

Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA) Advanced Therapies Network - Terms of Reference

The Northern Health Science Alliance is the North of England’s health partnership, across a population of 16 million people, with a membership of ten universities, ten research-intensive NHS trusts and the four Northern Academic Health Science Networks. Our unique strength is the mandate we have from our member organisations to act and add value, across the North by creating scale that is greater than the sum of the parts. This requires the NHSA to navigate and develop collaborative, pan-Northern opportunities within the complex landscape of academia, industry and the NHS.

We achieve this by bringing together networks of experts in each of our programmes of work. NHSA is funded by Research England. These are the Terms of Reference for the NHSA Advanced Therapies Network.

1. Purpose/role of the network

- i. The Northern Advanced Therapies Network brings together academic, clinical and industry experts in the field of Cell and Gene Therapy (specifically Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products, or ATMPs), plus other key stakeholders. The network is convened by the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA) to coordinate activities and facilitate knowledge sharing between the organisations named in the membership. It is a ‘network of networks’ that represents organisations with interests ranging from ATMP discovery and pre-clinical research, through translational development and clinical evaluation, to adoption and spread in the NHS, i.e. from ‘bench to bedside’.
- ii. To improve visibility of the activities of the NHSA network members with key organisations including policy makers; the UK Department for International Trade (DiT); the NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) and industry, both within the UK and internationally.
- iii. To seek significant funding opportunities that require collaboration between one or more NHSA member organisations and achieve added value that is greater than the sum of the parts.
- iv. To explore how to collaborate on successful place-based initiatives emerging from the network, such as promoting fast progress of advanced therapies to benefit patients and commercialisation across the North as a whole.

2. Membership

- i. The Northern Advanced Therapies network is open to member organisations of the NHSA and their strategic partners. Key stakeholder organisations such as those involved in ATMP research and implementation into clinical practice within the UK are also considered. New members are invited following majority agreement by existing NHSA member organisations in the network and the purpose of their joining is checked and ratified as fulfilling the purpose / role of the network by the NHSA Executive Team.
- ii. The Members:

NHSA Member Organisations

Name	Institution
Mimoun Azzouz	University of Sheffield
Pamela Shaw	University of Sheffield
Brian Bigger	University of Manchester

Name	Institution
Dean Naisbitt	University of Liverpool
Munir Pirmohamed	University of Liverpool
James Shaw	Newcastle University
Volker Straub	Newcastle University
Michelle Thursby	Newcastle University
Majlinda Lako	Newcastle University
Tobias Menne	Newcastle University / Newcastle (NuTH) NHS Trust
Fiona Thistlethwaite	iMATCH Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre (ATTC) (inc. Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust)
Vicky Sheard	iMATCH ATTC
Finn Willingham	Northern Alliance (NA) ATTC / NuTH NHS Trust
Neil Watson	Northern Alliance (NA) ATTC / NuTH NHS Trust
Chris Herbert	Northern Alliance (NA) ATTC / Leeds NHS Trust
Andrea Burroughs	NuTH NHS Trust
Mark Jarvis	NuTH NHS Trust

NHSA Members' partners in Advanced Therapies

Name	Institution
Marc Turner	Northern Alliance (NA) ATTC / Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS)
Andy Baker	Northern Alliance (NA) ATTC / University of Edinburgh
Stuart Forbes	Northern Alliance (NA) ATTC / University of Edinburgh
Jeff Evans	University of Glasgow
Stuart Nicklin	University of Glasgow
Samantha Carmichael	Northern Alliance (NA) ATTC / NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
John Young / TBC	National Horizons Centre (NHC) / Teesside University
Dave Tudor / Arun Harish	CPI

National 'strategic partners'

Name	Institution
Jacqueline Barry	UKRI / Innovate UK Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult
Lee Dunham	UKRI / Innovate UK Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult
Alison Dun	Representative of the Scottish Network

Industry

Name	Institution
Neil Bell	Avacta Life Sciences

iii. Others may be invited to attend meetings at the discretion of the Chair.

3. Meetings

- i. Meetings of the Northern Advanced Therapies network will be held quarterly by videoconference, with an aim to meet at least annually in person, with format to be agreed by the members (e.g. including scientific and clinical presentations).
- ii. The meetings will be organised by the NHSA who will provide secretariat.
- iii. Meetings will be chaired by an academic or clinical lead from an NHSA member organisation in the network, with the position of Chair to be held for a minimum period of 2 years and rotated around the member organisations by consensus of the network. Where consensus on the position of Chair is not reached, a process for electing will be instigated by the NHSA Executive Team.
- iv. The standing meeting agenda is agreed by the members. Any additional agenda items each quarter will be drafted by the NHSA and approved in advance by the Chair.
- v. Meeting papers will be sent, via e-mail by the NHSA, one week prior to the meeting, when possible.
- vi. All information shared within the Northern Advanced Therapies network will be considered confidential, unless consent is given by the information owner (member) to share externally or publish.

4. Outputs

- i. Meeting notes and actions will be circulated by the NHSA to all network members.
- ii. The Northern Advanced Therapies network asset mapping spreadsheet (2020) will be kept under quarterly review for updates.
- iii. Case studies of exemplar Northern projects will be developed and shared with key organisations including policy makers; the DiT; NOCRI and Industry, both within the UK and internationally.
- iv. Additional communications materials may be developed together with the NHSA.
- v. The NHSA will routinely monitor relevant websites for any collaborative funding opportunities and share these with the network as soon as possible. Where the members agree that a collaborative bid has the potential to be mutually beneficial, then the NHSA will facilitate meetings to determine lead, bid team, and any support needed.
- vi. Members will notify the NHSA of any collaborative funding opportunities, or relevant and useful Cell and Gene Therapy conferences (regional, national or international) that would increase the external visibility of the Northern Advanced Therapies Network. This information will be shared by the NHSA with the network as soon as possible.
- vii. The group plays an important role in promoting the North's excellence in advanced therapies, with the underlying principle that the group works as a collective to be greater than the sum of its parts.