

# UK CFS/ME Research Collaborative Charter



## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Charter is to outline the role of the UK CFS/ME Research Collaborative (CMRC) and its members.

## 2. CMRC Aim and Objectives

The aim of the CMRC is to drive increased interest and investment in CFS/ME research. The objectives are to:

- Develop, inform and update a national strategy for CFS/ME research.
- Facilitate all high quality peer reviewed research into all aspects of CFS/ME in both adults and children. This will include: basic mechanistic research; translational research; epidemiological research; health resource use research and research investigating all types of treatment and prevention of CFS/ME.
- Encourage multidisciplinary research by facilitating links with those already active in the field and involving scientists in other fields to undertake research in CFS/ME.
- Facilitate investment in essential research infrastructure e.g. bioresources, technology platforms, well phenotyped patient cohorts to deliver high quality research in CFS/ME and promote increased research capacity in the field.
- Work collaboratively to raise the profile of CFS/ME research in the UK in both professional and public domains.
- Promote, facilitate and support the development of a good career structure for CFS/ME researchers.
- Foster research collaborations and communication between clinicians, researchers, people with M.E./CFS, professional bodies, industry and charities with research interests in this field.
- Promote conditions in which more research can take place in NHS bodies within the UK, including supporting clinicians and researchers conducting all types of peer reviewed research.
- Work collaboratively with funders, charities and researchers to increase the financial support for CFS/ME research in the UK.
- Raise awareness of the achievements of the CFS/ME research community.
- Liaise with UK and international agencies and funders to share information and respond to consultations and forge new partnerships where appropriate.

## 3. Membership of the CRMC

### 3.1 Types of Membership

#### Professional Membership

Open to all health care professionals, researchers, charities and industry involved in CFS/ME research. Professional members must be directly involved in the delivery of, or in actively facilitating, research into CFS/ME, including, but not limited to funding research, advising and supporting researchers or as clinicians working with researchers in studies/trials and must engage within the scope of the CMRC.

## **Student Membership**

Open to students who are actively registered on a research-based course with an academic institution.

## **Associate Members**

Open to anyone with an interest in CFS/ME research.

Any member of the CMRC may, by giving notice to the executive, cease to be a member immediately (no refund of fees paid will be given). The executive shall decide the level of membership fees on an annual basis.

### **3.2 Membership Requirements**

Good scientific debate promotes and drives the highest quality of basic and applied evidenced-based and peer-reviewed research in to CFS/ME and is actively encouraged by the CMRC. This includes respectful debate and objective, constructive criticism in order to encourage critical thinking. Channels for 'good' scientific debate include writing letters to journals, asking questions, using established legal channels.

Membership of the CMRC does not prevent any member charity or organisation from pursuing its own aims and objectives as laid out in its founding documents.

### **3.3 Applying for membership**

Membership applications should be made on the appended form and returned to the Secretariat.

Members are advised that by joining the CMRC, they agree to have their details kept on a secure database for purposes of CMRC communication by the Secretariat and on the understanding that the information will not be passed to other organisations and kept in accordance with the Secretariat's Data Protection Policy and Procedure. Members will be required to confirm their agreement to work within the spirit of the Charter.

The executive will consider all applications for membership and reserves the right to seek further information, approve, decline or defer proposals as appropriate and without obligation to provide reasons for such decisions.

## **4. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

An AGM will be held annually (and live-streamed where possible). Additional meetings may also be arranged if members so wish. All members will be eligible to vote at the AGM. Voting will ordinarily be using a simple majority, and by a show of hands, but may be by ballot if the Chair so decides, in the event of late submission of items, or if requested by any two members. The Chair will not normally vote but, in the case of a tied vote, will have a casting vote.

## **5. Version Control**

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