THE UK CENTRE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (UKCMRI).

Progress report for the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, January 2010.

1. Introduction
This is the fourth in a series of six-monthly progress reports on UKCMRI to the Committee. Certain of the negotiations are commercially sensitive and/or may directly involve staff of the organisations, and the information provided to the Committee naturally has to take this into account.

2. Governance Arrangements
Heads of Terms defining the founding principles for the UKCMRI Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been agreed and is following each partner’s approval process before being formally signed. A draft Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) has been prepared, which when finalised will formally recognise the SPV as the corporate entity charged with the delivery of the programme.

Significant changes to the governance structure of the project have been agreed and will be formally implemented as soon as the JVA is finalised. These include the replacement of the Steering Group by a Board of Trustees/Directors, and the replacement of the Programme Delivery Committee by an Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees/Directors to be chaired by Sir David Cooksey will comprise the CEOs of CRUK and the Wellcome Trust, the Chief Operating Officer of MRC, the Provost of University College London and the chair of a new, independent Scientific Advisory Board, Sir Paul Nurse. The MRC will be represented by the COO to avoid potential conflict of interest between the CEO’s role as MRC accounting officer responsible for public funds and the formal responsibilities of a charity trustee. The Executive Committee has an acting CEO John Cooper and directors for Finance, Human Resources, Construction, a Legal Counsel and two Scientific Directors.

3. The Building
RIBA Work Stage C Design was signed off in August 2009 as planned. However, following reviews with the local planning authority, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment (CABE) a re-design was initiated to address concerns regarding building mass and lack of permeability. This has resulted in a delay of 4-6 months compared to the original schedule, which is being maintained. Significant changes have been made to the design, and MRC representatives are working closely with the UKCMRI SPV Executive Team to ensure there is a minimal impact on the scientific content of the building.

4. Planning and Public Relations
Dialogue with Camden Council, GLA and CABE continues to obtain direction on the design from a Planning Authority perspective. Given the delay in design development reported above, it is expected that a planning application will be submitted in April or May 2010.

A full community consultation on the revised design has been conducted, building on ongoing dialogue with local politicians and community groups, as well as key stakeholders and third parties. This included an exhibition designed to inform the local community and provide the opportunity for feedback. Further stakeholder engagement and public relations activities are planned throughout 2010.
Ongoing discussions and engagement with National Institute for Medical Research staff at Mill Hill through, for example, all-staff Q&A meetings at the Mill Hill site, continue, with senior management being represented at each event.

5. The Business Case and Major Projects Review Group (MPRG)
The Final Outline Business Case has been approved by the Government. It has been agreed to submit an Interim Business Case in March 2010 to gain approval in advance of appointing a Main Contractor to conduct construction works package tendering and commence work on site. A Full Business Case is to be submitted in late 2011/early 2012 when the construction works are fully tendered and the Project is ready to make a commitment to the full investment amount for the building.

MPRG Reviews are planned to align with the business case submissions with the first also taking the arrangements for the formation of the Joint Venture into consideration. Gateway Reviews are scheduled at appropriate key milestones.

6. Programme Planning
An outline plan for the formation of the new institute and a cost model based on operating assumptions has been prepared. The assumptions are to be tested during early 2010 and the plans and costs will be adjusted accordingly. This work is being led by the UKCMRI Finance Director with input from the existing working institutes.

Sir Leszek Borysiewicz
19 January 2010