

Research Strategy 2016 – 2019 – *We support commercial research*

Enhancing patient experience and outcome through research opportunity and innovation for all patients and all staff

Introduction

Developing a research-active culture can bring a host of benefits for patients, clinicians and the NHS, driving innovation, giving rise to better and more cost-effective treatments, and creating opportunities for staff development. Growing evidence supports this:

- Research-active Trusts appear to do better in overall performance
- Patients first seen at a hospital with a keen interest in clinical trials are more likely to receive chemotherapy, and chemotherapy is associated with improved survival
- Academic output correlates with better mortality rates; and
- Treatment of patients on clinical trials is associated with considerable cost savings.



National Context

The NHS Constitution commits to innovation and to the promotion and conduct of research to improve the current and future health and care of the population.

The Trust is part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) which has a vision "To improve the health and wealth of the nation through research".

NHS policy frameworks and guidelines place a duty on the Trust to protect and exploit innovation / intellectual property for the benefit of patients and the wider health care community.

Did you know during 2016/7?

1. The Trust recruited 350 participants to 53 commercially funded research studies.
2. Research participation increased by 30% to 2715 from the previous year.

Local Perspective

Our vision is *to be amongst the best*

The Trust has four hospital sites. Three of these, the Lister, new QEII and Hertford County provide a large acute secondary care service to a population of 600,000.

The Lister and the new QEII have recently undergone a centralisation and expansion of services.

In addition there is a sub-regional Renal Unit which provides Renal Services to 1.4 million people in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex.

The Trust also manages the internationally recognised Mount Vernon Cancer Centre which provides a tertiary service for a population of over 2,000,000.



The Trust has a long history of being research active with particular strengths in Cancer, Renal, Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes.

The research activity at the Trust is a mixture of studies which staff have gained through external funding via grants, studies that are commercially-funded and also participation of studies funded via national and local charities.

The Trust is a member of the National Institute for Health Research, fully supports the Health Research Authority and is committed to fully implementing the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research.

You can find further information on our [Trust website](#) which has a detailed section on [research](#).

Supporting commercial research as part of the national research strategy

Nationally it is important for the NHS to support commercially-funded research. This promotes the health and the wealth of the nation. The Trust has an effective and productive working relationship with the commercial team of the NIHR Clinical Research Network based in the Eastern region.

During 2016/7 the Trust recruited **350 participants to 53 commercially funded research** studies which represented 33% of all recruiting studies and 13% of research participants.

So that the UK can compete in a globally-competitive market it is important that NHS organisations can quickly:

- Set-up** i.e. complete research feasibility and the necessary governance checks and
- Deliver** i.e. enter an agreed number of patients within a specified time period.

These measures are measured nationally through a scheme called "Performance in Initiating and Delivering Clinical Research". Based on first nine months of 2016/7 the Trust was ranked 1st out of 20 for set-up. We have introduced a '**Key Studies**' initiative to improve our ability to deliver studies and we have seen early signs of this working though it will take time for this to be fully reflected in our national ranking.

Of particular note are the following examples of quickly entering patients into commercially-funded research:

- **First global site**, from 9 countries, to enter a patient into a study relating to a study looking into treatments for iron-deficient patients admitted for acute heart failure.
- **First global site**, from 5 countries, to confirm ability to start a cancer study to look at a new way of treating patients with skin cancer.
- **First national site**, of 10, to randomise a patient into a commercially funded cancer study which seeks to determine how patients with ovarian, fallopian tube, and primary peritoneal cancer will best respond to two types of treatment (rucaparib versus chemotherapy).
- **First national site** to randomise a commercial trial by the Cardiology Research team for a Phase III randomized controlled trial study to evaluate cardiovascular risk in a genetically defined population with a recent Acute Coronary Syndrome.



The Trust's Research Strategy 2016 - 2019

The Trust to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence for research and patient outcome		
Research is embedded into the planning and delivery of routine patient care for all patients	Enhancing patient experience and outcome by offering research opportunity and innovation for all patients and all staff	Patients and public to be engaged with, participate in, and benefit from research and innovation
Research is well governed, managed and supported so studies are delivered, as promised		Research is funded via external grant applications, from Industry and with the support of Charities

The Trust supports commercial research

- ✓ Long history of successful delivery of commercial research across wide range of clinical areas.
- ✓ More than 100 GCP trained research and research support staff.
- ✓ We work to Standard Operating Procedures, have been inspected by the MHRA (report available).
- ✓ Rapid set-up and delivery of agreed patient numbers to time and target, published on the [web](#).
- ✓ We can quickly review and sign confidentiality agreements via our Research Manager.
- ✓ Rapid and robust feasibility assessment via our Lead Research Nurse.
- ✓ Provision of all information in relation to Labs, Pharmacy and other support departments via our Clinical Trial Managers.
- ✓ Acceptance of [NIHR Model Trial Agreements](#) without legal review and speedy internal sign-off.
- ✓ Use of the [NIHR Industry Costing Templates](#) to cost all industry sponsored research.
- ✓ Quick arrangement of site visit, initiative of research and focus on early delivery of recruits.
- ✓ Weekly review of study progress and escalation of any issues affecting recruitment.
- ✓ Research delivery staff are mobile and we can allocate support to studies across our 4 hospitals.
- ✓ Quality data entry, speedy resolution of queries.
- ✓ Easy access to rooms for monitoring visits, internal review of all monitoring reports to increase quality.
- ✓ Use of [NIHR Income Distribution Model](#) for transparent internal allocation of funds.
- ✓ Dedicated R&D Finance team to ensure financial management and timely raising of invoices.
- ✓ Two medical consultants who act as clinical leads for research to provide clinical oversight.
- ✓ Associate Director of Research to ensure single point of contact for resolution of all issues.

Key contacts for further information

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