



EXPERT APPOINTMENT TO THE NUFFIELD COUNCIL ON BIOETHICS HORIZON SCANNING ADVISORY GROUP

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCOB) is a leading independent policy and research centre, and the foremost bioethics body in the UK. We identify, analyse, and advise on ethical issues in biomedicine and health so that decisions in these areas benefit people and society.

Developments in biomedicine and health are essential to solving the world's problems, but they can also raise profound ethical challenges. For over thirty years we have tackled some of the most complex and controversial bioethical issues facing societies across the globe. We aim to bring clarity to complexity and find practical ways through leading to shifts in public understanding and lasting policy change in the UK and internationally.

We are the only UK organisation with a broad bioethics [Horizon Scanning \(HS\) and Foresight Programme](#) which we use to identify emerging ethical implications of future developments in biomedicine and health.

Since the launch of our [2024-2028 Making Ethics Matter strategy](#), we have been on a journey to evolve our HS and foresight programme. We believe this will enable us to better anticipate developments so we can ensure we are focused on the topics where ethical insight is most needed.

Last year, we published our first [time-framed horizon scan](#) and embarked on an ambitious project to bring ethics into for policymakers.

Our HS and Foresight team of three - Associate Director of External Relations and Foresight, HS and Foresight Manager and HS Coordinator - work closely with our [Horizon Scanning Advisory Group](#) (HSAG), which has up until now, been composed entirely of NCOB Council Members.

Given our strategic ambition and changes to our Governance structure, an exciting opportunity has arisen for us to appoint two external experts to our HSAG.

The HSAG provides governance and guidance to our HS and foresight programme, helping to ensure it is of strategic benefit to the NCOB and assists in meeting our goal to better anticipate emerging trends in biomedicine and health.

The HSAG meet on average once a quarter. However, this can increase when there is ad-hoc work and opportunities to discuss. Online attendance is always an option.

The group is comprised of at least four members of the NCOB (currently co-chaired by Ruchi Baxi, Consultant in Public Health Medicine and Consultant Advisor for the NIHR Coordinating Centre, based at the University of Southampton, and Stephen Wilkinson, Distinguished Professor of Bioethics at Lancaster University) and up to two external experts.

Each group member serves a three-year term. This can be renewed at the discretion of the chairs / co-chairs.

Taking into account the NCOB's overall strategic goals, the HSAG work to:

- Advise the HS and foresight team on their overarching programme of work, providing challenge and governance to ensure team resource and capacity is directed towards work that is of most strategic benefit to the NCOB.



- Advise the HS and foresight team on the activities and assistance that would best support the NCOB's priority areas of work.
- Take an active role in assisting the HS and foresight team to identify developments relevant to biomedicine and health research, and more widely, contemporary issues and developments relevant to the remit of the Council.
- Advise the HS and foresight team on the consideration of partnership and / or commissioned work.
- Advise the HS and foresight team on the presentation and publication of HS outputs, ensuring it is of the quality and robustness expected for NCOB's work.
- Be a spokesperson for the HS and foresight team as appropriate (e.g. blogs, speaking engagements and thought leadership articles).
- Regularly update and make recommendations to Council members for information, discussion and approval on HS and foresight projects and outputs.

The experts we seek need to have Futures experience (e.g. having worked in HS, foresight or strategic intelligence and / or Futures thinking). We are specifically interested in people with experience generating quant-based HS insights, and who have experience utilising HS signals and insights, as well as broader foresight and futures methods, to produce actionable programmes of work. For more information, please see the person specification below.

Applicants do not have to be directly involved in the field of bioethics, but they should be able to demonstrate an interest and appreciation of the ethical issues. Key qualities include a willingness to contribute to debate in an open and constructive manner.

We welcome applications from academics and people with relevant professional expertise, and from people at any stage in their career. We value diversity which is a key part of our multi-disciplinary approach and our commitment to hear from all relevant voices in our work. We are keen to encourage applications from all sections of the community including minority ethnic candidates, those who are LGBTQ+, or who have a disability.

We offer an honorarium of £160 per meeting where someone's time is not covered by their current employment.

We are open to applications from people living / working outside of the UK. However, there is a practical question about travel as HSAG members may on occasion be asked to attend some meetings in person and the NCOB is unlikely able to justify long-haul travel from a financial and environmental perspective.

Applications should be in the form of a short curriculum vitae and statement of interest which outlines your interest in the NCOB and what you can contribute to the HSAG.

Please email your application to futures@nuffieldbioethics.org

The closing date for submissions is 5pm Tuesday 24 June.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Experience / skill	Essential	Desirable
Demonstratable Futures experience (e.g. having worked in HS, foresight or strategic intelligence and / or Futures thinking)	X	
Experience generating quant-based HS insights.		X
Experience utilising HS signals and insights, as well as broader foresight and futures methods, to produce actionable programmes of work.	X	
An academic qualification and / or experience working and / or demonstratable interest in on topics related to biomedicine, health, life sciences or innovation	X	
Experience of sitting on a committee / being part of an advisory group.		X
Experience in engaging with / influencing policymakers with HS and foresight insights.		X
Clear interest in and awareness of the NCOB's work, specifically its HS and foresight programme	X	
Excellent communication skills and a willingness to contribute to debate in an open and constructive manner.	X	