

R&I Quarterly Trust Board Report

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Trust Board paper I

Purpose of report:

This paper is for:	Description	Select (X)
Decision	To formally receive a report and approve its recommendations OR a particular course of action	
Discussion	To discuss, in depth, a report noting its implications without formally approving a recommendation or action	X
Assurance	To assure the Board that systems and processes are in place, or to advise a gap along with treatment plan	X
Noting	For noting without the need for discussion	

Previous consideration:

Meeting	Date	Please clarify the purpose of the paper to that meeting using the categories above
CMG Board (specify which CMG)		
Executive Board		
Trust Board Committee		
Trust Board		

Executive Summary

Context

Research played a central role in the response to COVID-19. UHL R&I is now moving back towards business as usual with submission of important bids for research infrastructure funding. UHL continues to play a full role in LAHP. Many newsworthy events are reported.

Questions

1. Is the Board content with the level of information provided?
2. Does the Board have any comments about performance or suggestions for improvements?

Conclusion

1. Research has been very successful and high profile at UHL in the last 12 months and should be fully supported.
2. NIHR re-bids are of key importance.

Input Sought

We would welcome the Trust Board's input regarding ...

Reconfirming the importance of clinical research at UHL and UHL's commitment to future support, especially for infrastructure re-bids.

For Reference:

This report relates to the following UHL quality and supporting priorities:

1. Quality priorities

Safe, surgery and procedures	[Yes]
Improved Cancer pathways	[Yes]
Streamlined emergency care	[Yes]
Better care pathways	[Yes]
Ward accreditation	[No]

2. Supporting priorities:

People strategy implementation	[No]
Investment in sustainable Estate and reconfiguration	[No]
e-Hospital	[Yes]
Embedded research, training and education	[Yes]
Embed innovation in recovery and renewal	[Yes]
Sustainable finances	[Yes]

3. Equality Impact Assessment and Patient and Public Involvement considerations:

- What was the outcome of your Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)?
- Briefly describe the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) activities undertaken in relation to this report, or confirm that none were required
- How did the outcome of the EIA influence your Patient and Public Involvement ?
- If an EIA was not carried out, what was the rationale for this decision?

4. Risk and Assurance

Risk Reference:

Does this paper reference a risk event?	Select (X)	Risk Description:
Strategic: Does this link to a Principal Risk on the BAF?		
Organisational: Does this link to an Operational/Corporate Risk on Datix Register		
New Risk identified in paper: What type and description ?		
None		

5. Scheduled date for the **next paper** on this topic: [TBC]

6. Executive Summaries should not exceed **5 sides** [My paper does comply]

UHL R&I Quarterly Trust Board Report

Nov 2021

1. Introduction

This report describes how UHL R&I has moved back towards business as usual in the context of continuing COVID-19.

2. Research Performance

2.1 Recruitment into CRN Portfolio Studies

Since the last R&I report in July 2021 there is some legacy COVID-19 urgent public health research activity but much has ended or slowed significantly.

Current recruitment 2020/21 data is shown below.

For comparison, the last 6 yr annual recruitment into portfolio studies for UHL is:

2021/22	4,971 (to mid Oct 2021)
2020/21	31,479
2019/20	12,678
2018/19	13,204
2017/18	10,105
2016/17	11,462

Table 1. Portfolio Recruitment at UHL

Our performance

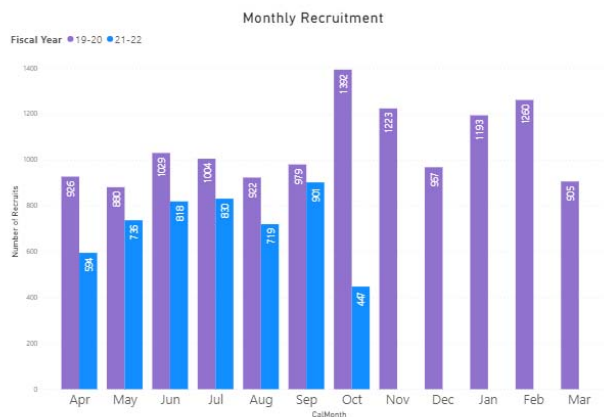


Figure 1: Comparative Annual Portfolio Recruitment for UHL 2020/21 (data to mid Oct 2021)

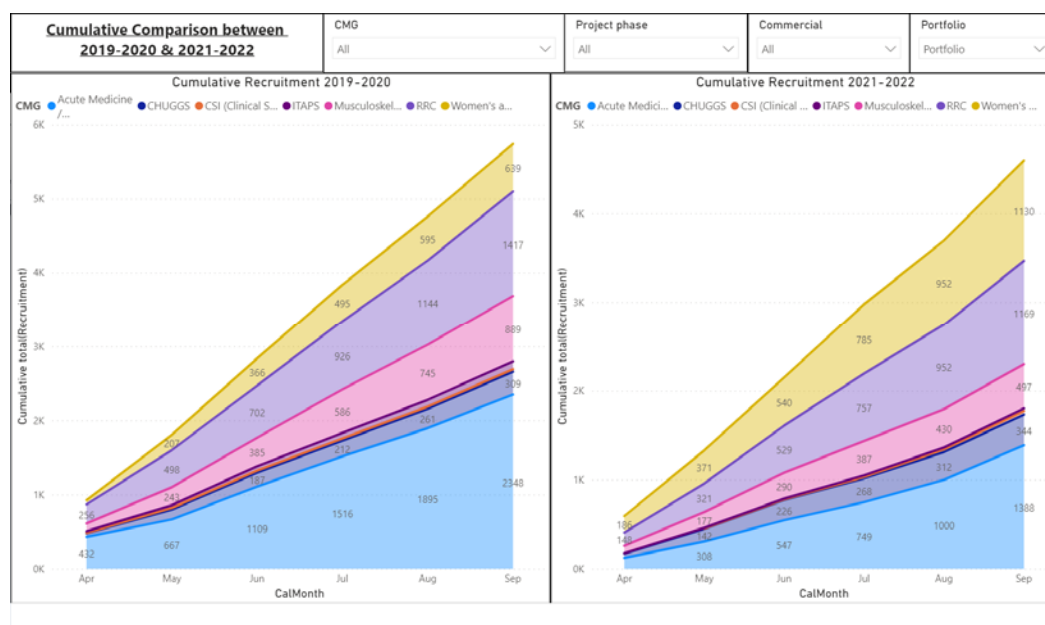


Fig 2 UHL portfolio study recruitment by CMG for 2021 (data to end sept 2021)

2.2 Recovery, Resilience and Growth

In 2020/21 only 4878 participants were recruited into non-Covid-19 studies. The challenge now is ‘Recovery, Resilience and Growth’ through a locally and nationally managed process. Over the course of 2020/21 many studies at UHL paused. These are now being re-opened where possible and appropriate paused studies continue to be re-opened with a high rate of new study approvals (Table 2).

	Active Studies	Approved
19/20	1031	169
20/21	966	130
21/22	858 (803)	116 (51)

Table 2. Active and Approved Studies at UHL (numbers in parentheses - as reported in July 2021).

3.0 R&I Finance performance

From a finance perspective R&I is delivering in line with the budget and Trust control total set at the beginning of the financial year. For the period April to September 2021 the R&I department reported a small surplus which demonstrates that research expenditure is matched with sufficient income. While there has been a reduction of non-NIHR income across a number of specialties as a result of the pandemic this has been offset by strong financial performance by our new NIHR Patient Research

Centre. The financial focus over the next six months will be to restore commercial income to pre pandemic levels to ensure that R&I remains financially robust going in to 2022/23.

4.0 Re-Bidding Process for NIHR Funded Infrastructure

4.1 NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre

The full bid for 6 BRC themes was submitted in mid-October 2021. Bidding organisations will be invited to interviews in April 2022.

4.2 NIHR Leicester Clinical Research Facility

A full bid for a CRF covering 7 research clusters was submitted on 29th Sept 2021 with outcomes expected in Jan 2022.

5.0 Leicestershire Academic Health Partners

The LAHP Board meets quarterly, most recently in September 2021.

At this meeting the LAHP Board approved enlargement of the partnership by bringing in colleagues from the Integrated Care System. The partners will be working to develop an Integrated Care System Research Strategy.

LAHP has developed a LAMP-based mass COVID-19 screening using automated testing cells with a contract signed between the University of Leicester and Department of Health and Social Care. This will be used for treating of University staff and students and NHS staff.

6.0 Other R&I News

Please see attached research bulletin.

Nigel Brunskill
October 2021



Caring at its best

Inside RESEARCH

Research and Innovation bulletin September/October 2021

Dear research colleagues,

Today we say farewell to Sarah Nicholson. We will all miss Sarah's input and expertise in clinical research, both in oncology and across the wider research and innovation service. I would like to thank her for all her hard work throughout the years, including on the recent expansion of the Hope Cancer Trials Centre. On behalf of the research and innovation service I would like to wish Sarah a very happy retirement.

As part of our post-pandemic plans, we hope to reduce the burden on researchers during the capacity and capability process. To make the changes that will work for you, we need your opinions. Please take a look at the consultation document attached to this bulletin and complete the Google form by the end of October.

Finally, congratulations to all the individuals and teams that have been shortlisted for the Clinical Research Network East Midlands research awards. I am delighted that the UHL R&I workforce was shortlisted for a 'contribution to COVID-19 research' award following nomination by our previous Acting Chief Executive. We wish all our shortlisted nominees the best of luck for the awards ceremony on 25 November.

Professor Nigel Brunskill

Director, Research and Innovation at Leicester's Hospitals

Research in the news

Leicester researcher wins prize for COVID-19 research



Dr Manish Pareek has been awarded the Graham Bull Prize from the Royal College of Physicians, after he was amongst the first scientists and doctors to highlight the differing impact of COVID-19 on ethnic groups.

The Consultant in Infectious Diseases at Leicester's Hospitals and Associate Clinical Professor in Infectious Diseases at the University of Leicester, received the award due to the high impact of his work on understanding COVID-19 over the last 18 months.

Of the prize, Dr Pareek said: "I am honoured to receive this prize and so proud that I will be able to take the important work my team has done in Leicester at the Goulstonian Lecture.

"Research is always a team effort and I could not have done this work without my colleagues at Leicester's Hospitals and the University of Leicester. I would also like to thank all the healthcare workers across the country who have taken part in our studies so far."

[Read more here](#)

Professor Sir Nilesh Samani awarded European Society of Cardiology Gold Medal

Sir Nilesh Samani, Professor of Cardiology at the University of Leicester, Honorary Consultant Cardiologist at University Hospitals of Leicester, and Medical Director of the British Heart Foundation, has been awarded the prestigious European Society of Cardiology Gold Medal in recognition of his contribution to cardiovascular medicine and research.

His research, undertaken with collaborators around the world, has identified over 200 genes associated with risk of coronary artery disease which causes heart attacks.



Professor Samani said: “I am deeply grateful to the ESC for this great honour. Being honoured by your peers is particularly special and means so much more.

“It is a great recognition of the quality of the work we do in Leicester. I would like to dedicate the medal to my family, to my wonderful research team and my academic and clinical colleagues in Leicester and to the hundreds of collaborators that I have had the privilege to work with around the world.”

[Read more about his achievements here](#)

Pioneering once-a-week jab offers hope to patients with type 2 diabetes



A once-a-week jab could put type 2 diabetes patients ‘into remission’ by reducing blood sugar to normal levels, cutting cholesterol and blood pressure, and helping patients lose a stone and a half or more, according to data from a new study.

The new medicine, tirzepatide, is so effective it may offer patients a viable alternative to weight-loss surgery, which is at present the most effective method of treating patients who need to lose large amounts of weight and bring their type 2 diabetes into remission.

The results were announced at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes annual conference.

“It’s about choice”, said Melanie Davies, Professor of Diabetes Medicine, University of Leicester, lead researcher for the global trial.

“Surgery is available to only a tiny minority of patients. To have drugs that give similar results would have been unheard of until a few years ago, but it’s likely that will be the case in the

near future.”

[Read the full article in the Daily Mail here](#)

Internal vacancy

BAND 7 SENIOR RESEARCH NURSE.PROJECT MANAGER

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for an experienced research nurse to further develop research skills as well as project management skills working on setting up a new programme involving advanced therapies (ATMPs).

UHL is a member of the Midlands and Wales Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre (MW-ATTC). This centre supports UK Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product (ATMP) companies to treat more patients with advanced therapy whilst simultaneously building clinical capacity across the UK to deliver breakthrough therapies to patients. The routine clinical use of these therapies requires a critical infrastructure of ATMP supply chain and clinical capability, across the UK. UHL is now embarking on a scoping programme which will support the set-up of clinical infrastructure including capacity and capabilities.

This is a secondment post for 6 months (an extension might be granted pending availability of additional funding).

For more information, and a copy of the job description and person specification, please visit the [UHL vacancies page](#) here.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 17 October.

Consultation on proposed changes to capacity and capability process - DEADLINE EXTENDED

The purpose of this consultation is to explore an alternative capacity and capability process to the current set-up of HOSTED studies. The aim is to reduce burden on researchers by streamlining and removing steps that are unnecessary and do not add value or additional

assurance. Alongside this we are also looking at the requirements for training, specifically Good Clinical Practice, its frequency, and alternative options that may be available.

There will be a further opportunity for consultation on training alone in the near future.

Please read the consultation paper attached to this email before you complete the form here:

<https://forms.gle/7cotfsBctQYsUFx67>

The deadline for responses has been extended to Friday 29 October.

Listen again

Medics 4 Rare Diseases podcast - 'Not Your Usual Heart Attack'

On World Heart Day (29 September), Dr David Adlam, UHL consultant cardiologist, and patient representatives from the BeatSCAD charity joined presenter Dr Lucy McKay to discuss a rare cause of heart attacks - Spontaneous Coronary Heart Disease (SCAD) - which predominantly affects younger women with few risk factors. Dr Adlam discusses what research has unveiled so far, including potential genetic components that may predispose patients to SCAD. The programme also mentions how studies into the rare disease have been influenced and driven by the partnership between clinical research and patient advocates.

[Listen again here \(SoundCloud\).](#)

NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme

The Clinical Entrepreneur Programme is an educational workforce development programme designed for NHS staff and those providing NHS services who want to develop and scale their most innovative ideas for patient benefit.

Places on this prestigious programme will be offered, through a competitive process, to applicants who have developed clinical innovations to improve patient care and support service redesign through commercial and non-commercial enterprises.

If you are an innovator in the NHS, we strongly encourage you to apply for this exceptional opportunity. The recruitment process for Year 6 of the Clinical Entrepreneur Programme opens on 5 October 2021. For more information and to apply to the programme, visit the [NHS](#)

[Clinical Entrepreneur Programme website.](#)

The deadline for applications is 1pm on 2 November 2021.

Training and events

1. **Local Capacity and Capability for Research**, online, 11 October 2021. £250 + VAT. This one-day course is designed to provide an understanding of the requirements of an NHS organisation when determining whether to take part in a particular research study as a host. Designed for staff in R&D offices responsible for assessing and confirming local capacity & capability, for sponsors of health research and researchers designing studies. [More information and booking details here.](#)
2. **UHL Health literacy training**, (online/in-person) 28 October 2021, 9:30-11:30am, FREE. The UHL patient information librarians-led session focuses on why health literacy is important, how we can improve communication with patients and help patients to understand and remember more. A great session for those involved in writing consent and patient information leaflets. Book via knowledgeshare.nhs.uk (LPT/Athens account holders) or HELM (UHL staff).
3. **Health Research Authority - Make It Public Conference**, 3-4 November 2021 (afternoons). The Health Research Authority will be hosting their first transparency conference where they will be showcasing best practice in transparency in health and social care research as part of the DHSC 'Make it Public' strategy. Register your interest by email to research.transparency@hra.nhs.uk.
4. **UK CRF Network Symposium - Emerging from the Ashes: Reflections and Learning**, online, 5 November 2021 (poster expo opens 4 November). **FREE**. This event is open to all NHS research staff and provides an opportunity for us to reflect and learn from the challenges we faced during the pandemic, celebrate our achievements and look ahead to the future. Key speakers include Professor Lucy Chappell, Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health and Social Care. [More information, programme and booking details here.](#)
5. **UHL Health literacy training**, (online/in-person) 29 November 2021, 14:00-16:00, FREE. The UHL patient information librarians-led session focuses on why health literacy is important, how we can improve communication with patients and help patients to understand and remember more. A great session for those involved in writing consent and patient information leaflets. Book via knowledgeshare.nhs.uk

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Grants and funding opportunities



We host links to some of the very latest grants and funding opportunities on our website. This month we share funding opportunities from Prostate Cancer UK, The Wellcome Trust (career development for different stages), and the Medical Research Council's Clinical Academic Research Partnerships. For more details, [please click here](#).

Leicester Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre news

Breast and prostate cancer patients previously enrolled in the REQUITE study are invited to take part in the RAD-PRECISE study. REQUITE was a prospective observational study that recruited 4,400 patients across Europe and monitored their radiotherapy side-effects for at least two years after treatment. The aim was to validate predictive biomarkers including genetics and a cell-based test called the radiation-induced lymphocyte apoptosis assay (RILA). RAD-PRECISE, with Leicester project leads, Chris Talbot and Tim Rattay, extends the follow-up of the patients to a minimum of five years and adds extra biomarkers including transcriptomics and a DNA repair assay from LXRepair. The combined projects are already leading to exciting developments, including genetic prediction of optimum time-of-treatment to enable chronoradiotherapy.

Extract reprinted from the ECMC newsletter.

These emails are designed for staff who are involved in research at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and are used by the Research and Innovation Service to share news and updates. We also welcome subscribers from other organisations who are conducting research on hospital property. If you no longer wish to receive these emails,

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