

## Unlocking the Potential of Cell Therapies:

# Anthony Nolan's Three Priorities for Action

ANTHONY  
NOLAN

saving the lives  
of people with  
blood cancer

### Cell therapies hold huge potential for saving lives

Since the first CAR-T cell therapy was delivered in 2018 in the UK, over 930 people with blood cancer have received this groundbreaking treatment, in which the patient's cells are edited to recognise and destroy cancer cells. Thanks to continued scientific development we are on the cusp of being able to save and improve even more lives with these treatments.

Anthony Nolan plays a pivotal role in facilitating and accelerating this research and innovation through our world-leading Cell Therapy and Laboratory Services, drawing on 50 years of experience and expertise in bringing together patients, clinicians, scientists, researchers, and donors.

**To maximise the lifesaving potential of new cell therapies, the government must invest in the NHS and life sciences sector to develop the infrastructure, capacity and skills needed to facilitate increased research and adoption of these treatments at scale and pace.**

By doing so there is a very real opportunity for the government to support the delivery of a thriving cell therapy system, transforming survival and quality of life for thousands of British patients.

### Anthony Nolan's key priorities for action

#### 1. Ensure the UK is an attractive destination to deliver cell therapies.

The UK's life science industry needs nurturing. It not only contributes to our economic growth and the creation of high-quality jobs but can offer thousands more patients early access to the most promising new cell therapies.

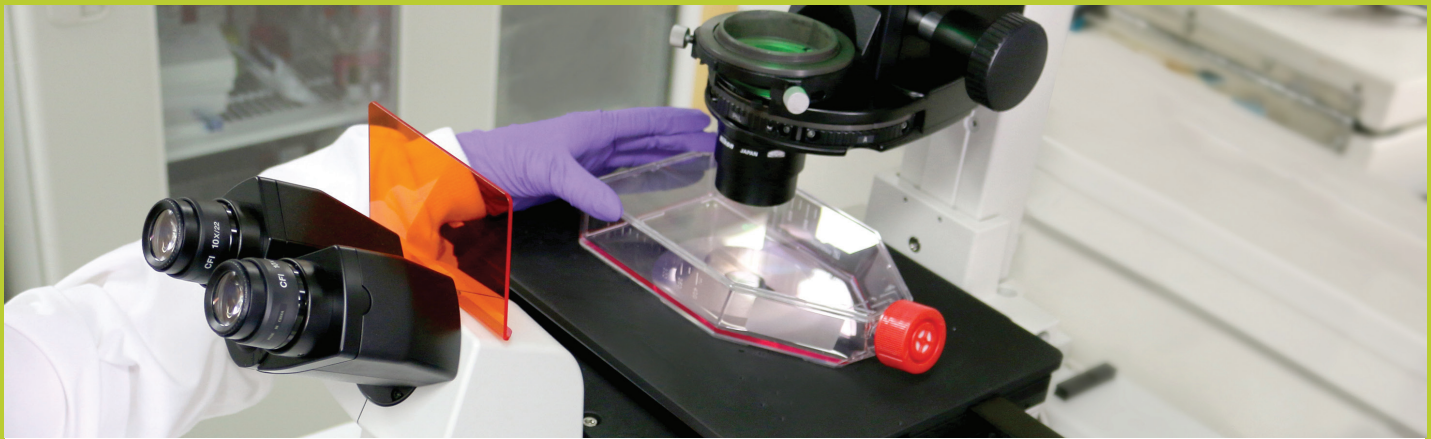
Through the UK's internationally competitive clinical trial infrastructure, we have a golden opportunity to cement our country's position as a global leader in the development and delivery of cell therapies.

Yet in recent years, the UK has been falling behind in global R&D rankings and clinical trial activity. The delay in negotiating our association with Horizon Europe, the largest ever transnational research programme, damaged the UK's reputation and ability to collaborate. Only half of industry trials are currently meeting their recruitment targets, and there are persistent inequities in patient participation.

Anthony Nolan would like to see governmental leadership to regain our world-leading position in this area, and boost the UK's desirability as a site of research and development of novel cell therapies.

#### This should include:

- Committing to spend at least 3% of GDP on R&D.
- Building an attractive regulatory framework that incentivises new clinical trials, enabling more patients to access novel treatments.
- Investing and future-proofing the supply chains and infrastructure needed to deliver advanced cell therapies, such as laboratories and apheresis services.



## 2. Invest in the cell therapies workforce.

Cell therapies are delivered by a highly skilled NHS workforce, including specialist doctors, nurses, laboratory staff and data managers. But chronic staff shortages are hampering research into and delivery of cell therapies.

Adequate planning and investment in the cell therapies workforce is vital to avoid compromising the ability of the NHS to deliver potentially curative treatments such as CAR-T therapy to patients.

### Anthony Nolan is calling for commitments to:

- Benchmark, recruit and retain the specialist cell therapies workforce needed to meet the anticipated growth for these treatments.
- Prioritise multidisciplinary training and education pathways for advanced therapies, building a workforce with the right skills, fit for the future.
- Deliver the commitments in the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.

## 3. Provide personalised and equitable treatment and care.

Cell therapies such as CAR-T are innovative forms of personalised medicine. Yet the accompanying support and care that patients receive can vary across the country.

We believe all patients should have access to services and support that reflect their holistic needs. The NHS should be equipped to develop services that put patients at the centre of decision-making.

### This should include:

- Joined-up provision of comprehensive prehabilitation and post-treatment rehabilitation.
- Access to ambulatory services, that drive improvements in patient outcomes and bring long-term cost savings to the NHS.
- Access to a CNS and to specialist psychological support for every patient who needs it.

### About Anthony Nolan

Anthony Nolan saves and improves the lives of people with blood cancer and blood disorders. We unite people and science to unlock new treatments that have the potential to transform the futures of every patient. Established in 1974, our pioneering stem cell register was the first of its kind in the world. We now have **over 800,000 donors, helping more than three patients a day in need of a lifesaving transplant.**

### Contact

We would be delighted to work with you to unlock the potential of cell therapies, saving and transforming the lives of people with blood cancers and blood disorders. For more information or to request a meeting, please get in touch at [public.affairs@anthonyolan.org](mailto:public.affairs@anthonyolan.org)

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