

GSK and Meningitis Research Foundation Synergy Statement

The purpose of this statement is to ensure the relationship between Meningitis Research Foundation and GSK is transparent and aligned to the overarching goal of defeating meningitis and septicaemia.

It is intended to be used by both organisations to explain the work each conducts in areas they have recognised as having strategic synergy. The goal is to ensure that where we work together, the roles and independence of each organisation is clear, whilst at the same time enabling collaborative working practices in compliance with all legal and regulatory responsibilities.

Independence

MRF is an independent charity with no binding relationship to GSK or any other company. It has a long-standing policy of not accepting more than 10% of its income from pharmaceutical companies in order to maintain its clear independence. The remaining 90% is comprised of voluntary income from the general public, trusts and foundations, and from other corporate sources.

GSK is a global healthcare company with headquarters in the UK. It is the largest private investor in research and development in the UK and has a vision to help people 'do more, feel better, live longer'. Amongst its wide range of activities, GSK researches, develops and manufactures meningitis vaccines.

Both organisations have developed their organisational strategies independently and have reviewed the synergies and goals set out below and confirm they would pursue these objectives regardless of any past or future relationship between MRF and GSK. Nothing in this document implies this is an exclusive recognition of synergies and both parties are freely encouraged to seek out and enter into similar statements with other organisations in pursuit of their strategy.

Key synergies

Having reviewed their independently developed strategies, both organisations have identified the following synergies they wish to use to inform their future work together. Both want to see:

1. More people protected through effective vaccines meaning that fewer people will get meningitis and septicaemia in future.
2. Where people do get meningitis and septicaemia, to see more people survive and with reduced disability through better diagnosis and treatment.
3. Families and people affected get the information they need to be aware of the signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia and to receive the support they need to live fulfilling lives.

Common goals

Identifying these high level synergies means each organisation pursues the following goals:

1. Effective meningitis vaccines reach and protect the most people possible.
2. People are aware of signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia so they seek out and receive effective diagnosis and treatment quickly.
3. People and patients receive the support and information they need.
4. There is a policy environment conducive to these objectives.

Benefits of this statement and a longer term planning horizon

This statement has been developed to enable MRF and GSK to work together in a more transparent and forward looking way. It is intended to provide a framework within which to talk strategically about goals and outcomes of work, to inform future discussions about funding and ensure that any funding is used to the best effect.