



# TRUSTEE CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

2026

**CROHN'S &  
COLITIS UK**

**CROHN'S? COLITIS? WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER**

# WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR

**Thank you so much for your interest in joining our charity Crohn's & Colitis UK as a Trustee with the expertise to oversee the delivery of the charity's new research strategy.**

We're the UK's leading charity for Crohn's and Colitis. Right now, over 500,000 people in the UK are living with a lifelong condition that can profoundly affect their quality of life. And because of the stigma surrounding their conditions, thousands are suffering in silence. But we are here to support and champion a better future. Our vision is for improved lives for people with Crohn's and Colitis today, and in the long term, a world free from Crohn's and Colitis altogether.

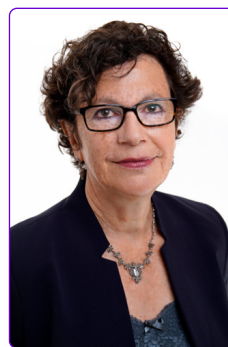
Our community look to the charity to help them navigate their way through complex health issues and support their needs wherever they live, whatever their background and whoever they are. Research is so important to our beneficiaries, reflected in our newly launched strategy as an aim to unite researchers, patients and healthcare professionals to set out a roadmap to a cure.

As we look forward, the charity is in great shape to do even more for our community. Our income has been steadily rising since 2021, with an income of over £8M in 2025. Our income has provided us with the financial headroom to invest in a new ambitious strategy, which we have now launched. We have grown our amazing team to over 100 staff, to deliver our exciting agenda. But there is still much to shape and develop. We need new skills and new ways of thinking if we are to grow our impact. We are just at the beginning of change in some areas – we have a great social media following but we want to maximise our digital platforms with a new website launched this year, in line with our recently refreshed brand.

We want to be the centre of expertise on the lived experience of Crohn's and Colitis and will need to build an evidence base that meets that ambition and turbo charges our aspiration to grow public awareness and deliver system change.

You couldn't be joining us at a more exciting time, a time when you will be able to make a real difference.

Crohn's? Colitis? **We'll face it together.**



**Dr Jackie Craissati MBE**  
Chair of the Board  
Crohn's & Colitis UK

# ABOUT US

**We're changing what it means to live with these lifelong, incurable gut conditions.**

Around one in 120 people in the UK have Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis, navigating life with an unpredictable condition that could flare up at any time. The impact can be devastating; plans turned upside down; work and education on hold; relationships and wellbeing under strain; dreams for the future paused.

No one should face that alone. That's where we come in.

We provide trusted information, support cutting-edge research and lead bold campaigns designed to get people talking about Crohn's and Colitis like never before. We're transforming understanding, building the recognition these conditions deserve and uniting our community to drive real change.

We're fighting for a tomorrow where everyone living with Crohn's or Colitis has everything they need to live well, and for a future where we don't have to live with it at all.

# WHAT ARE CROHN'S AND COLITIS?

Every year in the UK, around 25,000 people are told they have Crohn's or Colitis. These lifelong incurable conditions are on the rise, with around one in 120 people in the UK living with one of them.

Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis each cause inflammation in the gut and cause a wide range of painful and exhausting symptoms including blood in poo, severe stomach pain, overwhelming fatigue and frequent, urgent diarrhoea. For many people, these symptoms come and go, making life unpredictable and planning near impossible.

In our recent research, nearly 90% of people told us that living with this uncertainty affects their quality of life. Most people are diagnosed when they're young, and delays in diagnosis, treatment or care can completely change the course of their lives, affecting education, work, relationships and their emotional wellbeing.

There's currently no cure, but there are many effective treatments, from medicine to surgery that can help manage symptoms and improve quality of life.



# OUR STRATEGIC AMBITION 2026-36

## THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR STRATEGY

1

Transform understanding of Crohn's and Colitis

2

Unite researchers, patients and healthcare professionals to set out a roadmap to a cure

3

Drive improvements in diagnosis, treatment and care

4

Support people to live well

### OUR VISION

A world without Crohn's and Colitis.

### OUR PURPOSE

We inform, empower and unite our community so people living with Crohn's and Colitis can lead better lives.

### OUR VALUES



Ambitious



Compassionate



Stronger together

## WE DRIVE PIONEERING RESEARCH



Championing – and funding – research that redefines how we understand and treat Crohn's and Colitis.



Strengthening global networks and sharing knowledge so we find answers faster, together.



Translating the latest findings into what they mean for people living with Crohn's and Colitis, to improve lives and drive change.

# THE RESEARCH TRUSTEE ROLE

Crohn's & Colitis UK is constituted as a charitable company limited by guarantee, so the Trustees have the same responsibilities and liabilities as a Board of Directors of any Limited Company.

The Board seeks to appoint a Trustee with senior research expertise to strengthen strategic oversight of research quality, evaluation, impact and governance, in alignment with our new research strategy. This requires stronger board-level insight into:

- How research quality is assessed
- How impact is defined, evidenced and communicated.
- How patient and public involvement is embedded meaningfully
- How we align with expectations of major UK funders

## ROLE SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

We are seeking an individual who:

- Operates at a senior level in research administration, governance or strategy, or
- Is affiliated with a major research funding body or a UK-based research institution
- Can bring national credibility and a strategic perspective on research funding and evaluation
- Has experience of chairing complex, multi-stakeholder committees

**In order to manage potential conflicts of interest, applicants should NOT have had direct involvement in IBD research for at least the last five years.**

We are also looking to improve the diversity on our Board, including in terms of ethnicity, and socio-economic background and would particularly encourage applicants who have connections to underserved communities. We would also welcome applicants from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, or the north of England.

Most Trustees on our Board already have first-hand lived experience of Crohn's and Colitis so new applicants for the role will not be required to have this experience.



## **TRUSTEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

- Ensuring that the charity complies with its constitution, charity law and any other relevant legislation or regulations, works to fulfil its charitable objects and applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects.
- Contributing actively to the Board of Trustees' role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals and evaluating performance.
- Safeguarding the good name and values of the charity.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient management and administration of the charity.
- Ensuring the financial stability of the charity.
- Ensuring the proper investment of the charity's funds.
- Employing and being responsible for the organisation's staff.
- Using any specific knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions.
- Promoting the charity among their own contacts.

# **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

## **PERSONAL QUALITIES**

- An empathetic interest in the work of the charity, its strategic objectives and the cause.
- Strong networking capabilities that can be utilised for the benefit of the charity, and the ability to attend relevant events when helpful or necessary.
- Good interpersonal and relationship building abilities, working collaboratively both internally with colleagues and ensuring contribution from colleagues in discussions, as well as externally with a range of stakeholders.
- Diplomatic, with the ability to negotiate, influence and convince through personal credibility.
- Values diversity and difference and operates with integrity and openness.

## **EXPERIENCE**

- Experience of operating at a senior strategic leadership level.
- Experience of external representation, building new connections and managing a range of senior stakeholders across different sectors, including service users.
- Successful track record of leading the formulation and delivery of an organisational strategy.

## **KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS**

- The ability to provide leadership to and motivate staff and volunteers, bringing people together.
- Good understanding of governance issues.

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## **TERMS OF OFFICE**

Three years. Renewable twice, for up to a maximum of nine years, subject to the Chair's recommendation.

## **TIME COMMITMENT**

We estimate that the time commitment for this role will be approximately 1 day per month, although some flexibility is required.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

All candidates will be asked to disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, and these will be discussed with the candidate to establish whether and what action is needed to avoid a conflict or the perception of a conflict.

## **TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

An offer of appointment will be made once all candidates have been interviewed, and will be subject to satisfactory completion of eligibility checks, including reference checks. If you are offered an appointment you will receive a detailed summary of your main terms and conditions.

## **LOCATION**

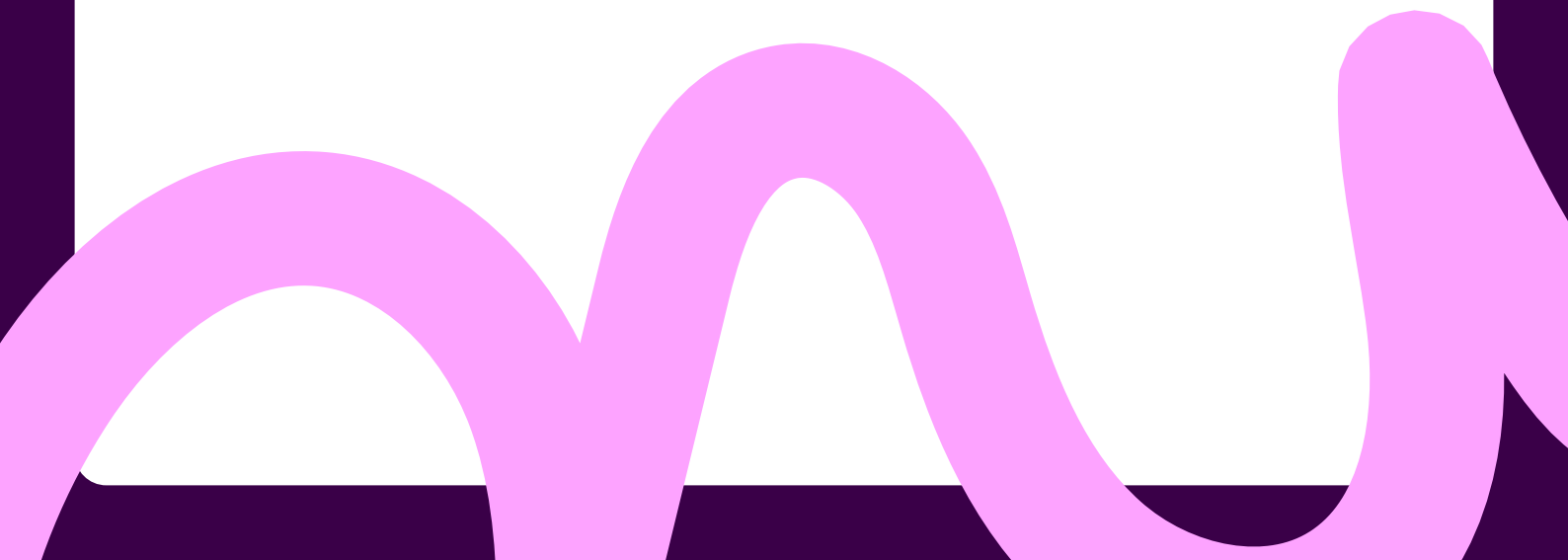
Meetings will generally be held virtually with face to face meetings around twice a year.

## **REMUNERATION**

This is an unremunerated Trustee role.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We ask all of our Trustees to be members of the Charity, if they are not so already.



# HOW TO APPLY

To apply, we welcome a CV and a 2 page (maximum) covering letter addressing your motivation for applying and your experience that is relevant to the role.

Please send this to [Edith.Agyemang@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk](mailto:Edith.Agyemang@crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)

Accessibility is incredibly important to us at Crohn's & Colitis UK. If you would like any accessibility amendments or support throughout the application and interview stage, please don't hesitate to let us know. No question or request is too big or too small. We want this process to be comfortable and enjoyable and a chance for you to bring your best self to the process

## SCHEDULE

**Closing date for applications:** 12 noon on Friday 15 May

There will be an opportunity to meet with our Chair, Jackie Craissati and Head of Research, Natalie Carter.

**Interview with panel:** Week commencing Monday 1 June

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

IT'S  
TIME FOR  
CHANGE



WE ARE  
LEADING  
THE WAY