Guidelines for Pathway to Actionable Knowledge Statement

**ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE** is the continuum from knowledge creation to knowledge translation and implementation into policy and practice, and ultimately creating a wider impact. It requires acquiring and developing an appropriate set of skills and competencies to not only advance knowledge discovery, but also

- to network, collaborate and influence changes;
- to teach and mentor other health researchers;
- to test and translate knowledge;
- to implement new knowledge into policy and practice so as to create a wider impact;
- to support and/or lead research in academic and/or health service organizations;
- to apply critical and evidence-focused approaches to use knowledge in a range of different settings and health-related roles.

**HOW?** The Pathway to Actionable Knowledge statement should outline what activities, skills, engagement with key stakeholders (e.g. innovators), timelines and resources will make the plan feasible and the anticipated timescale for any proposed benefits to be realized.\(^1\) Outline how the anticipated outcomes and outputs of the proposed research will improve healthcare systems and influence decision-making, policy and practice. For example by:

- Improving patient outcomes by providing the basis for new/improved healthcare innovations (e.g. the development of adoption of a new drug, treatment or therapy, diagnostic or medical technology).
- Improving public health through influencing policy and practice, increasing public awareness of a health risk or benefit; reducing treatment costs, disease prevention etc.
- Informing decisions by a health service or regulatory authority.
- Where relevant, increasing enterprise activity by creation of a spin-out or new business; investment by industry through collaboration; creating employment etc.

---

\(^1\) **INNOVATORS** as described in HRB Health Research Careers framework: individuals who have the skills, competencies and specific authority to bring together ideas—new, old or a combination of both—and translate these ideas into practical applications and/or solutions. They may be health researchers, health professionals, health policy managers, decision-makers or other knowledge users, but they must have the authority, a track record of key collaborations and expertise to influence changes and translate and/or implement knowledge into policy and practice or towards a product.
MAKE IT SPECIFIC

The Pathway to Actionable Knowledge should be REALISTIC and ACHEIVABLE:

- Give a TIMEFRAME over which the benefits from your research might be realised.
- Outline plans you will put in place to increase the chances of impacts from the proposed research (commercialisation, approach to dissemination etc.)
- Indicate how the incorporation of collaborators, where they have been identified and included in the proposal, will serve to enhance the pathway to actionable knowledge.

HOST INSTITUTION CONTEXT

Where possible, you should also link your research to

- TCD strategic plan
- Your School’s strategic plan (ask Director of Research)
- TCD’s strategic Research Themes and Areas
- Liaise with TCD Office of Corporate Partnership and Knowledge Exchange to help realize any commercial potential where relevant.

RESOURCES

- Vitae, ‘What is Knowledge Exchange?’
- Campus Engage, A Framework for Engaged Research and Planning for Impact