

PLAIN ENGLISH SUMMARY

Funding opportunity: UK Type 1 Diabetes Cell Therapy Clinical Trials Network Coordinating Centre and Clinical Director

Purpose

The Type 1 Diabetes Grand Challenge (T1DGC), in partnership with the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), is investing in a new UK-wide network to support clinical trials of promising cell therapies for type 1 diabetes. The Cell Therapy Clinical Trials Network (CTN) will bring together clinical experts, researchers, research delivery teams and people living with type 1 diabetes to make it easier to run complex cell therapy clinical trials across the UK. This will help ensure more people have the opportunity to take part in cutting-edge research and support the development of potential future treatments.

To establish this network, T1DGC funding will support a Coordinating Centre (CTN-CC) and appoint a Clinical Director to provide national leadership for the network. This award will not fund an individual research study. Instead, it will fund the people, systems and coordination needed to make it easier, faster and safer to set up and deliver high-quality cell therapy trials across the UK.

Why is this important?

Cell therapies are one of the most exciting areas of type 1 diabetes research. These treatments aim to replace the insulin-producing beta cells that are destroyed in type 1 diabetes and could one day offer life-changing new treatment options. Before new cell therapies can become widely available, they need to be tested in carefully designed clinical trials. These studies are often complex and require specialist expertise, experienced clinical teams and strong support for participants.

The new CTN will bring together researchers, healthcare professionals, specialist trial delivery sites and people living with type 1 diabetes from across the UK. By working together, the network will help more trials take place in the UK, improve access to research opportunities and support the development of future cell therapies for people with type 1 diabetes.

What are we looking for?

The CTN Coordinating Centre (CTN-CC) will be at the heart of the network. Led by the Clinical Director, it will bring together researchers, healthcare professionals, expert trial delivery sites and people living with type 1 diabetes from across the UK. Together,



they will provide national leadership, support the set-up and delivery of clinical trials, promote collaboration and best practice, and help ensure the UK is well placed to deliver innovative cell therapy studies.

Up to £2 million will be available over three years to support the set-up and delivery of the CTN. This will include running the CTN-CC, establishing specialist trial centres, and developing the skills, expertise and support needed to deliver future cell therapy trials across the UK.

The CTN-CC will:

- **Coordinate the network** by bringing together specialist clinical trial sites across the UK and helping them work together effectively.
- **Provide support for clinical trials**, helping organisations to identify suitable sites, recruit participants and deliver studies successfully.
- **Manage funding and resources** to strengthen the network, build expertise and respond to emerging needs.
- **Share expertise and best practice** so that trials are delivered to consistently high standards across the UK.
- **Work with people living with type 1 diabetes** to ensure their experiences and priorities help shape the network and the trials it supports.
- **Collaborate with national research organisations**, including the NIHR, to strengthen the UK's ability to attract and deliver innovative cell therapy trials.
- **Act as a single point of contact** for organisations interested in running type 1 diabetes cell therapy trials in the UK.

To lead the application in the position of Clinical Director, we are looking for an established clinical or academic leader with:

- Expertise in type 1 diabetes.
- Experience in clinical research and leadership.
- A strong track record of collaboration across the UK research community.
- A vision for how the UK can become a global leader in type 1 diabetes cell therapy trials.

Important Information

This award is to create and lead the national network infrastructure. It is not a research project grant and will not fund individual clinical trials.