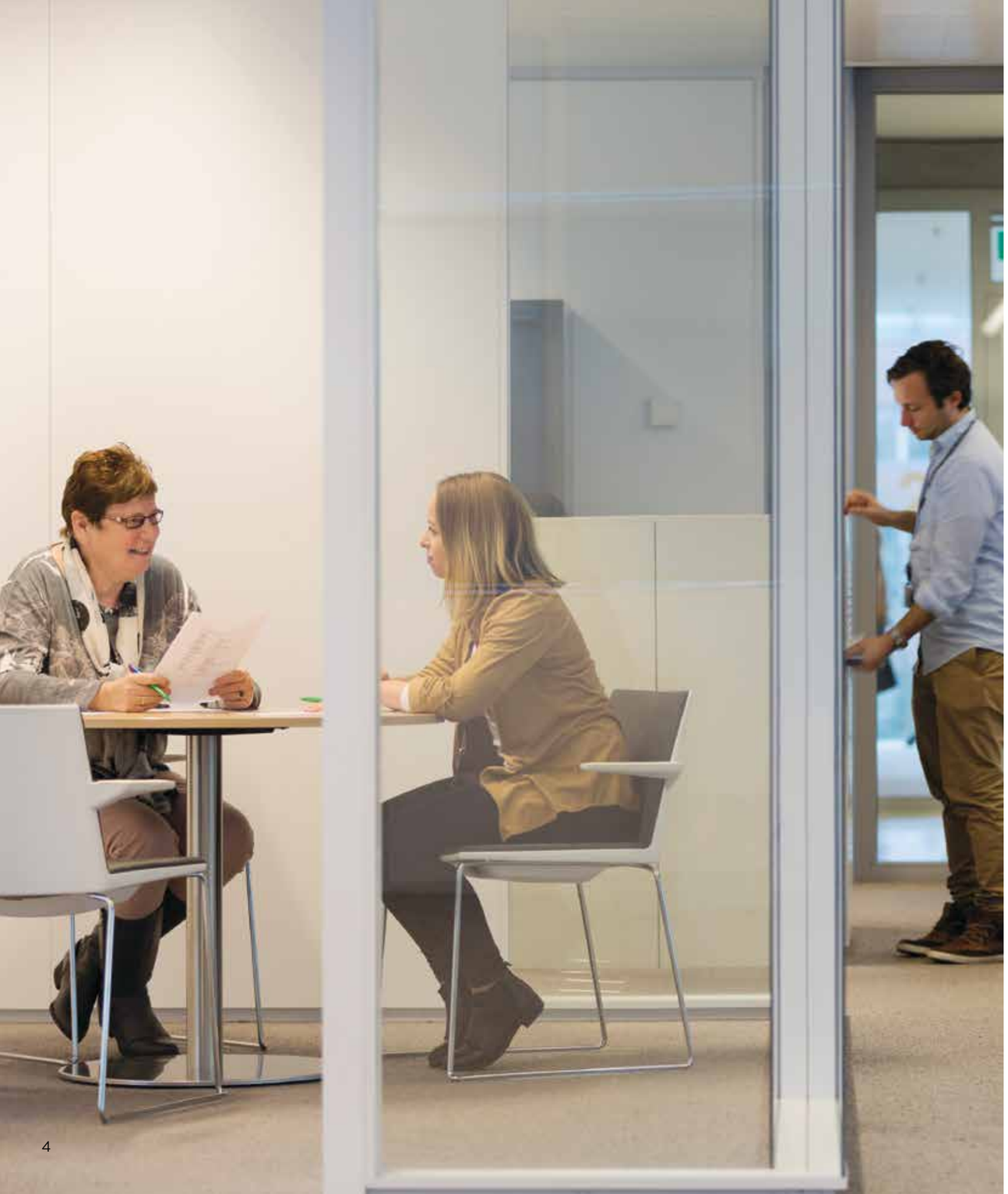

CHDR
Centre for Human Drug Research
Clinical Research Programme

The Clinical Research Programme offers a well-defined development path for ambitious young researchers and physicians

CHDR's innovative approach and high level of scientific expertise are due in part to its many talented junior researchers. The Clinical Research Programme was developed specifically to offer scientific and personal development in a formal, structured setting.



In this intensive five-year programme, participants conduct several research projects while being coached by senior clinical scientists and research directors. The participant is responsible for developing, leading, and reporting a clinical trial, thereby gaining expertise in a specific scientific field. Importantly, the outcomes of the study are can be included in the participant's PhD thesis.

Objectives

1. Learn state-of-the-art project management

2. Development of scientific (methodological) skills

3. Developing the following competencies
   - Analyzing and assessing complex cases
   - Quality-oriented procedures
   - Helicopter view
   - Planning
   - Supervision in a team

4. Developing knowledge and skills
   - Pharmacotherapeutics
   - Toxicology/clinical pharmacy
   - Clinical research methodology
   - Own research
   - Transfer of knowledge

Selection and coaching

Interested applicants can learn more about the Clinical Research programme through CHDR's career website. Applicants then perform an online evaluation and are interviewed by several staff members. If the candidate is selected, he/she is assigned a 'coach', usually a clinical researcher with at least four years of experience at CHDR. The coach guides the participant during the first year of the programme. In addition, a senior project leader supervises the participant on a daily basis throughout the programme. All participants meet formally with a research director three times a year in order to discuss the participant's personal and scientific development and to establish the next set of scientific and management goals. Annual performance evaluations, combined with '360-degree' assessments in the first and fifth years of the programme, provide the participant with valuable feedback and ensure a tailored learning experience for optimal talent development.

The 5-year programme at a glance

Throughout the five-year programme, participants develop key skills and competences, including project management, clinical pharmacology, scientific research, and personal competences. Participants also collect data for their PhD thesis, which they are expected to complete during the programme.

After the programme

In the final year of the programme, the senior project leader discusses the participant's future plans. If the participant is a suitable candidate, and if a position is available, the participant may be invited to join the staff at CHDR. Whether the participant remains at CHDR or seeks employment elsewhere, his/her newly establish skills and competences will help ensure success in the fields of research, business, and/or healthcare.

About CHDR

The Centre for Human Drug Research specialises in early-phase clinical drug research. CHDR's overall mission is to improve the drug development process by collecting as much information as possible regarding the candidate drug in the early phases of development. This information helps sponsors make informed decisions regarding the course of clinical development for their product.

Research at CHDR covers a wide range of fields, including the central nervous system (CNS) and pain, the cardiovascular system, haemostasis, immunology, and dermatology. In addition, CHDR is at the forefront in developing novel biomarkers and methods for measuring drug-related effects in all of these research areas.

Pharmacology matters

Whether studying a new cognitive-enhancing drug, a next-generation painkiller, or a new monoclonal antibody designed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, the goal is to determine how the compound's effects correlate with both the dose and blood concentration at any given moment. In addition, understanding which biological systems are activated is an essential first step towards quantifying this relationship. At CHDR, our focus on pharmacology is reflected clearly in what we call question-based drug development.

Question-based drug development

CHDR actively uses question-based drug development - or QBD - as a more rational approach to drug development compared to conventional approaches. QBD can be best described as a series of questions that are addressed throughout the process. These questions often seem simple enough, but failing to answer even one question - or even addressing the questions in the wrong order - can have dire consequences. Thus, using this approach can potentially save companies millions of dollars by helping predict a catastrophic issue early in the development process, before the more expensive latter stages (for example, large-scale clinical trials or the marketing phase).

From a general perspective, the most important questions are:

1. Does the biologically active compound and/or active metabolite(s) reach the intended site of action?
2. Does the compound cause its intended pharmacological and/or functional effect(s)?
3. Does the compound cause any unintended pharmacological and/or functional effect(s)?
4. Does the compound have a beneficial effect on the disease and/or clinical pathophysiology?
5. What is the compound's therapeutic window?
6. How does any variability with respect to the drug response in the target population affect the product's development?

Contact

Contact us to learn more about the Clinical Research Programme.

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