

# **Centre for Research Equity University of Oxford UK**

## **Category**

Best Bridge-Builder Institution

## **Nominated Institution Classification**

### ***Institution Type***

Academic Institution (University, Medical School, Research Institute)

## **Nominated Institution connection to Nordics+ Ecosystem**

- Other meaningful connections that demonstrate authentic engagement

## **Nominated institution details**

### ***Nominated Institution Name***

Centre for Research Equity University of Oxford UK

## **Primary mailing address (Street Address, City, State/Province, Postal Code, Country)**

Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford

Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG  
United Kingdom

## **Website URL**

<https://researchequity.phc.ox.ac.uk/>

## **Contact person at nominated institution (Name and Title, Email Address, Phone Number)**

Prof Mahendra G Patel OBE  
Director, Centre for Research Equity

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**Nominator details (NameTitle & affiliationEmail addressDirect telephone numberMailing addressRelationship to nominated institution)**

Prof Mahendra G Patel OBE PhD FHEA FNICE (Alumni) FIPA (India) FIOPM Hon DHealth (Brad) Hon FRCGP FRPharmS  
Director, Centre for Research Equity

**Description of connection to Nordics+ health innovation ecosystem**

***Please describe the institution concrete connections to one or more Nordics+ countries (Nordic countries, Austria, Israel, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain). This may include physical location, leadership, partnership, or heritage***

The Centre for Research Equity (CfRE) at Oxford University was founded to strengthen how research is designed, delivered, and disseminated-ensuring inclusion and equity are embedded at every stage of the research pathway. Its mission is to bridge gaps between academia, healthcare, and communities so that research benefits are shared equitably and meaningfully across populations.

The CfRE's core work is to foster broad-based collaborations that enhance capacity, inclusion, and mutual learning. Through active partnerships with healthcare organisations in Portugal, the CfRE supports European grant applications developing more equitable models of research engagement and health delivery. These collaborations build shared frameworks for inclusive research design-encouraging participation of underrepresented communities, improving access to opportunities, and ensuring local needs shape the research agenda.

The CfRE also plays an active role in clinical research partnerships through European Clinical Research Alliance for Infectious Diseases (ECRAID) - contributing to the design and delivery of large-scale platform trials that uphold inclusion, transparency, and patient involvement. This collaboration exemplifies bridge building in action-connecting academic, clinical, and community expertise across borders to deliver evidence that informs fairer, more resilient health systems.

Beyond these partnerships, the CfRE serves as a convening hub for shared learning across countries and sectors, bringing together health professionals, researchers, policymakers, and patient communities to co-produce equitable solutions to global health challenges.

Through its international collaborations, capacity-building, and commitment to inclusive practice, the CfRE shows how research institutions can act as bridges-linking people, knowledge, and systems to make health research more representative, responsive, and impactful for all.

## **Bridge-building & collaboration**

***How does or how has this institution served as a bridge to integrate and translate distinctive knowledge, approaches, or technologies from Nordics+ countries into practical health solutions? What specific cross-border partnerships or collaborative mechanisms has the institution established to facilitate knowledge exchange and joint innovation within the Nordics+ ecosystem?***

Building bridges for inclusive, impactful, and globally connected research

Following the work with the PRINCIPLE and PANORAMIC trials, the world's largest and fastest-recruiting primary care trial, the CfRE at Oxford was created to transform how research is designed, delivered, and shared. Its mission is to make equity and inclusion the foundation of all research, bridging divides between disciplines, geographies, and communities so that health discoveries benefit everyone, ensuring underrepresented groups have a sustained voice in shaping research agendas.

Bridging systems and communities

CfRE connects academia, government, healthcare, and society. It works with UK government agencies, health regulators, and NHS organisations to shape policies and frameworks embedding inclusion. Collaborations with the Dementia Research Institute, national disability groups, Centre for International Coastal and Rural Communities, and outreach to prisoner, homeless, and faith communities ensure voices too often excluded are heard. CfRE's collaboration with Diabetes UK has directly influenced the charity's inclusive research policy, embedding patient engagement as a core principle.

Connecting the nations and professions

CfRE's influence spans all four UK nations, partnering with the Royal College of General Practitioners, national pharmacy organisation, Nigerian Doctors Association, and British Islamic Medical Association to promote shared learning and equitable access. In Northern Ireland, the historic partnership with R&D government agencies resulted in the Inclusive Research Manifesto, formally launched at Stormont with the support of the Health Minister. Subsequently, in Wales, CfRE's collaboration was launched at the Senedd, home to the Welsh Parliament, introducing the Inclusivity Action Plan 2025-2028, through which CfRE helped shape policy and funding priorities.

The Inclusive Research Manifesto is a flexible blueprint, guiding organisations to embed meaningful inclusion across research systems.

CfRE translates research findings into actionable knowledge, sharing insights through workshops, briefings, and international fora to strengthen community trust and inform decision-making. It partners with universities in regions of high health inequality and collaborates internationally with ECRAID and healthcare organisations in Portugal, integrating methodologies, data systems, and engagement models into scalable, inclusive research approaches.

The Centre's strategies were recognised by NIHR in its 2024 Annual Report as exemplars for pandemic preparedness and has been shared at the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and featured in The Lancet - demonstrating global leadership in inclusive research, policy influence, and knowledge mobilisation.

Through these collaborations, CfRE stands as a bridge - linking knowledge with action, institutions with communities, and research with real-world impact to advance inclusive, collaborative, and transformative health.

## **Legacy & broader contributions**

***What lasting impact or legacy has the institution's Nordics+ bridges work created for the regional innovation ecosystem? How has its positioning and collaborative approach influenced other institutions, established new models for cross-border innovation, or contributed to lessons that strengthen the global life sciences community?***

The CfRE has established a lasting legacy - embedding inclusive research across communities, institutions, and government systems. By championing equity, it ensures that research reflects the needs of diverse populations while strengthening trust and participation.

CfRE's collaborations have shaped policy across multiple contexts. Partnering with Diabetes UK, it influenced the charity's strategy for inclusive research, ensuring patient engagement is central. In Northern Ireland, with historic partnership launch at Stormont, supports government strategies to advance health equity. Similarly, CfRE's work in Wales, culminating in the government launch of its partnership with Health and Care Research Wales, informs the Inclusivity Plan 2025-2028, directly shaping policy and funding priorities to tackle health inequalities.

The scale and pace at which CfRE has involved and delivered with minimum resources and staffing is an example to all nations as to what we can do in supporting more

meaningful research through being inclusive.

CfRE has developed a Manifesto for Inclusive Research, a flexible blueprint adaptable to different nations and organisations. It provides strategic guidance to embed equity in research design, delivery, and evaluation, ensuring approaches are locally relevant while maintaining national and cross-sector consistency.

### Global Influence and Cross-Border Innovation

The Centre extends its bridge-building internationally through partnerships with ECRAID and healthcare organisations in Portugal, translating diverse methodologies into scalable, inclusive research models. Its strategy has been shared at the United Nations, World Health Organization, and featured in The Lancet. Recognised in the NIHR Annual Report 2024 as an exemplar model for future pandemic preparedness, CfRE demonstrates how inclusive research strengthens resilience, fosters innovation, and informs global best practice.

Through its policy impact, flexible frameworks, and international collaborations, the Centre has created a durable legacy-shaping regional innovation ecosystems, informing policy and practice, and setting a standard for inclusive, sustainable, and impactful research across the UK and beyond.

### Supporting references - link

***Share up to 8 publicly accessible links (labeled with focus and source of link) to information in support of your nomination, such as documentation of existing awards, honors, or recognition from Nordics+ countries; media coverage highlighting cross-border collaborative efforts and achievements; government endorsements or policy citations of the institution***

1. Early recruitment strategy leading to the establishment of the Centre for Research Equity.

Patel MG, Dorward J, Yu LM, Hobbs FDR, Butler CC. Inclusion and diversity in the PRINCIPLE trial. The Lancet. 2021 Jun; 397(10291); 2251-2252

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00945-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00945-4/fulltext)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(21\)00945-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(21)00945-4).

2. CFRE driven Inclusion and Diversity recruitment strategies informing WHO and Global Clinical Trials Geneva Nov 2023 (Ref slide 265)

[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/research-for-health/gctf23\\_presentations.pdf?sfvrsn=5130672d\\_3](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/research-for-health/gctf23_presentations.pdf?sfvrsn=5130672d_3).

3. Britain's largest and most influential Hindu temple partnership with CfRE:  
<https://www.baps.org/News/2023/Neasden-Temple-Invited-to-be-a-Strategic-Partner-with-Oxford-Universitys-Centre-for-Research-Equity-23859.aspx>.
4. Influence of faith groups in trial recruitment during the early development of the Centre for Research Equity and evidence showcased on international platforms at the United Nations New York 2022.  
  
<https://www.panoramictrial.org/news/professor-chris-butler-addresses-the-un-on-panoramic-baps-uk-europe-collaboration>.
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/places-of-worship-have-huge-impact-on-scientific-studies-uk-scientist/articleshow/97183445.cms>.
5. Exemplar inclusive recruitment strategies evidenced by the National Institute for health research in its annual report for pandemic preparedness 2024.  
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/panoramic-study-learnings-are-key-to-pandemic-preparedness/36490>.
6. Working with NHS Health Research Authority as a regulator in developing guidance for inclusive recruitment into clinical studies 2024.  
<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/best-practice/increasing-diversity-people-taking-part-research/developing-our-inclusion-and-diversity-plan-and-supporting-guidance/>.
7. Historic partnership of CfRE with HSC R&D and Department of Health launched by the Health Minister in Northern Ireland 2024.  
<https://nicrn.hscni.net/university-of-oxfords-centre-for-research-equity-launches-historic-partnership-to-advance-health-equity-in-northern-ireland/>
8. Influencing national policy for inclusive research. Advancing Research Equity in Wales: A Partnership Between Health and Care Research Wales and the Centre for Research Equity - formally launched along with the inclusion and diversity policy at the Welsh Government 2025.  
<https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/about/news/wales-chief-medical-officer-plan>

## **Supporting references - document upload (optional) File Document upload**

***Share up to 4 documents in support of your nomination, such as***

***Signed MOUs, partnership agreements, or joint venture documents (redacted if confidential) \*Clearly label each file to “Nomination [Institution Name” prior to other filename content***

**CfRE and BAPS Neasden Temple Manifesto Mar2025.docx**

**CfRE and BAPS Neasden Temple Manifesto Mar2025.docx**

**CfRE and BAPS Neasden Temple Manifesto Mar2025.docx**

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**inclusivity policy Welsh Government**

**advancing\_research\_equity\_bilingual\_final.pdf**

**Professor Mahendra Patel Centre for research Equity University of Oxford Full**

**Report Parliamentary Multiprofessional Healthcare Forum 28 Oct 2024 1**

**copy.pdf**

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**inclusivity policy Welsh Government**

**advancing\_research\_equity\_bilingual\_final.pdf**

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**Professor Mahendra G Patel Centre for research Equity University of Oxford**

**inclusive research manifesto Dept of Health Northern Ireland .pdf**