

Research Strategy 2016 – 2019 – *We put our patients first*

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. It also supports our Trust values.



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.

Key contacts for further information

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Website <http://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/research-development-and-innovation/>

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. 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.

2,715

**Research
Participants in
2016/7**

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 above strategy was developed through extensive consultation and our web-based surveys received a total 499 responses and over 800 written comments. The research strategy was developed from a strong patient mandate, details given below.

- **90% agreed** - The Trust's vision is 'to be amongst the best' - incorporating research into our core business purpose and objectives and into routine patient care is an important part of this.
- **94% agreed** - We should engage with patients and aspire to provide opportunities for all patients to participate in research.
- **88% agreed** - We should introduce a practical way of taking 'consent to contact' so we can develop a database of patients who would like to be involved in future research studies.
- **95% agreed** - For our research strategy to succeed we need to recognise that we are part of a wider system of healthcare, academia and industry and that we have to work together to deliver research for patient benefit.

The public and patients are central to what we do and contribute in many ways, as described below:



Examples of public and patient involvement

We have a great website where you can find out further details about research at the Trust.

The screenshot shows the NHS Trust website for East and North Hertfordshire. The 'Research and development' section is highlighted, featuring a photo of staff and a 'Useful info' sidebar with contact information for the research office.

We are also active on Twitter @enhertresearch



Public and patient engagement events

These are held to explain our research priorities, to discuss these with members of the public and to identify future ways of engagement. Feedback was very positive with all respondents saying that the event was useful.



Research Participant survey 2016/17

We are grateful to the 100 patients who gave us their views on what it is like to take part in research. When asked "Overall, how would you rate your experience of taking part in research on a scale of 1 to 10 – with 1 being very poor and 10 excellent?" 69 responded with a score of 10 as excellent, 29 responded with a score of 9 and the remainder responded with 7 or more.

"I am happy to take part in the research so that the study can help future treatments. I am completely satisfied with the care and support provided to me by the staff."

Other things of note

- We have two lay members on our Research and Development Board.
- We have videos of people telling us of their experience of being in research which we use for training.
- We are piloting an approach to ask if patients would like to register their wish to be contacted for future research.
- We are piloting a 'Thank You Card' approach to show our gratitude.

