



Patient and Public Contributor Representative – Role Profile

MAINSTREAM Hub Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Committee

Role	Patient and Public Contributor to the MAINSTREAM Hub Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Committee.
Duration	The role will be for 2 years in the first instance. There will be an opportunity to extend until the project concludes in 2031.
Meeting frequency and involvement expectations	<p>The PPIE committee will meet at least three (3) times per year (online), with a calendar of dates set out in advance.</p> <p>The expected time commitment would be 10 hours per year. It is expected the committee will meet more regularly on the lead up to PPIE events.</p> <p>Meetings will typically last 1 hour.</p> <p>In addition to the main meetings, there may also be emails and other ad-hoc online meetings throughout the year as required to address any business.</p>
Expenses and payment	Travel expenses and involvement payments will be paid in line with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) payment for involvement rates.

About the MAINSTREAM Hub

MAINSTREAM is a six-year UK research hub led by the University of Glasgow, with partners at the Universities of Strathclyde and Nottingham. Our goal is to make it easier and more affordable to grow special repair cells called **mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs)** on a large scale. These cells can help heal bones, calm harmful immune reactions, and support treatments for blood and solid cancers.

Why it matters

Stem cell therapies have huge potential, but making enough cells for treatment is a big challenge.

- A single treatment can need **70–190 million cells**, and most manufacturers struggle to produce the billions needed for widespread NHS use.
- Stem cells also lose their “youthful” state as they grow, which makes them less effective.
- This means that while **over 50 new stem cell trials start each year**, very few studies reach the stage of comparing to current best treatments.

What are we doing?

We are working to overcome these hurdles so that stem cell therapies can benefit patients sooner.

Our research focuses on:

- **Smart materials** that keep stem cells youthful and versatile.
- **Advanced manufacturing** to mass-produce high-quality cells.
- **Real-time monitoring tools** to check cell health and prevent problems.
- **Mini lab-on-chip systems** to test drugs and cell behaviour quickly.
- **State-of-the-art imaging** to spot early warning signs of cancerous changes.

We are doing this **with input from clinicians, industry, patients, and the public**, so the solutions meet real-world needs.

What could this mean for patients?

Better treatments for:

- Bone repair
- Immune-related conditions
- Blood cancers

Ultimately, MAINSTREAM aims to make regenerative medicine more accessible, affordable, and effective for everyone.

Role description

As a PPI representative, you will be part of a committee bringing together people with lived experience, charities, public, and academics to support PPIE activities across the MAINSTREAM Hub project.

Your lived experience, insights and questions can help guide our research to make sure it creates meaningful, relevant, and effective outcomes that address patient and public needs.

We are looking to recruit up to **6 PPI representatives** to contribute to the committee.

Main responsibilities of the PPI representatives

- Share your views on research plans and priorities (e.g. come along to our meetings and events and give your views on the work we are doing, and what is important to you).
- Help us communicate our work clearly to the public (e.g. read and comment on website content and project summaries, listen to short talks from researchers, all to make sure material is clear and well understood by those with no scientific background).
- Make sure patient needs and concerns are considered throughout.

Person specification

Skills, knowledge and experience
Lived experience as a patient, carer or member of the public with an interest in the area.
Understanding of the value and importance of patient and public involvement in healthcare research.
Awareness of health inequalities and the need for inclusion.
Ability to listen, and represent diverse patient views, as well as personal experience.
Confidence to contribute constructively in meetings.
Willingness to learn and discuss new information.
Ability to work together as part of a committee or working group.
Ability to attend meetings, and participate in any essential training.
Respect for confidentiality and sensitivity when discussing personal or health-related matters.
Experience with and access to MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook (or other email software), and use of Zoom (for joining meetings).
Be willing to travel occasionally to major PPIE events (these could be in Birmingham, Glasgow, or other areas of the UK). All travel and accommodation will be organised and paid for by MAINSTREAM.

Training

There will be opportunities for support, including online training in PPIE, and guidance on participating in the committee.

Expressing interest

Please submit a short statement of interest, outlining your motivation to join the committee and how you meet the requirements in the person specification.

Your statement of interest should be sent to Michelle.Connolly@glasgow.ac.uk MAINSTREAM Hub Manager, by 27th February 2026.

We anticipate the first meeting will take place in April 2026.

Any questions can also be directed to Michelle Connolly.