

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS



Non-executive Chair of the ISRCTN registry

The ISRCTN registry is a primary clinical trial registry recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) that accepts all clinical research studies, providing content validation and curation and the unique identification number necessary for publication. All study records in the database are freely accessible and searchable. ISRCTN supports transparency in clinical research, helps reduce selective reporting of results and ensures an unbiased and complete evidence base.

ISRCTN is now looking to appoint a new, non-executive Chairperson to replace Marc Taylor who is planning to retire after 16 years in the role.

As non-executive chairperson you will have primary responsibility for the leadership of the ISRCTN registry and of the not-for-profit Company which is its proprietor. The main purpose of the Company is to promote scientific transparency through its ownership of the international registry of clinical research which aligns to standards maintained by the WHO.

Key responsibilities

- lead the ISRCTN registry's engagement with UK and international stakeholders in conjunction with the staff of BioMed Central (BMC), the company which publishes the registry, so as to support and improve the operation of the WHO system;
- support and provide advice on ISRCTN's purpose, visions, goals and activities;
- offer strategic direction to the BMC team on the quality of the service provided and on measures and practices to secure continuous improvement in the services and the platform with a view to enhancing users' and stakeholders' experience and the wider reputation of the registry;
- consider, with the BMC-nominated director, whether to fund specific improvements from the Company's reserves, taking account of existing commitments and other resources available under the ISRCTN-BMC Publishing Agreement or related contracts;
- monitor whether BMC and ISRCTN are performing their responsibilities under the Publishing Agreement and work with BMC to resolve any issues, keeping the Board informed;
- chair the Board and any committee meetings (of which you are a member);
- set the Board's agenda (primarily focused on strategy, performance, value creation, culture, stakeholders and accountability) and ensure that issues relevant to these areas are reserved for board decision and adequate time is available for discussion of all agenda items, in particular strategic issues, and that debate is not truncated;
- ensure that the Board determines the nature and extent of the significant risks that the Company is willing to embrace in implementing its strategy;
- oversee ISRCTN's financial plans and budgets and monitor and evaluate progress;
- contribute to the broader promotion of ISRCTN's aims and reputation.

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Person specification

Ambassadorial

- The ability to act as a spokesperson for ISRCTN and to communicate both technical information and ISRCTN's broader mission to a range of audiences;
- An understanding of the issues and opportunities facing UK and international clinical research, across higher education, research councils and institutes, the NHS, private sector organisations and the charity sector and their international collaborators;
- An understanding of the WHO's role in promoting concerted action to strengthen clinical trials, share high-quality evidence on health interventions and improve research quality and coordination.

Vision

- A national and international approach to the aims of research transparency, with an over-arching and interconnected outlook;
- Desire to support ISRCTN in achieving international recognition as a source of expertise within the WHO network of clinical trials registries.

Governance

- Experienced and effective chair of meetings, with a collaborative approach; able to balance conflicting views to achieve consensus where possible;
- An understanding of the governance processes of a company and the expectations of the official and other bodies it works with;
- An understanding of working within a not-for-profit setting.

Personal attributes

- Strategic vision and independence of mind and judgement;
- Excellent communication skills;
- A collaborative and consultative approach to governance and chairing.

Terms of office

- A non-executive chair is typically expected to serve a three-year term.
- This is a voluntary position, but an honorarium of £5000 a year is available to reflect the scope of responsibilities some of which may result in personal expenses.

Time commitment

- Preparation for and attendance at bi-annual Board meetings.
- Ad hoc meetings with the Board, meetings with the Registry Manager and Company Secretary, meetings with key stakeholders, and meetings forming part of the Board evaluation process.
- Working arrangement: home-based, part-time

Application and more information

To apply for the role, send a CV and covering letter to Dr Georgina Humphreys (Board Director ISRCTN) georgina.humphreys@gtc.ox.ac.uk

For further information, please visit <https://www.isrctn.com/> or email Dr Humphreys to discuss the role further. Other relevant resources: [UK Government Registration](#) and [WHO primary registries](#)