

Meeting title:	Public Trust Board	Public Trust Board paper L				
Date of the meeting:	12 th January 2023					
Title:	Research & Innovation Quarterly Trust Board Report					
Report presented by:	Prof Nigel Brunskill, Director of R&I					
Report written by:	Prof Nigel Brunskill, Director of R&I					
Action – this paper is for:	Decision/Approval		Assurance	x	Update	x
Where this report has been discussed previously	N/A					

To your knowledge, does the report provide assurance or mitigate any significant risks? If yes, please detail which
No

Impact assessment

Purpose of the Report

The report highlights the delivery and performance of Research & Innovation at UHL, progress of important research, engagement activities and newsworthy items.

These elements have a largely positive impact on staff and patients and highlight efforts around EDI in research. Good research outcomes and accompanying media coverage has a positive impact on reputation.

Recommendation

The Trust Board are requested to receive and note the contents of this quarterly report.

UHL R&I QUARTERLY TRUST BOARD REPORT

January 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes UHL R&I activities, performance and delivery in the last few months.

2. RESEARCH PERFORMANCE

2.1 Recruitment into CRN Portfolio Studies

Since the last R&I report in October 2022 there is some legacy COVID-19 urgent public health research activity, but other study activity continues to move back towards business as usual.

	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
New Studies Approved	168	131	200	155
Commercial studies approved	51	34	53	48

Table 1. Clinical Trial activity at UHL 2019-2022

The last 6-year annual recruitment into portfolio studies for UHL is:

2022/23	5,704 (to end November 2022)
2021/22	10,292
2020/21	31,450
2019/20	12,818
2018/19	13,222
2017/18	10,144

Table 2. Portfolio Study Recruitment at UHL



Figure 1: Comparative Annual Portfolio Recruitment for UHL 21/22 vs 22/23 (data to end November 2022)

2.2 Performance Analysis

Compared to 2021/22, current trial recruitment is approximately 1000 recruits less at end November 2022 and thus the trend is towards lower recruitment overall for 22/23.

- i. The major contributing factor is that some of the highest recruiting studies have finished and ceased recruiting.
- ii. We are ahead of usual performance in commercial research activity having prioritised this as requested by NIHR.
- iii. As a consequence of ii, there has been a decreased emphasis on high volume observational studies
- iv. There is a 'tail' of COVID study follow-ups that continue to consume resources.
- v. There is a natural reduction in recruitment cycle over the 5 years of NIHR Infrastructure as the current funding cycle closes out.

2.3 CRN Infrastructure Budget 2023-24

Confirmation has been received from CRN that the 2023-24 infrastructure budget for UHL will be £4,047,147.

This represents an uplift of ~£2.54% compared to the previous year.

3.0 CANCER STUDIES AT UHL

3.1 The Hope Against Cancer-funded extension to the Hope Cancer Trials Centre at Leicester Royal Infirmary is now fully operative.

3.2 Mehmooda Duke MBE DL, the High Sheriff of Leicestershire, visited the Hope Cancer Trials Centre and Leicester Cancer Research Centre in Dec 2022.

She said:

"It was wonderful to meet staff, including the nursing staff who look after some of the patients undergoing clinical trials with such kindness and compassion, the research scientists, the team in the Hope office, the data collection and analysts, and PhD students who are funded by Hope Against Cancer."

We will be joined by Dr Harriet Walter, Consultant Clinical Oncologist who will give an update on the exciting new cancer research studies at UHL.

4.0 UHL MONTHLY RESEARCH BULLETINS

4.1 We produce a monthly UHL Research and Innovation Bulletin that is widely distributed. The October 2022 bulletin is attached for information (appendix 1).

4.2 The following annual achievements are highlighted in the December 2022 UHL Research Bulletin:

- A £26 million NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, complete with three new themes - personalised cancer prevention and treatment, environmental health
- A £4.1 million NIHR Clinical Research Facility, representing a three-fold increase in funding compared to the previous funding round
- Excellent recovery of our commercial research portfolio

- A contract extension for our NIHR Participant Recruitment Centre until March 2024
- Delivering an 'Inclusive Research and Innovation' Conference in November for 200 delegates
- Opening a 'Hope' balcony at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, where patients on cancer trials can step away from the clinical environment for rest and recuperation
- Approved 155 studies, of which 48 were commercial trials since April 2022
- Creation of the first Shared Decision Making Council in research, set up by the women's health research team (more on this in the next bulletin!)

5.0 OTHER UHL R&I NEWS

5.1 A UHL Research and Innovation Conference entitled 'Inclusive Research and Innovation' was held at the Big Shed on 17th November 2022. Over 200 delegates enjoyed a varied programme over the day. These included senior leaders from UHL, UoL, Loughborough University and University Hospitals of Northamptonshire NHS Group.

5.2 Secure Data Environments for Research (SDE). The LLR-ICB has been awarded funding from NHSE to develop a business case for an East Midlands SDE. UHL will be a leading member of the group working on this project. If successful, this will unlock up to £10M further funding.

6.0 UP AND COMING...

18 January 2023 – Research and Innovation Awards evening at the Marriott Hotel in Leicester with the following categories:

- Outstanding achievement in research by an individual
- Research and innovation team of the year
- Putting patients first
- Newcomer of the year
- Unsung hero
- Tony Gershlick memorial award for impact of clinical research and innovation on healthcare
- Research Directors' Award

Inside RESEARCH

Research and Innovation bulletin October 2022

This bulletin is aimed at staff working in clinical research facilities based at Leicester's Hospitals, including our Biomedical Research Centre, Patient Recruitment Centre, Clinical Research Facility and Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre. It is also for UHL staff interested in research and innovation developments.

Dear colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to share that Leicester has been **awarded an NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)** to the tune of £26million over the next five years. The official announcement was made on Friday 14 October by the Department of Health and Social Care. Professor Melanie Davies joined Richard Mitchell on the Friday Focus to spread the news.

[You can read our press release here.](#)

We can also confirm that the **contract for the NIHR Patient Recruitment Centre: Leicester (PRC) has been extended** until the end of March 2024. The PRC has played a major role in increasing our commercial studies portfolio, as well as delivering a successful vaccine trial during the pandemic.

The closing date for our **Research and Innovation Awards** is tomorrow (Friday 28 October). You can find out all the criteria, categories, and a [nomination form on the UHL website](#). We are not expecting nominators to write extended essays, just a few lines in each section to say why the person or team they are nominating should win an award. Those who are shortlisted, plus their nominator, will be invited to a formal awards ceremony with a 3-course dinner, in January 2023.

We are also counting down the days to our **Research and Innovation Conference**, which will include a celebration of our BRC and Clinical Research Facility (CRF). A few tickets are still available and can be [booked via Eventbrite](#). Our afternoon keynote speaker is Martin Bruder from the Art of Brilliance. Martin is a world-leading expert in embedding well-being in the workplace, and delivers training with a mix of humour and hard-hitting truths.

Finally, this month we say **goodbye to Bev Hargadon**, Respiratory Research Nurse Manager, who retires after 36 years' service to the NHS and research. Bev played a key role in the research response to COVID-19, has made a huge impact on our research over the years, and her knowledge and experience will be missed by all her colleagues.

Best wishes

Professor Nigel Brunskill

Director, Research and Innovation at Leicester's Hospitals

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- HRA updates for researchers and study teams
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Research in the news

Time of day matters for breast cancer treatment



Breast shrinkage after breast cancer radiotherapy could be reduced by treating a patient at the optimum time of day, as predicted by their body clock genes.

Scientists and clinicians from the University of Leicester and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust have identified three genes linked to circadian rhythms – our internal body clocks – that are associated with increased risk of side-effects following radiotherapy at particular times in the day.

The results of the study provide more evidence for a personalised approach to radiotherapy, by testing patients for the presence of these three gene variants and then treating them at the optimal time.

[Read more about the REQUITE study here.](#)

Focus on... Clinical Research Practitioners

Clinical Research Practitioners (CRPs) are crucial to delivering clinical research that is transforming treatment in the NHS and the care we receive. CRPs bring a wealth of research knowledge and expertise to research delivery teams, working alongside nurses and others to deliver safe, ethical and high quality clinical research care.

We now have standardised job descriptions for these positions at different levels, according to qualifications and experience.

We're pleased to share that Denny Vail has been appointed to the first dedicated post of Senior Clinical Research Practitioner at the NIHR Leicester Clinical Research Facility (CRF).

As an experienced research practitioner, Denny will work alongside our existing research nurses, helping to set-up, coordinate and deliver NIHR CRF clinical trials. He will also supervise other research delivery staff within the team.

This appointment is part of our commitment to growing and developing the CRP workforce within the Trust at all levels.



Do you have an amazing CRP working in your research team? Are you an outstanding CRP? Then why not enter the Academy for Healthcare Science award for Clinical Research Practitioner Leadership?! Nominees must be on the CRP Directory or Register.

Closing date: 24 January 2023.

[Find out more and enter.](#)

NIHR CRN East Midlands Scholars Programme

Increasing Chief Investigator capacity



NIHR CRN East Midlands has launched a new Health and Care Research Scholars Programme, which aims to increase Chief Investigator capacity across the region.

The new programme - which is taking place as an initial pilot - will see CRN East Midlands support two groups of scholars at a level of up to one day a week (0.2 WTE) for a 12-month period.

The programme is open to applicants from all registered professions.

- 'Research Scholars' applicants will be research active individuals who wish to become Chief Investigators in the future
- 'Advanced Research Scholars' will include those already established as senior researchers and provide protected time to develop new grant applications

More information about the Health and Care Research Scholars Programme can be found on the CRN East Midlands Workforce Development website:

<https://sites.google.com/nih.ac.uk/eastmidlandswfd/scholarship>

The UHL R&I team is offering support for anyone wishing to complete an application from our Trust. Please contact [Antonella Ghezzi](#) for further advice.

The deadline for applications is 28 November 2022.



HRA updates

Indemnity arrangements in research



Whether research is taking place within NHS premises, patients' homes, care homes, hospices or other spaces in which NHS researchers undertake NHS research, NHS staff are covered by NHS Resolution indemnity schemes. NHS research in England is research that has HRA and HCRW Approval.

[Read the full statement.](#)

Proportionate Review Toolkit

The HRA has published a decision toolkit to help you determine if a research application is eligible for proportionate review by a Research Ethics Committee (REC).

Proportionate review (PR) is a lighter touch review process for research proposals that raise no material ethics issues, but many applications submitted for PR do not meet the criteria and have to be transferred for full REC review. This causes delays to the ethics review for applicants.

The toolkit takes not more than five minutes to complete and will tell you which route to submit your study.

[Proportionate Review Toolkit webpage.](#)

Roll of honour

Caring at its Best

Congratulations to Angela Whitton, gynaecology research nurse, who has been highly commended in the latest round of the 'Caring at its Best' awards. Angela was nominated in the 'we do what we say we are going to do' category, and was presented with her certificate and flowers by Chief Nurse, Julie Hogg. Well done, Angela!



Training and events

1. **Innovation Academy**, online free e-learning course that can be completed in your own time. The Academy has been designed for those who would like to gain an understanding of how the NHS takes forward new innovative products to improve patient care and outcomes. For more information and registration visit the [East Midlands Academic Health Science Network](#).
2. **UHL/LPT Health Literacy training**, online and in-person, various dates. How can we communicate better with research participants and help them understand and remember more of the information we give them? Book online at knowledgeshare.nhs.uk (LPT and UHL staff with Athens accounts) or on [HELM](#) (UHL staff). For more information email InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk or phone 0116 258 8355.
3. **Patient Safety Research Event**, online, Tuesday 8 November (14:30-16:00) and Wednesday 9 November (18:30-20:00). As part of the Festival of Social Science, researchers at the University of Leicester are hosting events on patient safety. This event will consist of a 45-minute talk followed by a discussion about how hospital care can be improved and how the public can be empowered to be involved in their care. [Details and booking](#).
4. **UHL R&I Conference/ Celebration of the NIHR Leicester BRC and CRF**, The Big Shed, Leicester; 08:30-17:00 Thursday 17 November. The focus of this year's conference is Inclusive Research and Innovation, considering the topic in its broadest sense - from our staff, to our participants, and across our research programmes. [Draft programme and booking link](#).
5. **NHS R&D Forum Annual Conference 2023**, Newcastle-Gateshead, 21-23 May 2023. Early bird conference package starts at £175+VAT for a day ticket. In association with the Health Research Authority. A comprehensive programme of networking, talks, workshops and poster sessions for the R&D community across the UK. [More information and booking](#).

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 **Novo Nordisk fellowships**, **Cancer Research UK**, **Breast Cancer UK** and **Retina UK**.

For more details, [please visit the R&I pages at Leicester's Hospitals](#).

Top reads for October

NIHR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy

This strategy sets out the NIHR's ambition to become a more inclusive funder of research, where equality and diversity are sustainably embedded in everything they do. It aims to improve the relevance and quality of NIHR-funded research, and make sure that they are fully able to leverage the energy and talents of the diverse people NIHR works with.

[Read the strategy](#).



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, please [unsubscribe from this list](#).

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