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For immediate release

New Parliamentary group will seek the health benefits of science & technology

A new cross-party Parliamentary group will be launched following the General Election in May, offering MPs and peers the opportunity to further drive the agenda for realising the health and economic benefits of new bioscience and technology in the NHS.

Focusing on implementation and the importance of effective delivery of health innovations for patients, the prospective group for **Bioscience & Technology in Healthcare** will be for all politicians who want to see the NHS benefit promptly from UK investment and excellence in science and technology. It will identify potentially transformative developments as they emerge, their implications for healthcare and potential barriers to their use; as well as economic, logistical, ethical, legal and social factors and other policy issues.

Membership will be open to all members of the House of Lords or House of Commons. The group will be chaired by **Lord Norman Warner**, with the House of Commons co-chair to be announced after the election, and the secretariat provided by the independent, non-partisan health policy think-tank the **PHG Foundation**. Other prospective partner organisations for the group are **BMJ**, the **Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute**, and the Centre for the Advancement of Sustainable Medical Innovation (**CASMI**).

Lord Warner commented: *"We need to be clear about what science and technology can really offer us in creating a sustainable, patient-centric NHS, and understand how we can put new tools to improve health into the hands of every citizen. I encourage strong cross-party involvement in this invaluable opportunity".*

Dr Julian Huppert MP said: *"We are brilliant here in the UK at performing world-leading biomedical research, but we are not good enough at getting the benefits of that research into the NHS. This group should be able to help make sure that we benefit patients as much as possible using new bioscience and technology".*

-ENDS-

Further information

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Comments from supporting partners

"The PHG Foundation firmly believes that biomedical and related technologies can transform healthcare and deliver better health. We expect an exciting programme of activities as the new group looks to the acceleration of innovation into UK healthcare for the benefit of patients and populations."

Dr Hilary Burton

Director, PHG Foundation

Comments from supporting partners (continued)

“BMJ has been at the forefront of innovative healthcare thinking and practice since 1840, and is committed to promoting innovation in healthcare to help improve outcomes for patients throughout the world. We are very proud to become a formal partner in the planned group on Bioscience and Technology in Healthcare and we look forward to contributing to this important and exciting area of medicine.”

Matthew Harker

Director of Evidence and Analytics, BMJ

“The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute is excited to be involved in this important group, which we believe will help ensure that the UK’s established scientific capabilities are translated into a world-leading healthcare revolution and put patients at the heart of the UK healthcare system.”

Julia Wilson

Associate Director of External Relations, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

“CASMI is committed to bridging the gap in translation and accelerating patient access to new treatments by bringing new insight to regulation, reimbursement and adoption processes. We’re delighted to be a formal partner in the planned group, which will help make the most of the UK’s world-leading scientific capabilities to drive innovation in healthcare.”

Megan Morys

Deputy Director, CASMI

Notes to editors

About the prospective cross-party group

- The proposed Secretariat has registered an interest to run an APG (in the subject area of Bioscience and Technology in Healthcare) with the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Formal registration will follow after the General Election in May, once quorum membership has been reached.
- Initial meetings and activities will be announced following registration and official launch of the group.
- Twitter: [@biotehealth](https://twitter.com/biotehealth)

About the PHG Foundation

- The PHG Foundation is an independent, non-profit health policy think-tank based in Cambridge
- Our mission is making science work for health – promoting the fair and effective translation of the best 21st century scientific innovations into improved medical and public health policy and practice
- www.phgfoundation.org

Notes to editors (continued)

About BMJ

- BMJ is a global brand with a worldwide audience that helps medical organisations and clinicians tackle today's most critical healthcare challenges
- Our vision is to create a healthier world
- www.bmj.com



About the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

- The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute is a charitably funded genomic research centre located in Hinxton, UK
- Our passion for discovery drives our quest to uncover the role of genetics in health and disease, aiming to provide results that can be translated into diagnostics, treatments or therapies that reduce global health burdens
- www.sanger.ac.uk



About CASMI

- CASMI is the Centre for the Advancement of Sustainable Medical Innovation, a leading academic research centre and think tank dedicated to transforming the pathway from lab bench to patient
- CASMI convenes appropriate stakeholders, facilitates multidisciplinary project teams and workshops, and conducts interdisciplinary academic research led by an impressive body of fellows from the University of Oxford and UCL
- www.casmi.org.uk

