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For immediate release

## Politicians want to make the most of personalised medicine for the NHS

**The new All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Personalised Medicine will hold its official launch event in the House of Commons tomorrow. The Group aims to help the NHS and patients make best use of the increasing availability of cutting-edge technologies to provide more personalised health and care.**

Over a hundred stakeholders from the patient community and the clinical, research, policy and commercial sectors will join parliamentarians led by the Group's Co-Chair Lord Norman Warner to discuss the nature of personalised medicine and implications for the NHS.

APPG Chair Jo Churchill MP said: *"As a two time cancer survivor, personalised medicine has been a dream of mine and I am so keen to move this APPG forward... Working closely with my Co-Chair Lord Warner, and the other parliamentary officers and members, I believe this Group will provide a much-needed forum, for productive discussion and insightful debate, on how personalised medicine offers us opportunities to provide a more efficient and effective NHS".*

Delegates will hear from distinguished speakers Prof Peter Johnson (Chief Clinician, Cancer Research UK) and Prof Hugh Watkins (Head of the Department of Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford) on the benefits of personalised medicine for cancer and cardiac patients. There will also be demonstrations of some of the innovative technologies that could help deliver better, more tailored patient care in the near future, including a pocket-sized DNA analyser, a medical 3D printer, a mobile ECG device and a patient-controlled medical records portal.

The PHG Foundation, an independent health policy think tank that aims to make science work for health, provides the Secretariat for the new Group, supported by partners the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, BMJ and the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA).

Commenting on the APPG on Personalised Medicine, PHG Foundation Director Dr Hilary Burton said: *"Opportunities for bioscience and technology to transform healthcare and deliver better health via personalised medicine are rapidly expanding, and we are delighted to provide the secretariat to this significant new parliamentary group as they examine these opportunities and consider how to ensure that patients and populations get the greatest health benefits from them."*

Dr Matthew Harker, Director, Evidence Centre at BMJ said: *"BMJ is committed to promoting innovation and encouraging new, cost effective solutions to improve patient care. We are delighted to be part of the All-Party Group on Personalised Medicine and we look forward to contributing to ideas that will empower patients and improve healthcare globally."*

Research Policy Advisor Dr Sarion Bowers of the Sanger Institute commented: *"We are dedicated to using genomics to tackle human disease around the world through improving our understanding of the relationship between our genes, genomes and disease. The development of personalised medicine, based in part on the use of genomic technologies in the clinic, has the potential to transform health and the provision of healthcare. We are excited to be working with parliamentarians and our partners to explore the challenges of how to make personalised medicine a workable reality for the NHS, patients and the UK public".*

-ENDS-

## Further information

### Media enquiries

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A selection of photos will be available after the event.

### Parliamentary and partner enquiries

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## Notes to Editors

APPGs are informal cross-party groups that have no official status within Parliament. They are run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords, though many involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament in their administration and activities.

The Parliamentary officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Personalised Medicine are:

- **Chair:** Jo Churchill MP, Conservative Member for Bury St Edmunds
- **Co-Chair:** The Rt Hon. Norman Reginald Warner, Unaffiliated Member of the House of Lords
- **Vice-Chair:** Sir David Amess MP, Conservative Member for Southend West
- **Vice-Chair:** The Rt Hon. Philip Alexander Hunt, Labour Member of the House of Lords
- **Vice-Chair:** Chi Onwurah MP, Labour Member for Newcastle Central and Shadow Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy
- **Vice-Chair:** The Lord Patel KT, Crossbench Member of the House of Lords
- **Treasurer:** The Lord Willis of Knaresborough, Liberal Democrat Member of the House of Lords

For more information, see the website at: [www.personalisedmedicineappg.org](http://www.personalisedmedicineappg.org)

## About the PHG Foundation

The PHG Foundation is an independent, non-profit health policy think tank based in the Cambridge biotech cluster. We focus on how genomics and other emerging health technologies can provide more effective, personalised healthcare and deliver improvements in health for patients and citizens. We also provide the secretariat for the APPG on Personalised Medicine.

[www.phgfoundation.org](http://www.phgfoundation.org)

**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](http://www.sanger.ac.uk)



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The NHSa is a health partnership established by the leading Universities, NHS Hospital Trusts and AHSNs in the North of England to improve the health and wealth of the region by creating an internationally recognised life science and healthcare system.

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