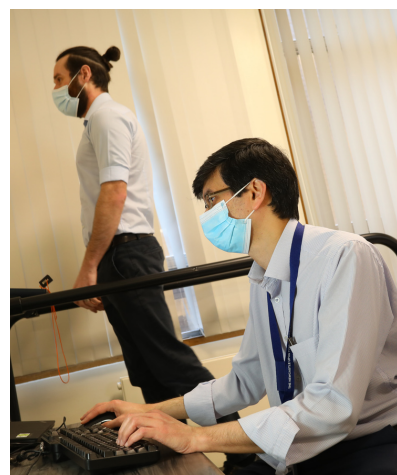


RESEARCH MATTERS

The latest clinical research news from the Trust and our partners.



Welcome

to our quarterly newsletter

Welcome to our second edition of Research Matters, a quarterly trust-wide newsletter that celebrates our high calibre research achievements.

There's been no shortage of research achievements since the first edition of Research Matters. We share some of these achievements below, but highlights include dosing the first patient in Europe as part of a clinical trial to find treatments for a rare genetic condition.

Closer to home, Newcastle Eye Centre was the top recruiter in the UK for COMINO, a trial which is testing the efficacy of a new drug for the management of a condition known as retinal vein occlusion, which can affect vision.

These achievements - and many more - highlight how clinical research makes a difference to the patients living with often life-limiting conditions. A huge thanks to everyone who makes this possible and for their ongoing dedication and support.

In this edition's feature section, we share our recent success following efforts across the clinical research directorate to make research activities greener, an overarching goal of our clinical research strategy. Read on to find out more!

We hope you enjoy these regular updates on research news and achievements. If there's anything you would like to showcase or you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to get in touch by emailing nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net

With best wishes,

Dr Tobias Menne - Clinical Director

Hannah Powell - Directorate Manager

Professor John Isaacs - Associate Medical Director for Research

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Feature

Launching our commitment to sustainability

The Trust's declaration of a climate emergency back in 2019 served as an important catalyst for us to look at opportunities to become greener in our research activities.

Our first and most obvious approach was to seek to reduce travel and with support from IT and others. We have successfully piloted using SwivelPin technology as a way to conduct remote study monitoring visits.

We have also recorded virtual site tours and introduced equipment to enable on-demand virtual site visits and reduce paper use.

With all consideration to regulatory requirements, we are also scoping the use of electronic site files and other digital solutions to study processes such as consent. Indeed, we have been commended nationally for our virtual trials capabilities, with our NIHR-funded Patient Recruitment Centre delivering the first fully virtual interventional clinical trial in the UK.

By eliminating all travel for this trial, we were able to offer research participation (and access to trial treatment) to individuals across the breadth of the UK. This work resulted in the team being a finalist in the Health Service Journal Value Awards and a winner of the Academic Health Sciences Network NENC Bright Ideas in Health Awards.

Emphasising our commitment to sustainability, both our Directorate Manager and Regulatory Compliance Manager hold the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management alongside IEMA Associate Membership. In addition, one of our Data Managers who committed to the same educational programme, has been pivotal in the establishment of a local, monthly sustainability group - which first commenced in 2020.

Over the course of the past year, members of the group have worked with a range of stakeholders, including industry partners and the trust's sustainability team, to achieve a position statement and supporting infographic for sustainability in research.

From the above, it will come as no surprise that sustainability is also an overarching goal of our five-year clinical research strategy. As a proud component of Newcastle Hospitals, and with clinical research increasingly becoming recognised as an integral part of normal, everyday care, we want to send a strong message about the need to embrace every opportunity to minimise the environmental impact of our activities.

Widespread recognition and adoption of our practices will not only make an important contribution to the sustainability of our planet but, ultimately, will also reduce the cost of new medicines by removing costly elements of clinical research participation.

With thanks to everyone who has been involved with and supported this work to date.



Success in a snapshot

705

open studies (as of January 2022)



The Patient Recruitment Centre won the Better Ideas in Health Award (research impact) for the IBS RELIEVE virtual trial, which aimed to find treatments for IBS



Recruited to time and target for three different clinical trials.



Top UK recruiter for the COMINO study (led by Newcastle Eye Centre)

5782

patients recruited to Covid studies (since March 2020).



247

studies approved (year to date)

Dosed the first patient in Europe as part of a trial into late onset Pompe disease.



We've recruited the first UK patient into three different studies.



94%



would take part in research again (Participant Experience in Research Survey as of end Feb 2022)

8833

patients recruited to studies (April 21 - Jan 22)

Shine
Sustainable Healthcare in Newcastle



Received funding for *Project Green at Regent Point*, which aims to address the 'greenhouse effect', reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality and in office space.

News

From across the Trust and our partners

NIHR Newcastle CRF receives over £5.47m as part of funding announcement

The NIHR Newcastle CRF, a partnership between Newcastle Hospitals and Newcastle University, has received over £5.47m as part of a national funding announcement.

The funding will support research into new treatments and early phase clinical trials.

Read more [here](#)



Prof Fai Ng, Newcastle CRF director

Antiseptic drug is as good as antibiotics for preventing recurrent urinary tract infections

Research led by Professor Chris Harding has found that an antiseptic drug is as good as antibiotics for preventing recurrent urinary tract infections in women. The trial, published by the [British Medical Journal](#), could help find alternatives to antibiotics.

Read more [here](#)

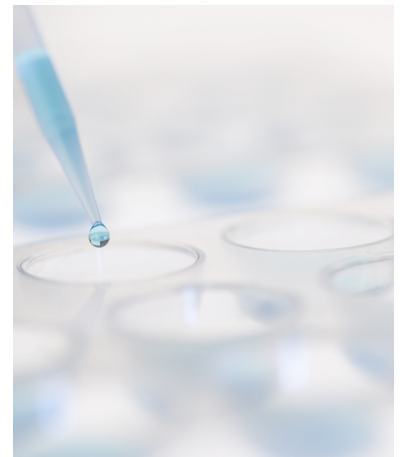


Prof. Chris Harding

First patient in Europe dosed as part of rare disease clinical trial

Newcastle researchers have dosed the first patient in Europe as part of a clinical trial to find treatments for a rare genetic disease. The trial aims to find new treatments for late onset Pompe disease, which affects the body's ability to break down glycogen, a form of sugar in the muscle cells.

Read more [here](#)



News

Continued

New study to trial robotic-assisted knee replacements

We're part of a major national study which will compare traditional methods of knee replacement versus a surgeon using a robotic arm to carry out the procedure. RACER-knee aims to determine which of the two techniques results in better patient outcomes.

Read more [here](#)



New study aims to find treatment for people with chronic lung conditions

The NIHR Patient Recruitment Centre: Newcastle is running a new study to test treatments for COPD and bronchiectasis. Professor Tony De Soyza, Honorary Consultant Respiratory Physician at the trust and Professor of Pulmonary Medicine at Newcastle University, is chief investigator for the study.

Read more [here](#)



Prof. Tony De Soyza

Cancer patients matched to clinical trials by finding faulty genes

Newcastle Hospitals and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester are working in partnership on a national research study which uses a simple blood test to match cancer patients with the right clinical trial for them.

Read more [here](#)



Awards, accolades & publications

Dr Annette Richardson

Dr Richardson was a co-investigator and author for the SEISMIC study, which looked at how Covid-19 affected staffing models in intensive care.

Read the full paper [here](#)

Dr Chris Duncan and team

The team's work has been referenced in [WHO guidance](#), which is informing ways to deploy different vaccines to tackle Covid-19. This was a collective effort from the Covid-19 research team and Dr Duncan thanks everyone involved for their hard work and enthusiasm. A special thanks goes to clinical trials co-ordinator for the trial, Laura Gebbie, John Davis, team lead, and lead research nurse, Gillian Curry.

Thanks also goes to the participants who were involved in the study.

If you'd like to share your achievements for consideration for the next edition, please email nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net.

We'd love to hear from you!

Training and events

Keep up-to-date with the latest training and events, delivered by both the Trust and our partners, by visiting our Clinical Research Directorate page on the [Newcastle Hospitals' intranet](#).



Contact us

Do you have something you'd like to be considered for the next edition of this newsletter? Please share your suggestions with **nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net**

If you'd like to provide any feedback on how we can improve future editions, please get in touch using the above email.



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Healthcare at its best
with people at our heart