

NIHR Cancer & Nutrition Collaboration

Research Subgroup 2: Population health: cancer prevention

Strategy for next 3 years

Mission:

The **Population Health: cancer prevention (PHCP)** research subgroup will develop a research programme that focuses on the key lifestyle factors of diet and nutrition, alcohol, physical activity and obesity in the primary (secondary and tertiary) prevention of cancer. The scope of work includes research into biological mechanisms, understanding behaviour change, and the impact of lifestyle exposures on markers of cancer risk and cancer development. The research will encompass basic science, epidemiology, modelling, and intervention studies.

Objectives:

1. To develop collaboratively, and obtain funding for, research studies that could plausibly impact on the cancer risk of the general population or high-risk individuals at any stage of the life course.
2. To ensure robust methodology is utilised in research design including well defined exposures, markers of nutritional status and physical activity, valid and reliable questionnaire assessments, robust causal analysis of observational data, intervention development and trial design (underpinned by feasibility studies), data analysis and interpretation.
3. To design research that has significant potential for transferability beyond the research setting and generalisability in place and time.
4. To deliver interventional and observational studies which will enhance the NIHR cancer portfolio, collaborating with all relevant specialties outside cancer as appropriate
5. To collaborate with the Experimental stage research subgroup to develop translational studies of the mechanisms and biomarkers of outcomes in population-based trials.
6. To collaborate with the Research Subgroup: Living with and beyond cancer to support studies into nutritional and lifestyle risk factors for the prevention of recurrence, progression and new primary cancers.
7. To work with other research subgroups and work-streams of the NIHR Cancer & Nutrition Collaboration towards one or more major research programmes or a 'grand challenge' project.
8. To collaborate with charities supporting research into primary (Secondary and tertiary) cancer prevention and screening interacting with public representatives and high-risk individuals.
9. To work with industry to develop commercial support for studies of medical devices and measurement tools relevant to primary prevention research.
10. To stimulate and build research capacity in nutrition and cancer with a view to increasing academic endeavour in cancer prevention research and ultimately increased budget spent by NCRI partners.
11. To create an infrastructure to support the sharing of information as it relates to cancer prevention and early detection work in order to identify synergies and avoid duplication.

Values:

The PHCP research subgroup respects the need for multidisciplinary research in the cancer prevention and early detection area both in terms of disciplinary expertise, health professional involvement and guidance from members of the general public in developing peer reviewed, independent research that is aimed at the development of equitable approaches to cancer prevention.

Membership:

Membership of the PHCP research subgroup could include

- Basic scientists
- Psychologists, social and behavioural scientists
- Epidemiologists, trialists, modellers, health economists and statisticians
- Health professionals
- Members of the Public/patient representatives.
- Funders

Collaborations and links:

The PHCP research subgroup will collaborate with other research groups and organisations in the UK and beyond, such as NCRI, BAPEN, ESPEN, MASCC, UKONS, Royal Colleges, cancer charities, and other accredited professional organisations.

PHCP research subgroup strategy version 1.3. Annie S. Anderson 26/02/18

