

Directors of Research Job Description

Remuneration	Voluntary (unremunerated); reasonable expenses reimbursed
Tenure	Three years
Time commitment	Approximately one to two days per quarter, including quarterly Director Group meetings, with additional time during grant rounds and agreed portfolio activity
Reporting to	Research Division Chair and Deputy Chair

About the role

The Intensive Care Society is appointing a new cohort of Directors of Research to lead delivery of its Research Strategy from 2026 onwards. The Society's role is to provide leadership, coordination and strategic direction, strengthen national networks, facilitate collaboration and establish priorities for the intensive care community rather than undertake primary research itself.

The strategy is organised around three research domains and one cross-cutting leadership portfolio. Each Director will lead an agreed portfolio while working collectively to turn priorities into coordinated activity, funded research, stronger capability and evidence that improves intensive care and recovery.

Research portfolio

Applicants should identify the portfolio for which they wish to be considered. They may ask to be considered for a second portfolio where their expertise spans more than one area.

Portfolio	Scope
Organ Dysfunction and Failure	Organ support, shock states, coagulopathy and critical illness-associated organ dysfunction.
Infection and Inflammation	Sepsis, host response, antimicrobial therapies, immune modulation and infection-related critical illness.
Recovery and Long-Term Outcomes	Rehabilitation, survivorship, patient and family outcomes, and quality of life following critical illness.
Data and Methodology	Cross-cutting leadership of research infrastructure, registries and linked data, informatics, study and trial design, qualitative and quantitative methodology, and analytical support.

Role description

1. Portfolio leadership and strategy

- Lead an agreed research portfolio, define priorities, develop an annual delivery plan and report progress against agreed objectives and deliverables.
- Help refine and implement the Society's Research Strategy, ensuring that James Lind Alliance priorities and additional scientific, methodological and translational priorities inform a coherent programme of work.

- Identify gaps in UK intensive care research and advise where the Society can add greatest value through convening, coordination, funding, endorsement, dissemination or partnership-building.
- Embed patient and family involvement and multiprofessional perspectives in priority setting and delivery.

2. Research funding, awards and partnerships

- Support the design and delivery of research grant and award schemes, including proportionate and transparent review processes.
- Help identify and shape opportunities with public funders, charities, trusts, foundations and responsible industry partners.
- Protect scientific independence, transparency and editorial control, and ensure conflicts of interest are identified and managed appropriately.
- Support an impact framework that captures outputs, implementation potential, learning and value to patients, families and the intensive care community.

3. Research capability and community

- Strengthen research networks across professions, career stages, settings and regions.
- Work with Professional Advisory Groups, patient representatives, JICS, education and event leads, early-career researchers and partner networks to create practical opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, methodological support and skills development.
- Contribute to research education and support for people developing clinical academic, applied research or other research careers.

4. Governance, endorsement and dissemination

- Contribute expertise to the proportionate review of requests for research endorsement, collaboration or dissemination.
- Consider relevance, methodological quality, ethical and regulatory approvals, patient and public involvement, conflicts of interest, commercial influence and practical deliverability.
- Help the Society disseminate high-quality research and maintain a clear record of decisions and activity.

5. Translation, influence and impact

- Work with relevant Society committees and groups to connect research with implementation, guidance, education and policy.
- Build strategic relationships with funders, research networks, universities, clinical trials units, professional bodies, patient organisations and other partners.
- Represent the Society in relevant national discussions and promote intensive care priorities across the wider research system.
- Act as a specialist adviser to Council and the Executive where appropriate.

Ways of working and accountability

- Work as part of the Research Director Group and attend quarterly meetings.
- Agree annual objectives and deliverables and remain accountable for progress.
- Work collaboratively with the Research Division Chair and Deputy Chair, fellow Directors, Research Fellows, patient and professional representatives, and ICS staff.
- Act as Special Advisor to the Intensive Care Society's Council and Executive Board and attend meetings.
- Declare and manage conflicts of interest and uphold the Society's governance requirements and charitable objectives.

Person specification

Essential criteria

- A PhD or equivalent evidence of substantial research leadership, methodological expertise, funded research experience or applied research impact in a relevant clinical, scientific, academic, improvement or healthcare discipline.
- Strong understanding of intensive care research and the ability to take a broad view across professions, settings, methods and career stages.
- Expertise relevant to at least one advertised portfolio and the ability to provide credible leadership within it.
- Experience of developing, reviewing, delivering or advising on research projects, grants, awards, implementation, policy or evidence translation.
- Ability to assess research proposals proportionately, including relevance, methodological quality, governance, patient and public involvement, conflicts of interest and deliverability.
- A collaborative and inclusive leadership style, with the ability to work constructively with volunteers, staff, professional groups, researchers, funders and external partners.
- Commitment to improving outcomes for patients and families and strengthening multiprofessional research capability.
- Member of the Intensive Care Society.

Desirable criteria

- Experience of research funding panels, grant review, priority setting, clinical trials, qualitative research, implementation science, data science, translational research or applied clinical research.
- Experience of developing research communities, mentorship schemes, education programmes, research networks or clinical academic pathways.
- Experience of working with industry, charities, trusts, foundations or donors while preserving independence and managing conflicts of interest appropriately.
- Experience of publishing, peer review, journal editorial work, guideline development, evidence synthesis or research dissemination.
- Experience of national representation, partnership development or influencing funders, policymakers or professional organisations.

Inclusive recruitment

We welcome applications from nurses, allied health professionals, pharmacists, doctors, psychologists, clinical academics, methodologists, data scientists, scientists and applied or non-clinical researchers. We are seeking a cohort that reflects the professional and geographical breadth of the intensive care community.

How to apply

Please submit:

- A CV.
- A covering letter briefly explaining why you wish to apply.

Send applications to: Research@ics.ac.uk

Closing date: Monday, 12 October 2026, 9am