



Medical
Research
Council

Terms of Reference

Longitudinal Population Studies Strategic Advisory Panel

Purpose of the Group

The MRC makes significant investments in large-scale, long-term, longitudinal population studies (LPS) that require sustained support for regular data sweeps and sample collections and maintenance of the resource.

The Longitudinal Population Studies Strategic Advisory Panel (LPS-SAP) will assist the MRC in delivering its strategic objective of maximising the impact of population health studies by providing advice on the strategic fit of LPS outline applications submitted to individual Research Boards, in cognisance of the overall portfolio of MRC and externally funded LPS studies.

Role of the Group

The group will perform the following functions:

- Assess LPS outline applications (for both new cohorts and renewals of existing studies) in the context of strategic need, the added value of the study and the appropriateness of the design, taking account of existing and forthcoming national and international LPS.
- Provide strategic advice and feedback on outline applications to the relevant Research Boards.
- Provide reports to PHSG as required

Reporting

Comments from the Panel will be compiled and circulated to the relevant Research Boards. Outline LPS applications and LPS-SAP feedback will be considered at the subsequent Board meeting, where a decision will be made regarding whether to invite a full application.

Membership

The Panel will be chaired by Professor Nick Wareham, Chair of Population Health Sciences Group (and member of Strategy Board). Membership of the Panel will be selected to ensure that expertise is sufficient for review across the breadth and depth of LPS.