

22 February 2017

Launch: Early Diagnosis Industry Challenge - 22 February to 30 March 2017

We are delighted to announce a unique and innovative opportunity for a select group of industry, academic or third sector partners to work with the national Cancer Vanguard on projects to improve early diagnosis of cancer.

The call is launching today (22 February) with a submission deadline of 16:00 on Thursday 30 March 2017. The aim is to engage expertise from outside the NHS to undertake a small number of high impact projects (five to eight) which will ultimately lead to a tangible improvement in the earlier diagnosis of cancer in the NHS. There is a specific focus on two outcomes:

1. Increasing the proportion of cancers detected at stage 1 & 2 (stage shifts)
2. Reducing the proportion of cancers detected through presentation at A&E.

The Industry Challenge team are looking for a wide range of early diagnosis projects which would benefit from access to the national Cancer Vanguard's knowledge and resources. Projects will be launched from May 2017 and conclude by end April 2018.

To submit a proposal, please read the accompanying 'Briefing note and FAQ' and complete and submit both **part A** and **part B** proposal forms to CancerVanguard@uclh.nhs.uk by 16:00 on Thursday 30 March 2017.

We will be holding an information event from 15:00-17:00 on 16 March, at 52 Club, Bonham Carter House, 52 Gower St, London WC1E 6EB. If you would like to attend, please register by emailing CancerVanguard@uclh.nhs.uk. We will also answer questions by email – please ensure you have read the briefing note and FAQ first, including the rules for questions.

The national Cancer Vanguard

As you may know, the Cancer Vanguard is a unique collaboration between three of the UK's leading providers of cancer services. Together, we serve a population of over ten million and have joined together to explore new and innovative ways of delivering services to address the challenges set out by the national cancer taskforce. The Vanguard provides a new local delivery model for cancer care and includes commissioners, public health, primary, secondary and tertiary care, community care and hospices. More information is on our website: <http://cancervanguard.nhs.uk/>

The core aim of the national Cancer Vanguard is to realise improvements in patient outcomes and experience which can be scaled effectively across the NHS. It is essential that the Vanguard maximises impact through the emerging Cancer Alliances that are being established across England.

Background to the Early Diagnosis Industry Challenge

Early diagnosis is crucial to improving outcomes for cancer patients. In the UK we know there is a need to diagnose cancer earlier in order to achieve survival outcomes comparable to best practice internationally. Engaging the expertise and capability of partners outside the NHS through this challenge process will serve to better realise this aim.

This call follows a similar process in 2016 which engaged successfully with partners in the pharmaceutical industry to support deliverables in medicines optimisation. The national Cancer Vanguard are now working with five partners to deliver significant, scalable benefits for patients and support improved financial sustainability in the NHS.

The Cancer Vanguard is a partnership between
Greater Manchester Cancer Vanguard Innovation, RM Partners and UCLH Cancer Collaborative

Objectives of the Early Diagnosis Industry Challenge

There is a broad scope for the Early Diagnosis Industry Challenge. We anticipate that successful projects would help improve earlier diagnosis through innovations including: prevention (through public health campaigns, or working with professionals), education, diagnostic innovation, accelerated access, referral improvements and early diagnostic testing.

Effective partnership working, which brings together expertise for the mutual benefit of patients and the NHS is central to the philosophy of our approach. We are looking for projects where access to our knowledge and resources would allow the partner organisations to achieve a proven and established intervention by the end of the programme (so with a conclusive opinion by end April 2018), whether this is proving a new intervention, or proving an existing intervention at a new scale. It is important that interventions have a clear path to be scaled up and replicated rapidly across all partners and beyond, including a subset that we could scale up (possibly tailored) within two years (although a successful Challenge project does not guarantee further work with the NHS outside the Vanguard). We would also ideally like a balanced portfolio to cover a range of cancer patient pathways and interventions.

Please contact the Cancer Vanguard team at CancerVanguard@uclh.nhs.uk:

- if you have further questions (please ensure you have read the briefing note and FAQ first, including the rules for questions)
- to book your place at the information event on 16 March.

Please feel free to share this invitation more broadly amongst your colleagues and other organisations.

Best wishes

Nick Kirby
Divisional Manager
UCLH Cancer Collaborative

Jenny Scott
Programme Director
GM Cancer
Vanguard Innovation

Nicola Hunt
Managing Director
RM Partners