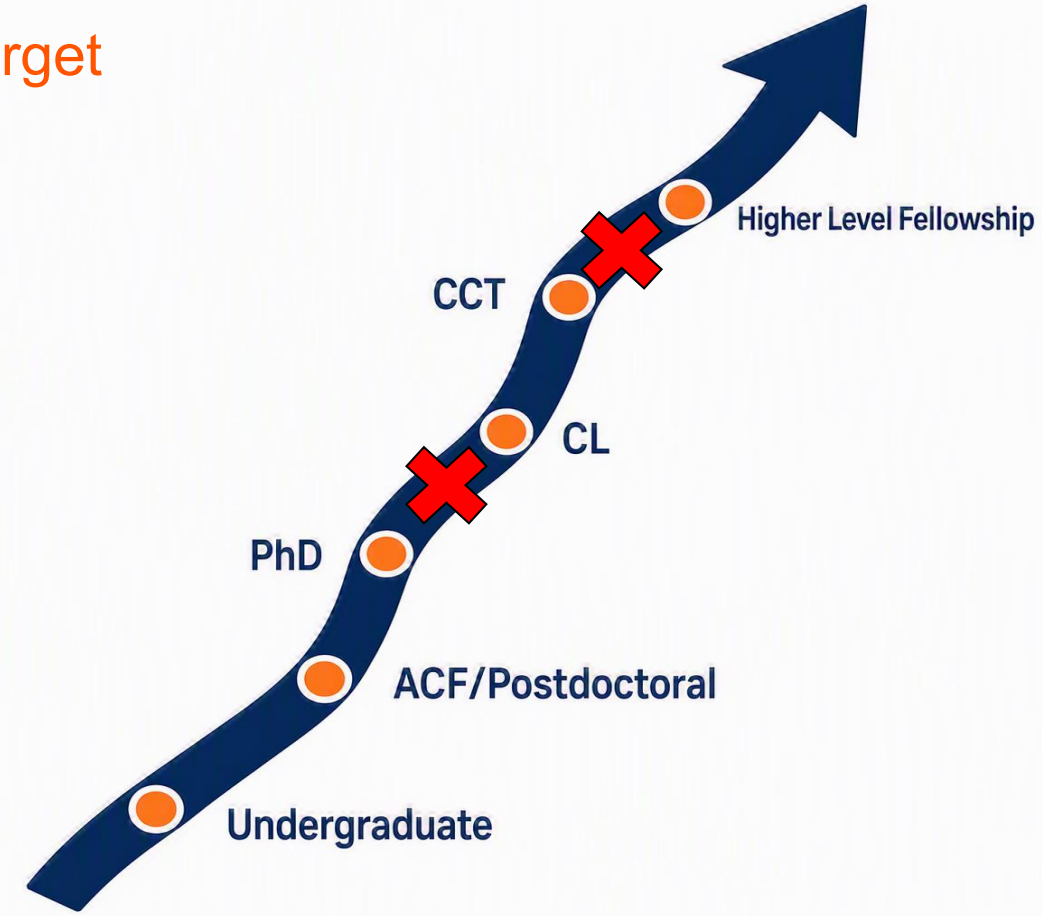
UKRI MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

Available Funding

What Career Pinch Points BEACON will Target

- **Post PhD Transition –** those returning to training post PhD looking to continue their research
- **Research Re-entry –** those coming back to research after a being clinically active healthcare professional.
- **Funding Use –** primarily for time buyout up to 12 months, with limited laboratory costs



MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

Application Overview

What you need to provide

- **Narrative CV:** Summarise your career to date, highlighting relevant skills and experience. Detail the outcome of your PhD and how this award will support your research career

- **Proposed Research:** Including an outline of research activities, how they will fit in MRC remit, methodology, statistical design and intended next steps and costings. **Matched funding welcome**.

- **Academic Letter of Support:** From a primary academic mentor, evidencing relevant expertise, support offered through the research period & confirmation of costings and access to facilities

- **Clinical Letter of Support:** From a line manager providing evidence of support, including details of back fill for time bought out. Access to facilities and costings also confirmed

Coordinate your Application with Centre Leads

UKRI MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

BEACON Funding Call Timeline

We advise coordinating with your Centre Lead early to ensure you have time for costings and proposals to be well developed.

Applications Open 1/9

Application Webinar 21/9

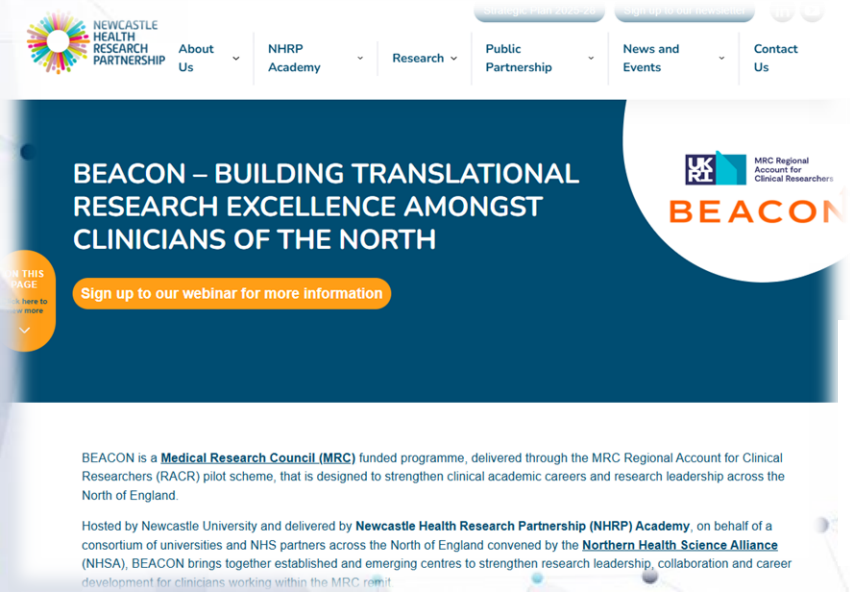
Applications Close 23/10

Application Review Process

Results Nov/Dec 26

First Cohort Begins early 2027

BEACON Application Webinar 21st September 2-3pm



Application Form and Guidance will be posted on the BEACON webpage on NHRP website

MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

BEACON Stakeholder Group

Submit an EOI Here

Who We Are Looking For:

- Active clinicians and healthcare professionals holding an MD/PhD
- Not in a tenured post and intending to support career development in research
- People from underrepresented backgrounds are encouraged to apply

What We Will Do:

- The group will act as the voice of the trainee community
- The group will embed activities throughout the BEACON programme

Please share with your networks

UKRI MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON

Thank you

Questions?

MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

BEACON