

Research Performance Report 2020/21

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Trust recruitment into COVID-19 & non-COVID-19 trials

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Global impact of local involvement in COVID-19 trials

Non COVID-

More people than ever before

The Trust recruited 2222 study participants into NIHR portfolio research projects which more than any other year previously. 33 studies recruited study participants, which is considerably lower than previous years, and demonstrates what may be achieved when the research effort is focused on a small number of high recruiting studies.

Unsurprisingly, the majority (86%) of participants took part in Urgent Public health (UPH) COVID-19 studies. At the beginning of the pandemic, the research dept was quickly re-organised to deliver 8 nation 0 G [(t)-4(i)5(on 0 G [(t)- re W* n BT /F1 1

Benchmarking – Small Acute Trusts

Small Acute Trusts ranked according to recruitment during 2020/21

Global Impact of local involvement in COVID -19 Research

How are we doing?

More than 100 participants took part in 9 C19 research studies in the Trust in 2020/21. Results from this research are saving lives globally.

Vaccine development

Novavax & Janessen vaccines developed in collaboration with the Wessex Vaccine Hub and are undergoing UK regulatory approval. Janessen vaccine used in the USA.

UK Public Health response to C19

The results from C19 research provided critical data to inform the UK's public health response to COVID-19, and is used for early indications of trends, featuring regularly in Downing Street briefings

Pfizer vaccine is effective

The vaccine provides high levels of protection against infection and symptomatic disease from the first dose

Dexamethasone

Non-COVID-19 Research Results

Antibiotics and cystic fibrosis

Intravenous antibiotics should not be used to treat *P. aeruginosa* in patients with cystic fibrosis

Treatment for psoriasis

Secukinumab is more effective than Ustekinumab when treating psoriasis

Treatment for GI Bleed

Tranexamic acid should not be used in GI bleeding patients.

Genome sequencing for rare diseases

Shown to improve diagnosis and treatment for patients with rare diseases.

NIHR Portfolio Restart (non COVID -19 studies).

NIHR Priorities for restart:

Level 1: COVID-19 Urgent Public Health vaccine, prophylactic studies and platform therapeutics trials

Level 2: Other COVID-19 Urgent Public Health studies

Level 3: Studies where the research protocol includes an urgent treatment or intervention without which patients could come to harm

Level 4: All other studies

NIHR High level objectives for 2021/22

Research Grants Secured

Grants secured & recruitment starting in 2021/22:

ELABS

Early Laser for Burn Scars

3 research projects secured £705,320 external grant funding and are in the process of being set up. The 3 grants are predicted to recruit 60 participants between them in 2021/22.

A fourth grant is currently under consideration by the NIHR EME funding scheme.

Research Capacity Funding (RCF) is awarded to research active NHS Organisations that recruit >500 participants (£20k) OR received NIHR income in the previous calendar year (0.28 of income), whichever is greater. The Trust received £20k RCF funding for both 2020/21 and 2021/22. The grant income secured should provide a RCF income of £50k for 2022/23 and £64k for 2023/24. This is estimated to rise to £117k in 2024/25 if STEPS II grant application is successful. This funding will be used to increase the research capacity in the Trust.



No going back

This year has delivered unprecedented challenges for us all. The NHS has led the world in COVID-19 research, with all NHS organisations contributing to the global effort. This has completely changed the way the research dept. works. Small teams supporting specific clinical teams has been replaced by the whole dept. working as 1 large team to support, at the peak of the pandemic, just 2 innovative platform trials that provided our sickest patients with the latest C19 treatments. Such an approach strengthened team working, communication, handovers, and demonstrated that it is possible to recruit 100 patients into a complex interventional study in a month with a reduced funding and workforce. We will work hard, as a team, to continue with what has worked well during the pandemic, and to build and strengthen these new ways of working.

We will also work to incorporate the NHS Health Research Authority Research Strategy 'the Future of UK Clinical Research Delivery' into the Trust wide and research specific strategies. 'The public and staff have never been so aware of clinical research, and now is the time to embed the LGHD WKDW UHVHDF and rewarding part of effective patient care'. Research in the Trust can be seen as an optional extra, reserved predominantly for staff in the research dept. The research dept has grown the Trust research portfolio considerably over the last few years, but is now at capacity. If the Trust research portfolio is to grow further, then clinical teams need to engage with research differently. Some clinical teams already embed research into routine day to day clinical practice, working in partnership with the research team, and this is a model that we will work to roll out across the research active clinical depts. in the Trust. Such an approach will be supported by the national plans to properly embed research into CQC inspections and revalidation.

We will continue to develop our non-clinical research delivery roles, and support healthcare professionals to develop research skills relevant to their clinical roles (e.g. associate PI scheme).

Dedicated space for research clinics is also a priority.

A Trust wide strategy will be developed to expand on these ideas further.

Appendix A - Research recruitment 2020/21

Urgent Public Health (COVID-19) studies

Appendix B – Research publications

COVID-19 trial publications:

study	summary	link
Clarity IBD	patients with inflammatory bowel disease treated with infliximab have attenuated serological responses to a single dose of a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. Delayed second dosing should be avoided in patients treated with infliximab	https://gut.bmj.com/content/early/2021/04/25/gutjnl-2021-324789
ISARIC	Our 4C Deterioration model thus demonstrates unprecedented clinical utility and generalisability to predict clinical deterioration among adults hospitalised with COVID-19.	https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.10.09.20209957v1

Non- COVID-19 trial publications

study	specialty	summary	link
TORPEDO	children	<p>Compared with oral therapy, intravenous antibiotics did not achieve sustained eradication of P aeruginosa in a greater proportion of patients with cystic fibrosis and was more expensive. These results do not support the use of intravenous antibiotics to eradicate P aeruginosa in cystic fibrosis.</p>	Lancet Respir Med 2020; 8: 975–86
BADBIR	Dermatology	<p>Randomized Trial Replication Using Observational Data for Comparative Effectiveness of Secukinumab and Ustekinumab in</p>	