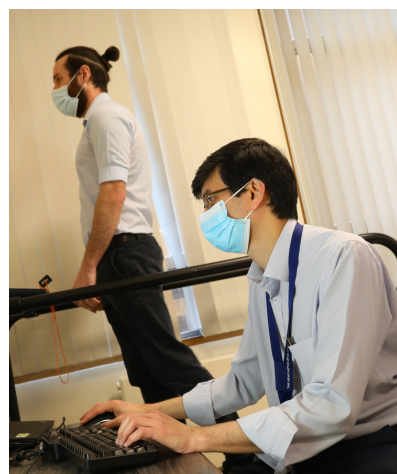


# RESEARCH MATTERS

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



# Welcome

## to our quarterly newsletter

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

Clinical research gives us many reasons to be proud, particularly when we see how it makes a real difference to patients' lives.

A recent study led by the National Institute for Health and Care Research Patient Recruitment Centre: Newcastle (NIHR PRC), run by Newcastle Hospitals, has given hope to patients suffering from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) with diarrhoea.

The study, called RELIEVE IBS-D, showed that significantly more people who received a gel (Enterosgel®) experienced less abdominal pain and diarrhoea compared to participants who received the placebo version. Find out how the team took a truly patient-centred approach to share initial findings of the study with participants in the *Feature* section.

We're delighted to announce that we've appointed three senior clinical research leads who will support the delivery of high-quality research across the trust.

Dr Ashely Price, Dr Iain McCullagh and Professor Ruth Plummer will work with clinical colleagues at the RVI, Freeman, and Northern Centre for Cancer Care respectively, helping to promote research amongst colleagues, provide advice and support to clinicians who want to become involved in research, and identify opportunities for new studies.

These roles are a key part of embedding a research-positive culture at Newcastle Hospitals and supporting colleagues to become involved in research as outlined in our [clinical research strategy](#).

In other news, using a harmless green dye to help surgeons remove sarcomas, improving quality of life for lung transplant patients, and developing our future researchers all feature in this edition of Research Matters. 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](mailto:nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net)

With best wishes,

Dr Tobias Menne - Clinical Director

Hannah Powell - Directorate Manager

Professor John Isaacs - Associate Medical Director for Research

## Content

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# Feature

## Improving research experience for patients

We made a strong commitment to improving patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) in our clinical research strategy which patients and the public helped to shape.

One way we can deliver on this commitment is to ensure research participants have the opportunity to share their experiences through the Participant in Research Experience Survey (PRES). This short, anonymous questionnaire developed by the National Institute of Health and Care Research helps us to identify what we're doing well and where we can drive improvements.


A great example of using PRES to improve patient experience comes from the NIHR PRC: Newcastle. The team responded to national PRES trends that indicated patients aren't always aware of how they will receive trial results or have the latest updates about the research. To overcome this, the team worked with study sponsor, Enteromed Ltd, to share provisional results of the RELIEVE IBS-D trial within one year of the study closing, and offered participants the opportunity to join a Q&A session with team. You can find out more [here](#).

In another example, one of our research matrons used real-time PRES feedback to make the check-in process for Covid-19 vaccine trial participants smoother. Read more about this [here](#).

Our aim is for PRES to become 'business as usual' for teams delivering research across the trust. There is lots of work underway to help us achieve this, including a recently-formed working group to share best practice and help overcome potential challenges. In the near future, we hope to appoint a dedicated lead to focus on patient and public involvement and engagement.

For more information about PRES, please email [nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net](mailto:nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net)

## PRES at Newcastle Hospitals

 **96%** of our research participants felt valued by their research team (20/21).

**98%** felt they had been treated with courtesy and respect (20/21)



Benefits of participant feedback include improving research delivery for current and future participants, reduced 'drop out' rates, and an increased chance of taking part in research again.



“  
*Everything was explained to me before I agreed to take part. Everyone I have spoken to has been really positive, kind, caring and genuinely interested in what is happening.*

PRES responses from research participants

**98%** of participants felt the information received before taking part in the study prepared them for their experience.

“  
*Such a positive experience, extremely helpful people and gained extra knowledge re my stomach. Thank you.*

**332**  
PRES responses in 20/21



# Success in a snapshot

**11,833**

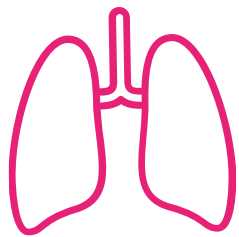
patients recruited to studies  
(April 21-March 22).

**Over £5m**

to continue early phase trials at the NIHR: Newcastle  
Clinical Research Facility.

**£1.4m**

to trial a new way to remove sarcomas to improve  
patients' quality of life after surgery.



Testing new treatments for lung  
transplant patients.



First in Europe to recruit a patient to a stroke trial



**1000**



e-consent volunteers  
registered with the NIHR  
Bioresource Centre.



**£1.9m**

to improve antibiotic use in patients with sepsis.



Highest recruiter to oral and dental studies  
in the country in 2021/22.



Highest recruiter in the UK to a study to  
inform treatment for breast cancer.

**3**



First site to recruit a  
patient to three different  
UK studies.



**NEWCASTLE  
HEALTH  
INNOVATION  
PARTNERS**  
DISCOVER. DESIGN. DELIVER

Five fellowships created as part of  
Newcastle Health Innovation  
Partners.



Collaborating with Newcastle University to increase organ availability  
through a new blood and transplant research unit.



# News

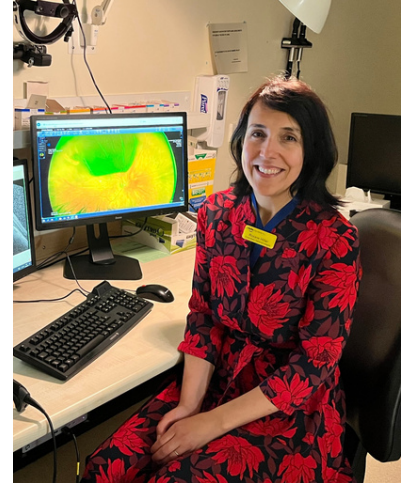
From across the trust and our partners

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## A clearer vision for treating a serious eye condition

Research led by Miss Roxane Hillier from Newcastle Hospitals could help surgeons to decide the most effective way to treat patients with a serious eye condition.

Read more [here](#).



Miss Roxane Hillier

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## Virtual trial discovers all-in-one treatment for patients with IBS-diarrhoea

The results of the RELIEVE IBS-D trial have been published in the leading international journal *GUT* and show that the intestinal absorbent Enterosgel® is a safe and effective treatment for the main symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhoea.

Read more [here](#).



Prof. Yan Yiannakou

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## £1.4m funding could help surgeons remove tumours more precisely

Clinicians and researchers at the North of England Bone and Soft Tissue Tumour Service, part of Newcastle Hospitals, will be trialling a new method which uses a harmless green dye to illuminate sarcomas under a special infrared camera.

Read more [here](#).



Mr Kenny Rankin

# News

## Continued

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### **New study aims to discover life-changing treatment for lung transplant patients**

Professor Andy Fisher is leading a trial on behalf of the UK's five transplant centres that could offer new hope to lung transplant patients.

Read more [here](#).



Prof. Andy Fisher

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### **New fellowships bring together world-class research and clinical practice**

The fellowships have been awarded to five researchers who, with support from Newcastle Hospitals and Newcastle University, will use their research expertise to improve understanding of medical conditions and potential treatments.



Read more [here](#).

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### **£1.9m grant could help to improve antibiotic use in sepsis patients**

Dr Tom Hellyer is leading a study which aims to improve how antibiotics are used in critically ill patients and has the potential to fundamentally change the management of patients with sepsis.

Read more [here](#).



Dr Tom Hellyer

# News

## Continued

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### Funding the next generation of researchers

Funding from the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre will support four interns to run a six-month research project focussed on ageing-related conditions and disease.

Read more [here](#).



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### New research unit to help organ donation and transplantation patients

The new research unit is one of 20 in the country which has been funded by NHS Blood and Transplant. Collaboration between Newcastle University and Newcastle Hospitals will be a key part of delivering the unit's aims to increase the number of organs available, improve long-term outcomes and enhance quality of life after transplant.

Read more [here](#).



# Awards, accolades & publications

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## **Professor Ruth Plummer recognised in Queen's Jubilee honours**

Honorary consultant medical oncologist Professor Ruth Plummer received an MBE as part of the Queen's Jubilee honours for services to medicine and her tireless work in helping to establish and lead the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trial Research Centre.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Bacteria detection team wins Royal Society of Chemistry's (RSC) prestigious Horizon prize**

The team of scientists from the universities of Northumbria and Sunderland, Newcastle Hospitals and global biotech firm bioMérieux, received the RSC's Analytical Division Horizon Prize 2022.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Trust's research finance team wins large team of the year at the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) northern branch awards.**

The research finance team won *large finance team of the year* at the HFMA northern branch awards, which celebrate excellence in NHS finance in the north.

The team has played a key part in supporting Covid studies at Newcastle Hospitals during the pandemic, initiated several service improvements, and managed changes to the team seamlessly.

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**If you'd like to share your achievements for consideration for the next edition, please email [nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net](mailto:nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net).**

**We'd love to hear from you!**



# Contact us

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If you're a member of staff or partner organisation and have something you'd like to be considered for the next edition of this newsletter, please get in touch by emailing us **[nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net](mailto: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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**[nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net](mailto:nuth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net)**



Healthcare at its best  
with people at our heart