

### A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

The founding partners are committed to providing long-term support to UKCMRI. Substantial sums will be provided to establish the institute and to ensure that it is resourced to make a major impact when it opens.

Structurally, UKCMRI will be established as an independent charitable entity subject to fiveyearly strategic reviews. A senior management team chaired by the Director and with senior leadership research staff will be responsible for implementing the scientific vision and research strategy. An international strategic advisory board will provide high-level input on scientific strategy.

A faculty council will be established to provide input to the Director on scientific matters and research operations. Consultation mechanisms will also be put in place to ensure wider input from all levels. are being discussed. The building will offer imaginative ways to engage local communities and promote healthier lifestyles. It is being designed to high levels of energy efficiency to reduce power usage and recycle energy.

# At the heart of UK biomedical research

Physically and conceptually, UKCMRI will be at the heart of biomedical research in the UK. As well as generating important findings and driving forward the translation of research, it will be a site to which many kinds of researchers will gravitate, for a variety of reasons and for varying periods.

Some may be drawn by a particular course or conference, others by the chance to learn a new experimental technique. Some may develop lasting collaborations with UKCMRI researchers, or take up the opportunity to become visiting fellows. For an aspiring researcher, it will be seen as the ideal location in which to develop a career.

In addition, the emphasis on personal development, and need to maintain a flexible and diverse workforce within UKCMRI, will lead to a constant stream of researchers with additional skills, experience and contacts able to move into other parts of the UK biomedical science infrastructure. There they can continue to develop their career and research, and thereby contribute to the long-term success of biomedical research in the UK.

# **THE UKCMRI PARTNERS**

The creation of UKCMRI has been made possible by an innovative partnership between a UK Government funding agency, two charities and a leading university. The MRC, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust and UCL are individually recognised for their achievements in funding or carrying out ground-breaking biomedical research. By joining forces and coordinating activities at UKCMRI, the partners are ensuring that even more will be achieved in the future.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is a publicly funded organisation dedicated to improving human health through world-class medical research.

For almost a century, the MRC has been a driving force behind advances that have transformed medicine and improved the health of millions of people in the UK and around the world. The MRC supports research across the biomedical spectrum, from fundamental, lab-based science to clinical trials, and in all major disease areas. It works closely with the NHS and the UK Health Departments to give a high priority to research that is likely to make a real difference to clinical practice and the health of the population.

The MRC invests in world-class scientists. It has produced 29 Nobel Prize winners and sustains a flourishing environment for internationally recognised research. It focuses on making an impact and provides the financial muscle and scientific expertise behind medical breakthroughs, including the antibiotic penicillin, the structure of DNA and the lethal link between smoking and cancer. Today, MRC-funded scientists tackle research into the major health challenges of the 21st century. The MRC's mission is to:

- Encourage and support research to improve human health.
- Produce skilled researchers.
- Advance and disseminate knowledge and technology to improve the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the UK.
- Promote dialogue with the public about medical research.

#### www.mrc.ac.uk

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading charity dedicated to cancer research, supporting the work of more than 4800 scientists, doctors and nurses across the UK.

Cancer Research UK carries out world-class research to improve our understanding of cancer and find better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat the disease in all its forms. The charity has been at the heart of progress that has seen survival rates double in the last 30 years. This work, which has helped to save millions of lives, is funded entirely by the public.

Much of its groundbreaking work is based in the laboratory, where its scientists are building an ever-growing understanding of cancer. It is also behind many important drugs – Cancer Research UK scientists and doctors have made significant contributions to half of the top 30 drugs used to treat cancer patients worldwide today.

Cancer Research UK also lobbies the Government to keep cancer at the top of the health agenda and runs highprofile health campaigns to help people understand more about cancer and the steps everyone can take to reduce their risk of developing the disease.

Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute (LRI) has an international reputation for its basic cancer biology research and has made significant breakthroughs in this area. The LRI employs more than 550 staff and students in 50 different research groups across two sites in London and Hertfordshire. The LRI also has a strong academic programme and is committed to training the next generation of worldleading scientists. LRI scientists have won many international awards; 11 of its group leaders are Fellows of the Royal Society, three have received knighthoods and two are Nobel Laureates.

Together with its partners and supporters, Cancer Research UK's vision is to beat cancer.

www.cancerresearchuk.org



The Wellcome Trust is a global charity dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health.

The Wellcome Trust supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. Its breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests.

The Trust's independence enables it to take a flexible and long-term view. It can also move rapidly to grasp emerging opportunities as they arise. The Trust adopts a catalytic and transformative role in driving forward biomedical research, and it works with a wide variety of partners to maximise the value of its funding.

The Wellcome Trust supports diverse activities that span basic, clinical and public health research, technology transfer, medical humanities and public engagement. This gives it an unparalleled breadth of vision – bringing multiple perspectives to bear on key health challenges and setting advances in biomedicine within their broader historical and cultural contexts.

The Trust's funding philosophy centres on supporting and developing the very best researchers, and giving them the resources that they need to undertake research of the highest quality. It strives to be bold and adventurous, nurturing creativity and innovation and backing ambitious initiatives.

The Wellcome Trust is a major funder of research in the UK and in low and middle income countries. It helps to create world-class research environments in the locations in which it funds, and is a prominent advocate for research and health. The Trust works to shape the global research agenda and to influence policy at national and international levels.

www.wellcome.ac.uk

UCL (University College London) is London's global university – a research and teaching powerhouse in the heart of one of the world's most dynamic cities.

Founded in 1826 as a radically different university, UCL helped to open up English higher education for the first time to people of all beliefs and social backgrounds.

Today, it is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary universities, with 8000 staff and 22 000 students from 150 countries engaged in world-class teaching and research. Ranked fourth in the world in the 2009 Times Higher Education–QS rankings, no fewer than 21 Nobel Laureates have come from the UCL community.

While UCL is global in its reach, it is also local in its focus. Staff and students work extensively in the local community of Camden and it is the sponsor of an Academy school opening in the borough in 2011.

The UCL School of Life and Medical Sciences is one of Europe's largest and most productive centres for biomedical science. Focused on the translation of research into solutions to the world's major problems, UCL works across the disciplines and with partners all over the world – whether it is leading the search for an HIV vaccine or developing the clinical use of stem cells in heart disease, blindness and spinal cord repair. UCL joined forces with its teaching hospitals in 2008 to establish UCL Partners, the largest academic health science partnership in Europe. It brings UCL together with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust, Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. By pooling resources and expertise, researchers and health practitioners are enabling new discoveries in basic science to be translated into treatments more quickly.

www.ucl.ac.uk

## UKCMRI SCIENTIFIC VISION AND RESEARCH STRATEGY

This document is a summary of discussions and recommendations of the UKCMRI Science Planning Committee, chaired by Sir Paul Nurse, which was set up to advise the founding partners on the scientific vision and research strategy for the institute.

The Science Planning Committee includes many of the world's leading figures in biomedical science, as well as representatives from the founding partners. The founding partners would like to thank the members of the Science Planning Committee, as well as individuals who contributed to a Horizon-Scanning Workshop or provided input in other ways, for their time, energy and insight during the development of the scientific vision and research strategy.

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Computer-enhanced and coloured image of a human iris. © David Parker/Science Photo Library

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