

Appointment of
Executive Director:
BHF Data Science Centre

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Welcome



Welcome to Health Data Research UK (HDR UK). I am delighted you are considering the role of Executive Director of the British Heart Foundation Data Science Centre at HDR UK for your next professional move.

HDR UK is the national institute for health data science and works to [accelerate trustworthy data use to enable discoveries that improve people's lives.](#)

Our vision is for large-scale data to benefit every interaction with patients, every clinical trial and every biomedical discovery, and to transform public health.

We work in partnership with the NHS, industry, charities and universities to realise the potential of the UK's wealth of health data in life-changing research. Patients and the public are actively involved in shaping HDR UK's work and ensuring it delivers public benefit.

The [British Heart Foundation \(BHF\) Data Science Centre](#), launched in January 2020 and is embedded within HDR UK. The Centre has successfully secured £10M funding from the BHF for a further five years (2026 – 2030) to deliver user-focused data infrastructure and services that enables high-quality, data-driven research to improve treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease.

The Centre played a major role during the COVID-19 pandemic, working with the NHS and collaborators internationally to link and enable the use of large-scale data. With access to this data, scientists and doctors could understand more about this new disease and the impact with cardiovascular disease, providing evidence to allow the NHS and policymakers to respond to the challenge quickly.

HDR UK and the Centre have also pioneered UK health data science that has laid the foundation for the recently announced Health Data Research Service. We are committed to building on these successes through a collaborative approach to harness high-quality patient data (e.g. imaging, electronic health records) and powerful AI-driven technology to transform the UK's data infrastructure and deliver cutting-edge research, unlocking the power of large-scale data to improve health and care.

HDR UK is a virtual institute, with staff and partners in all four nations of the UK and a small office in central London. HDR UK funding comes from UK Research and Innovation, the Department of Health and Social Care (England) and the devolved administrations, and leading medical research charities. Core funding for the Data Science Centre comes from the BHF.

We employ talented individuals who bring their own unique skills and experience to support our vision and benefit the whole team. Our values of transparency, optimism, respect, courage and humility guide how we work together within HDR UK, with our partners and other stakeholders.

Healthcare is on the cusp of a digital revolution and at HDR UK, you can be at the heart of it.

Professor Andrew Morris, Director, HDR UK

About HDR UK

Who we are and what we do

Health Data Research UK is the UK's national institute for health data; we are the only body that brings together England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland behind a single mission: to unlock the power of health data for better care, better research and better outcomes. We work across the full spectrum of the health and research ecosystem, from the NHS, universities and research institutes to charities, industry partners, and the fast-moving world of digital, wearable and mobile technologies.

We are a young, agile organisation with a strong sense of purpose. Our ambition is deliberately bold: to ensure that the UK's extraordinary data assets and scientific talent translate into real-world improvements for patients and populations, and to position the UK as a global leader in health data science.

Although HDR UK does not hold health data itself, we are building the national infrastructure that makes responsible, high-quality research possible. This includes:

- **Uniting health data** by connecting datasets across the UK and making them safely discoverable and accessible through the UK Health Data Alliance and Innovation Gateway— always in ways that earn and maintain public trust.
- **Improving health data** through national tools, methods, hubs, and expertise that raise the quality, usability and reliability of data for researchers and innovators.
- **Enabling world-class research and innovation** that delivers large-scale impact, tests novel approaches to data use, and brings together a community of leading national experts in health data science.

Our funders

HDR UK is backed by a coalition of major national funders who have committed investment over the next five years. Their support enables the research, skills development and infrastructure that underpin our One Institute approach, helping us deliver impact at scale across the UK. Alongside this core investment, we also secure thematic funding to drive specific programmes of work with national and international significance.





Executive Director: BHF Data Science Centre

At HDR UK, we employ talented individuals who bring unique skills and experience to support our vision and benefit the whole team.

The Executive Director role is a highly visible senior leadership role in the UK and internationally. This role offers a rare opportunity to lead a nationally recognised centre at the forefront of data-enabled cardiovascular research—transforming how health data is accessed, shared, and applied for public benefit.

We are seeking an exceptional individual to lead the next phase of the BHF Data Science Centre, shaping its evolution into a world-leading centre delivering cardiovascular data infrastructure and services. This pivotal role combines strategic leadership, data services and operational excellence, and system-wide influence to deliver a cutting-edge, research-enabling data infrastructure that accelerates innovation and improves cardiovascular health outcomes across the UK and globally.

The role will be responsible for delivering an efficient, secure, and user-focused data infrastructure and services, enabling high-quality, large-scale cardiovascular research. The holder will champion and have experience of collaboration across clinical, academic, technical, industry, and public domains, positioning the Centre at the heart of the UK's health data ecosystem.

They will possess deep expertise across a broad range of fields including data service development and delivery, data engineering, data infrastructure, health informatics, and AI driven innovation.

The Executive Director will be an outstanding collaborator and build a wide range of UK and international interdisciplinary partnerships that advance the mission of both the Centre and HDR UK. They will demonstrate authenticity with a range of stakeholders including senior leaders in academia, NHS, government, charities and industry in the UK and internationally.

Role profile

Strategic leadership and vision

- Shape and implement a bold, long-term vision for the Centre as a trusted, high-impact national infrastructure and research service provider for cardiovascular data science.
- Be a thought leader, championing the Centre's vision and promoting its role in delivering world-leading cardiovascular data infrastructure and services.
- Provide strategic direction to ensure that the Centre's activities and operations align with the strategic priorities of **the British Heart Foundation** and **Health Data Research UK (HDR UK)**, as well as national health and research agendas.

Leadership and culture

- Provide vision, leadership, motivation and direction for the Centre, defining, recruiting and developing an effective executive leadership function for the Centre
- Develop, and lead a high-performing, multidisciplinary team with expertise in data engineering, clinical science, service delivery, service development, information governance, and public engagement.
- Foster a culture of inclusion, innovation, collaboration across the Centre – inspiring and bringing together partnerships across a wide-range of expertise with diverse perspectives and sectoral backgrounds.
- Lead Centre-level contributions to strategic and scientific reviews, ensuring timely implementation of recommendations and continuous improvement
- Promote commitment to continuous learning across the organisation, within a robust governance and risk management framework.

Delivery of efficient, scalable infrastructure and services

- Oversee the design, development, and continuous improvement of robust, efficient, and secure data infrastructure and services, ensuring they meet the evolving needs of the cardiovascular research community.
- Lead delivery of user-centred, research-ready data products and tools, with a strong focus on sustainability, scalability, and reproducibility.
- Ensure that the work of the Centre aligns with and successfully leverages the cross-functional capabilities of HDR UK as Institutional host of the Centre, to offer added-value to the cardiovascular research community.

Accountability and governance

- Accountability for budgets and financial sustainability.
- Responsibility for regulatory compliance - services are delivered efficiently, transparently, and to the highest standards of technical quality, data governance, and public trust.

Role profile

Partnership and ecosystem engagement

- Build and maintain high-trust partnerships with data custodians, the NHS, academia, industry, funders, regulators, and patient groups across the four nations.
- Lead engagement with senior stakeholders to co-develop services that facilitate access, linkage, and responsible use of health data at scale.
- Drive collaborative activities and develop strategic partnerships, including powering industry partnerships, to deliver the Centre's mission.
- Embed meaningful public and patient involvement and engagement (PPIE) throughout the Centre's work, ensuring transparency, inclusion, and public confidence.

National and international advocacy

- Be a visible national leader and demonstrate the ability to shape and influence the research and industrial data science community.
- Represent the Centre across national and international forums, establishing the UK as a global leader in enabling cardiovascular data science and health data research.
- Advocate for the ethical, equitable, and innovative use of health data to improve outcomes for patients and the public.

Dimensions of role

- This is a senior appointment, to be a member of HDR UK's Senior Leadership Team, reporting into the Director Andrew Morris.
- Accountable to the Director for the delivery of work areas, including budget and team management.
- Act as a senior scientific leader and representative in all internal and external senior fora.

Our values:
Transparency
Optimism
Respect
Courage
Humility



Who we're looking for

An exceptional leader with outstanding communication and collaboration skills evidenced by:

Experience and knowledge

- Proven experience in leading large-scale, complex programmes or infrastructures in health data, digital services, or biomedical research.
- Demonstrated success in designing and delivering efficient, sustainable, user-focused and scalable data platforms and/or services.
- Experience developing and implementing cost recovery, funding, or sustainability models for research infrastructure or digital services.
- A strong track record of building consensus and delivering outcomes across organisational boundaries, including influencing and building partnerships at the most senior levels of academia, the NHS, and industry.
- Experience leading multidisciplinary teams and engaging diverse stakeholders, including patients and the public.
- An understanding of the UK health data landscape, including NHS systems, data governance, interoperability frameworks, and regulatory environments.

Skills and Abilities

- Visionary and pragmatic leadership, with the ability to unite diverse stakeholders around a shared mission.
- Strategic and operational acumen, with a proven ability to deliver services at scale and navigate complex system dynamics.
- Knowledge of the complexity of health and research data environments, data governance, privacy, security, and ethical issues in the use of health and biomedical data.
- Outstanding communication, negotiation, and influencing skills; able to engage technical and non-technical audiences alike.
- Agility in managing competing priorities, risks, and opportunities in a dynamic, evolving environment.
- Experience of public communication, especially the critical role of public involvement and engagement in complex issues such as the use and sharing of health and social data for research.
- Experience in implementing and operating institutional governance and administrative issues.
- Personal commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and transparency in leadership and practice.



Terms of appointment

Working at Health Data Research UK

HDR UK offers an attractive package and working environment. Since the pandemic we offer flexibility on working location and the primary base could be anywhere in the UK, but the successful applicant must be willing and able to travel to London and elsewhere (mainly in the UK) in connection with the requirements of the role.

Dimensions

This role is currently configured as a full-time position. The Institute is keen to attract a diverse pool of applicants, including those from industry, and is flexible to discussing the most appropriate terms and conditions.

Safeguarding

HDR UK is committed to robust safeguarding policies, we expect everyone who works with us to share our commitment to safeguarding.

“Our mission is to accelerate trustworthy use of health data to enable discoveries that improve people’s lives.”



Equal Opportunities Policy Statement

HDR UK is an equal opportunities employer, and as such aims to treat all employees, consultants and applicants fairly. It is our policy to provide employment equality to all irrespective of:

- Gender, including gender reassignment
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Having or not having dependants
- Religion or belief
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins)
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Age

We are opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. All job applicants and employees who work for us will be treated fairly and will not be unfairly discriminated against on any of the above grounds. Decisions about recruitment and selection, promotion, training or any other benefit will be made objectively and without unlawful discrimination.



How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Health Data Research UK on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **ABICD**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Monday 16th February 2026**.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

Due diligence

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.

