

Supplemental Appendix 1

A Steering Committee(SC), comprising leading CRC clinicians, HCPs and research scientists based in UK research institutes and chosen to ensure comprehensive coverage across the CRC spectrum, was appointed to lead eight Working Groups (WG) (two SC Members per group), focussed on the following thematic CRC research areas: Discovery Science; Risk; Prevention; Early diagnosis and Screening; Pathology; Curative treatment; Stage IV disease; and Living With and Beyond CRC. These areas were chosen following review by all members of the Working Groups as the key research domains across the CRC continuum. BCUK facilitated a series of workshops in which WG leaders and their multidisciplinary teams were tasked with identifying critical RGs across the patient pathway, which could inform research and funding prioritisation.

Prior to one-day workshops of the WGs, all participants (including patients) completed questionnaires to ascertain their opinions on the pressing RGs in their particular area of expertise. During the process, participants were asked to consider the following questions to inform their deliberations (Panel 1):

Panel 1: Questions to participants to inform the RG exercise

What are the key gaps in our knowledge and understanding of CRC that have the most potential to improve patient outcomes?

What research is needed to fill these gaps, and what do you think would be the impact of filling them, particularly for patients?

What are the major challenges/barriers faced in filling these gaps?

The workshops involved a series of iterative discussions and prioritisations. Preliminary reports were generated, capturing key priorities for each of the eight research themes evaluated. A 20-strong panel comprising people diagnosed with CRC, carers and those at high risk of developing CRC, were recruited through BCUK's volunteer and supporter networks and invited to a BCUK-RG Evaluation Day. Participants reviewed lay summaries of the preliminary reports, providing feedback to WG Chairs for incorporation into final reports. A series of teleconferences and a meeting of the SC reviewed the reports and identified the key RGs to be addressed and the Research Recommendations(RRs) to address these in each thematic area. RGs and RRs were endorsed by both the WG chairs/vice chairs and the SC. RGs and RRs are presented and the background evidence (gathered through a comprehensive but non-systematic review) and justification articulated in the position paper. A number of issues which were raised in multiple WGs were also identified as overarching RGs and appropriate enabling RR actions were identified to address these particular RGs. The final set of fifteen RGs and associated RRs represent the agreed views of the multidisciplinary expert WG panels.