

Spring, 2026



Mersey and West Lancashire  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Trust

# Research Newsletter



NIHR | National Institute for  
Health and Care Research

**NIHR** | Research Delivery  
Network

## New Clinical Trials Regulation coming into force on the 28th April 2026

GCP Introduction & Refresher are both now accessible via e-learning & in a version that's compliant with forthcoming changes. [Investigational Medicinal Product \(IMP\) Management: GCP E6\(R3\)](#) has also been released & GCP Consolidation will be released by the end of March.

Within the changes comes the need for Sponsors & Employers to assess risks and to identify those factors within the protocol that are critical to quality - to enable appropriate & proportionate workforce planning.

**Please contact us to complete your GCP training or follow the link!**



# #Red4Research 2026

Supporting research and all the people making research happen



## What Is #Red4Research?

#Red4Research brings together all those participating, supporting, and undertaking research. On the front line and behind the scenes incredible research teams collectively work on health and social care research. The R&D community is innovative, flexible and dynamic. Research doesn't just happen though, people make it happen – research participants, patients, professionals, volunteers and regulatory bodies all collectively working together.

Come and chat to us on Friday 19th June outside the restaurant's across MWL!





**Well done to Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust who recruited 5 participants in December 2020, making the total 46!**

The ROSETA Optimisation trial is testing how well four ways support women with breast cancer in taking hormone therapy. The study will test what, if any, is the best combination of the interventions.



**Milestone achieved! The BSR-PsA Registry has recruited its 2,000th participant, thanks to the team at St Helens Hospital**

Real-world data from the registry shapes better treatments for psoriatic arthritis patients.

## **NIHR** | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Since its inception in 2006, they have been at the heart of health and care research in the UK. They were founded with a simple yet powerful vision: to deliver “Best Research for Best Health.” This was driven by a national commitment to support and fund health-related research leading to improved outcomes for people.



From the prevention of ill health and the promotion of health and wellbeing, to disease management, patient care, and the organisation of healthcare, public health and social care, they have been there every step of the way. They connect the NHS, academia, local authorities, charities, industry and wider partners to create a research ecosystem that exists to benefit all; and committed to ensure public money delivers proven results and that evidence guides public health and social care.

Since then, they've been delivering impact, embedding inclusion, driving innovation and attracting investment. These themes underpin and support everything they do - working tirelessly in the background to turn scientific discoveries into solutions that change lives,

## Good News

The Trust's Research Development and Innovation Team at Whiston Hospital achieved a national first earlier this month. Thanks to their hard work, and with support from NIHR's Research Delivery Network, we became the first site in the UK to recruit a participant to a new clinical trial for a potential treatment for inflammatory bowel disease.



*Members of the Research Team with Wayne McCaffery (centre), the first patient to be recruited to the trial*

What makes this even more impressive is the pace. The team opened the study and recruited our first participant well within the government's target of 150 days – managing to do it 21 days faster.

This kind of teamwork puts us right at the forefront of research and, most importantly, gives our patients earlier access to new treatments that could genuinely change lives.

A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved.



**Well done to the team at Southport for being the top recruiting site for a commercial study looking at diabetic foot ulcers!**

## The Participant in Research Experience Survey

**A look at feedback on participants involvement in research at our sites.**

a sense of involvement

Always having the support of the trial nurses for help and advice. Although in a clinical trial my health and welfare was always the most important consideration.

Always seeing the same, welcoming nurse.

Clear information and being kept up to date about what is happening

Consistent tests are reassuring

Everything was explained and staff helpful with any questions I may have had

Everything was explained to me. [redacted] very polite my whole experience of participating in research was perfect understood everything

Excellent treatment on every occasion of my appointments

# Publications



## Maternal perspectives on the RSV vaccine (Abrysvo): a thematic analysis of survey findings from the first season of implementation in England and Scotland

**Background:** Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a leading cause of infant hospitalisation due to lower respiratory tract infections. Until 2022, prevention was limited to the costly monoclonal antibody palivizumab. In August 2024, the UK introduced the RSVpreF (Abrysvo, Pfizer) maternal vaccine into its national immunisation schedule. The success of this programme depends not only on vaccine effectiveness, but also on maternal access, acceptance and uptake.

**Objective:** To explore maternal perspectives on the RSVpreF vaccine and identify barriers and facilitators to vaccine uptake, to inform antenatal education and public health strategies.

**Methods:** This qualitative analysis is based on free-text survey responses from 388 vaccine-eligible mothers of infants hospitalised with bronchiolitis, lower respiratory tract infection or acute wheeze, collected between September 2024 and March 2025 across 30 sites, as part of the BronchStop study.

**Results:** Four key themes were identified: (1) access-related barriers to vaccination, (2) insufficient RSV awareness and information to support informed decision-making, (3) vaccine safety concerns and hesitancy and (4) perception of the maternal RSV vaccine as beneficial and protective. These themes were consistent across sociodemographic groups.

**Conclusions:** Uptake of the maternal vaccine was influenced by barriers to access, informational gaps and perceived safety concerns. Improved vaccine delivery, enhanced awareness and personalised antenatal counselling are essential to increase vaccine uptake. There is an urgent need to address structural inaccessibility and provide tailored antenatal education to address informational gaps. Ongoing qualitative research is crucial to guide targeted public health interventions ahead of future RSV seasons.

## The RADIANT Trial

**Background:** Automated insulin delivery (AID) systems have been shown to improve glycaemic outcomes in people with type 1 diabetes managed with insulin pump therapy. No randomised studies have evaluated the benefits of tubeless AID in both adults and children with suboptimal glycaemia compared with multiple daily injections. We aim to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a tubeless AID system compared with multiple daily injections in this population.

**Method:** RADIANT was a multicentre, international, parallel-group, open-label, controlled trial done in 19 hospitals in the UK, Belgium, and France.

**Interpretation:** Results from this trial show the clinical efficacy of direct transition from multiple daily injections to tubeless AID in adults and children with type 1 diabetes, with no safety concerns, supporting AID as a therapeutic option within standard of care for people with type 1 diabetes.

## North West Regional Research Delivery Network

### NMAHPs Research Roadshow



**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 9am – 1pm**

Do you work in the North West? Do you work in health or social care? Are you curious about research — or already building it into your role? Perhaps you are actively supporting, delivering or leading research.

If that sounds like you, we would love you to join a **free online regional event** hosted by Janette Dunkerley, your National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) North West Regional Research Delivery Network Health and Care Director for Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions. She will be joined by Professor Ruth Endacott, NIHR Director for Nursing and Midwifery, and colleagues from the nursing, midwifery and allied health professions team.

The event will provide an opportunity for us in the North West to showcase our work, highlight our priorities and provide a space for us to discuss any challenges we may be having locally or nationally. Over the next year, Ruth and colleagues will be “visiting” all 12 Regional Research Delivery Networks, with her first visit being the North West.

We encourage staff at all levels and involvement in research to join this event. This is a chance to celebrate the fantastic research happening in our region and, just as importantly, to hear directly from individuals about what really matters in our research world.

#### **What you can look forward to:**

- The latest national research updates
- Highlights of research activity across our region
- Inspiring stories from local colleagues showcasing their research activity
- A live Q&A with Ruth and colleagues

It's completely free to attend register [here](#).

Can't make it on the day? Don't worry. All visits will be recorded and shared afterwards so you won't miss out.

We hope you'll join us!



## Southampton Health Technology Assessments Centre - Short Courses for 2026

Southampton Health Technology Assessments Centre (SHTAC) offers online short courses for health professionals, academics, and decision makers with an understanding of health and related research.

### Our courses

[Introduction to Health Economics Evaluation](#), 13th & 20th May 2026, or 4th & 11th November 2026

[Introduction to Systematic Reviews in Health Course](#) - Date to be announced - please register your interest

Please [contact SHTAC](#) to enquire about: bespoke courses to your specification, working with SHTAC or as a research partner/on a consultancy basis

### Course 1: Introduction to Health Economics Evaluation

#### Course details

- **Date:** 13th & 20th May 2026, or 4th & 11th November 2026
- **Time:** 09:30 – 13:00
- **Location:** This is an online course conducted via Zoom

**Duration:** 8 learning hours

#### Fees

- Full time students £175
- Academic/public sector £250

Private sector £350

### Course 2: Introduction to Systematic Reviews in Health Course

#### Learning outcomes

After completing this course, you will understand:

- What a systematic review is
- Scoping the research question and writing a protocol
- Literature searching
- Inclusion/exclusion screening
- Data extraction and critical appraisal
- Data synthesis



## Developing Research Leader (DRL) Programme

A funded programme to build research capacity in health and care organisations aimed at nurses, midwives and allied health professionals.

**Are you a Nurse, Midwife or AHP committed to leading and supporting others to embed research in health and care practice?**

**Do you have a good understanding of research?**

**Do you aspire to develop your research leadership skills and promote an inclusive research culture?**

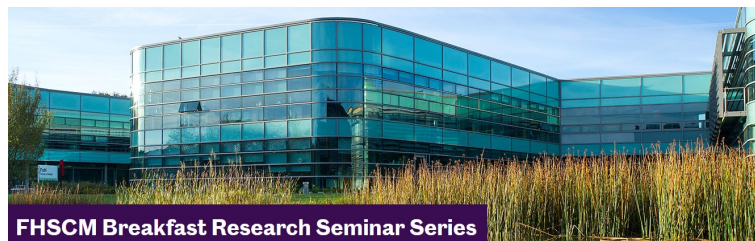
If so, the NIHR Developing Research Leader (DRL) Programme for Nurses, Midwives and AHPs could be an excellent fit for you. The programme offers you the opportunity to lead research capacity and capability initiatives in your organisation. You will use your knowledge, skills and personal experiences to motivate and enable others to get involved in research activities that help improve health and care outcomes. As a DRL, you will receive guidance and practical support as you pioneer research leadership activities.

This opportunity is open to all Nurses, Midwives and AHPs who meet the DRL eligibility criteria, regardless of current band/grade or salary, and can demonstrate a passion for embedding research in health and care settings.

**Visit our website** to learn more about the programme and stay informed about the application process.

Please also come along to our upcoming **information webinar!** To book your place simply fill out this **form** and you will receive a calendar invite to join a webinar:

For any questions, please contact **drl@nihr.ac.uk**



Throughout the year, the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine at Edge Hill University host a series of breakfast research seminars (8.30-9.15 am, online, on dates listed below), giving an opportunity to our research active staff, and external speakers, to present about research topics and projects they have worked on or are currently working on. We welcome attendance from all at these online events. Click **here** for more info.

Wednesday, 22 April 2026	Choosing an analytical framework for education research	Prof Jackie Leigh
Thursday, 14 May 2026	Intro to health economics	Dr Valerio Benedetto (ULan)
Tuesday, 9 June 2026	Research in social care settings	Dr Ciaran Murphy

## Masters for Research Delivery Leadership

The Clinician Researcher Credentials Framework (CRCF) will now be known as the Masters for Research Delivery Leadership (MRDL).

This new name better reflects the purpose of the programme and its focus on leadership development.



Master's level qualifications in clinical research delivery leadership  
Suitable for all registered healthcare professionals at all stages of their career

Bursary applications for the Masters for Research Delivery Leadership (MRDL) are now open! Registered health and care professionals can apply for up to three years of funding to complete a postgraduate certificate, diploma, or master's, gaining the skills and experience needed to lead clinical research studies. Apply by 1 July 2026.

**Contact:** [mrdl@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:mrdl@nihr.ac.uk)

**For more information visit:** <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/masters-research-delivery-leadership>

## Research Learning Lectures

The Research Learning Lectures are a series of lectures covering a variety of topics relating to basic science, clinical trial methodology and statistics. The lectures provide career advice for anyone who wishes to know more about research or work towards a career in research or academia. Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from and put questions to research experts from across the world.

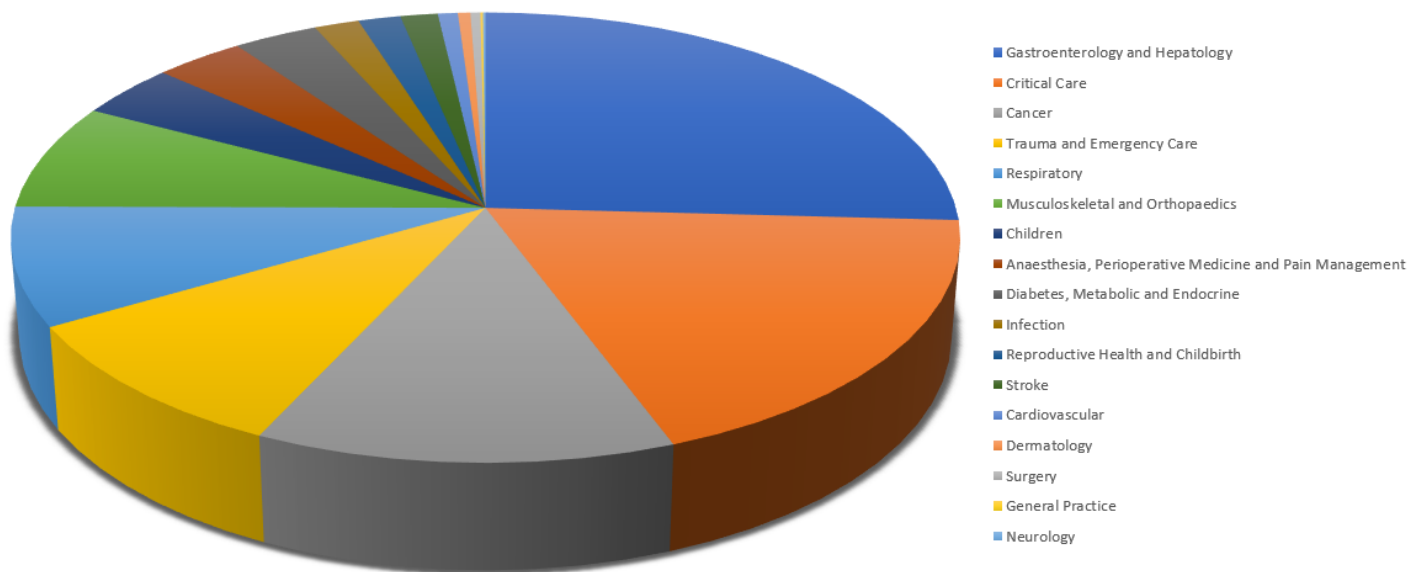


### Who are they for?

- Current Associate PIs
- Associate PI Alumni
- Health and Care professionals with an interest in learning more about research.
- Those with an interest in learning about research delivery or research leadership
- Those with an interest in a career in Clinical Academia

# Recruitment Figures by Speciality

Recruitment by speciality for 2025/2026 with a grand total of 1036 participants! Congratulations to all involved.



Gastroenterology and Hepatology	268
Critical Care	191
Cancer	131
Trauma and Emergency Care	100
Respiratory	88
Musculoskeletal and Orthopaedics	79
Children	40
Anaesthesia, Perioperative Medicine and Pain Management	36
Diabetes, Metabolic and Endocrine	34
Infection	18
Reproductive Health and Childbirth	17
Stroke	15
Cardiovascular	8
Dermatology	5
Surgery	4
General Practice	1
Neurology	1

# Lorraine Bickerstaffe

## Registered Clinical Research Practitioner

CRPs are qualified, specialist research professionals, who are trained to develop a range of clinical knowledge and skills. They are an essential part of the research delivery team in various clinical and non-clinical settings. CRPs:

- work autonomously
- are adaptable team members
- receive consent, collect data and handle other study protocol activities
- are key project managers liaising with research investigators and research delivery teams

Clinical research enables CRPs to become experts in understanding and following complicated research protocols, contributing to research costings and contracts, supporting all aspects of research from feasibility, set-up, delivery and close-down, contributing to their professional community and developing an endlessly flexible ability to respond to the ever-changing research environment and portfolio of studies they support.

CRPs are consistently excellent problem-solvers as they find creative ways to support patients to participate in research and deliver complex and demanding research portfolios. This set of knowledge and skills not only makes CRPs excellent at what they do, it also provides a solid foundation for CRPs to develop into senior leadership roles within the research community ranging from bands 4-8.

CRPs make up  
around **25%** of the  
research workforce



**For any further information about items in  
this newsletter, please get in touch with us!**



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