

Summer, 2026



Mersey and West Lancashire
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Research Newsletter



NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

MWL Awards



A massive congratulations to the Research, Development and Innovation team at MWL on being awarded Highly Commended for team of the year!

Our Trust Vision



5 Star Patient Care

Delivered with compassion and pride by exceptional Nurses, AHPs and Midwives



Mersey and West Lancashire
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

★ Safety

As part of the new AHP and Midwives Strategy 2026-2029, Research is becoming more prominent in everyday practice. As a result of this, practitioners will be given dedicated time for research, innovation and improvement.

Our Nursing, AHP
and Midwifery
Commitments

We will deliver and grow research, innovation, quality improvement and digital initiatives

Our Nursing, AHP
and Midwifery
Objectives

We will continue to work closely with Higher Education Institutes to grow the amount of initiatives and establish a culture of research within the trust.

Research is becoming more recognised in the trust and as we are a 'Research Active' trust, we all need to support each other to ensure the best possible outcomes for our patients.

- Ensure nurses, AHPs and midwives in appropriate roles (eg ACP and consultant practitioners, Chief Nursing Information Officer, digital midwives etc) have dedicated time for research, innovation and improvement
- Establish effective links with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and other innovation and improvement bodies, and grow the number of joint initiatives and bids
- Establish a culture of research, innovation and quality improvement
- Integrate NHS IMPACT methodology into everyday practice
- Maximise the use of digital tools for patient care, safety and learning



University of Liverpool Clinical Trial Training for Investigators

Location: Guild of Students Library Room, University of Liverpool

Course dates: 7th - 11th September 2026

Course fee: £595, includes course materials, lunch and refreshments

RCP CPD accredited: 30 points awarded for full week attendance

Individual day attendance available: £119 per day

Faculty includes experts in:

Clinical trials: Dr Susanna Dodd, Dr Nicola Harman, Professor Paula Williamson, Professor Michael Jenkinson

Statistics: Dr Richard Jackson, Dr Girvan Burnside, Professor Jamie Kirkham

Qualitative and recruitment research: Professor Kerry Woolfall, Dr Nicola Harman, Dr Heather Barrington

Health economics: Professor Dyfrig Hughes

Overview

The number of clinical trials being conducted has increased, and the need for greater efficiency in design, conduct, analysis and reporting has been recognised in both the public and industry sector.

The programme will include:

- Trial design
- Trial conduct
- Recruitment of trial participants
- Public and patient involvement
- Analysis and reporting
- Health informatics
- Health economics

For more information and to apply follow this [link](#)

North West DOORS:

Development Opportunities for Our Research Staff

Open DOORS to help further your research career

DOORS (Development Opportunities for Our Research Staff) is an evolving resource designed to help colleagues working in research across the North West understand the various learning opportunities they may wish to explore depending on their role, experience and aspirations.

There are a range of opportunities provided by:

- Your North West RRDNs Workforce Team
- The national Research Delivery Network Coordinating Centre (often via NIHR Learn), or
- Selected regional and national partners

NW RRDN: DOORS Development Opportunities for Our Research Staff



This resource is designed to help colleagues across the North West Research Workforce access the regional and national learning and development opportunities available. Many of our opportunities are hosted on NIHR Learn - an introduction to which can be found [here](#).

Select your starting point below to be taken to the relevant page of further offerings.

Workforce Pathways

*including Workforce Training Plan,
North West Career Framework,
Overview of Research Delivery
Offer,
Informed Consent Pathway and
Leading Research Delivery Pathway*

Setting/Role Specific

*including Resident Doctors,
NMAHPs - Tips for Getting into
Research Delivery,
Primary Care,
Community & Residential Settings,
Pharmacy and
CRPs*

Areas of Interest

*including Raising Research
Awareness, Leadership,
Cultural Competence and
Inclusion*

We are continuously updating this site as we become aware of further opportunities. If you have any suggestions for improvements or become aware of opportunities that are not listed here, please reach out on the email address below with the subject line Workforce.

RDN | NW DOORS

Queries:
nw.rrdn@nihr.ac.uk

NIHR | Research
Delivery Network

BRONCHSTOP SEASON 2 RSV Vaccine Study Results

Thank you for taking part!

Thanks to **818** UK families, we've learned more about how RSV vaccination during pregnancy helps protect babies from severe respiratory infections. The findings have been shared with public health agencies and healthcare professionals to support RSV prevention across the UK.



WHAT WAS THIS STUDY ABOUT?



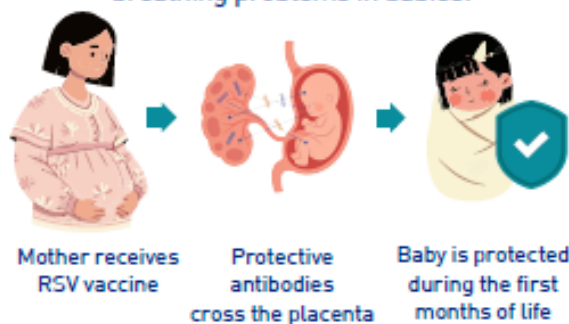
How well does the RSV vaccine in pregnancy protect babies from hospital admission with lung infections?



Why do some women choose to have the vaccine while others do not?

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common winter virus that can cause serious breathing problems in babies.



WHO TOOK PART?



Recruitment Period
Sept 2025 - Jan 2026



37
UK study sites



818
families recruited



Median age at hospital admission:
2.1 months



WHAT DID WE FIND?

In babies under 3 months of age, RSV vaccination in pregnancy **reduced the risk of hospital admission** by around three-quarters. Put simply, for every 4 babies who might otherwise have needed hospital admission with RSV, around 3 avoided hospitalisation

MOTHERS' VIEWS ON THE RSV VACCINE

I am confident that the RSV vaccine is safe



I am confident that the RSV vaccine is necessary



The RSV vaccine was easy for me to get



Strongly disagree / Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree / Strongly agree



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.

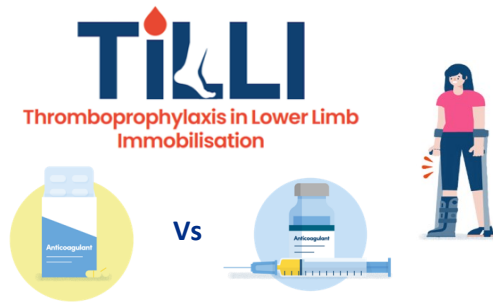
International Clinical Trials Day 2026



We celebrate to remember James Lind as the man who helped to conquer a killer disease. His reported experiment on board a naval ship in 1747 showed that oranges and lemons were a cure for scurvy.

James Lind's experiment with citrus was one of the first reported clinical trials in medicine.

Thank you to everyone who joined and supported us for International Clinical Trials Day this year!



Congratulations on a fantastic start to recruitment! After opening on **15th June**, we recruited our first **2 participants within the first week**, with both recruited on the same day. That's an excellent way to get started.

A huge thank you to the Orthopaedic team and minor Injuries (A/E) in Southport for the help and support with identification screening and recruitment.



Well done to Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust who were 3rd top recruiter in April 2026 with 5 new recruits!

ASPECT is a trial looking to see if low-dose aspirin reduces the risk of a heart attack or stroke in patients suffering from a pneumonia infection.

Diabetes Commercial Study

Thanks to the staff in Southport and the diabetes team (picture below) for meeting target for a commercial study!





Exciting news for ICU Research!

The Intensive Care Team are taking part in a new trial Awake Prone!

Awake Prone's aim is to prove whether awake prone positioning keeps acute respiratory patients off mechanical ventilation.

During the pandemic, flipping conscious patients onto their fronts became a standard, low-cost tool that successfully kept Covid-19 patients off ventilators. However, there is a major gap in high-quality clinical evidence regarding whether this simple positional shift provides the same life-saving benefits for patients suffering from general, non-covid respiratory conditions like pneumonia or ARDS.

Awake Prone plans to measure whether prone position actively prevents escalation to invasive mechanical ventilation within 30 days by tracking the different outcomes between the intervention group and standard upright care. The intervention group will aim for up to 8 hours a day for 5 days.

Beyond intubation rates the trial is also measuring overall length of ICU stay, hospital mortality and long-term quality of life at 2 and 6 months.

I hope you join me in wishing all my colleagues good luck going forwards with the trial.

Megan Boyle



Participants randomised to PANDA!

Thank you to all our participants, and to our research teams for their hard work and dedication to the study – we couldn't do it without you!
A huge CONGRATULATIONS to Ormskirk District General Hospital for recruiting the 3,500th participant!



Congratulations to MWL research team who recruited 4 participants between 2nd March and 5th April and therefore won the SMART Easter competition!

This research project involves two parallel studies to develop a tool to assess the risk of stroke for patients presenting with symptoms which could be caused by both Transient Ischaemic Stroke (TIA) and migraine.



Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust



Thanks to the team at Ormskirk and Southport, we have been able to restart recruitment to the BSTOP study.

The purpose of this study is to identify genetic or other markers (biomarkers) that will enable us to give the right medicine, to the right patient at the right time. We will investigate genes, and how they are expressed and 'translated' into actions within the body.

Thank you once again for your dedication to the study. We are delighted to have your site actively recruiting again and look forward to celebrating many more milestones together.

- BSTOP Study Team



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

BEhaviour change for People with clinically diagnosed Knee Osteoarthritis: Clinical trial (BEPKO-3)

Congratulations to Olly and the physio team at Ormskirk Hospital for BEPKO-3 for being the top recruiter for the months May and June!

This new form of physiotherapy aims to teach patients how to stand and move with less muscle tension in their knees and throughout their body. It also teaches patients to change the way they think about and react to pain.

The study team have invited NHS patients with a diagnosis of knee osteoarthritis, along with NHS physiotherapists who have been trained to deliver this new treatment, to take part in this study.



Congratulations to Mika (Project Support Officer) for completing an abseil at Whiston Hospital in July for the Lilac Centre.

"I completed the Abseil for the Lilac Centre, a cause close to my heart as they have helped close family members of mine during treatment. With all the sponsorships we managed to raise over £400 for them – so thank you to everyone that was able to sponsor me!"

Principal Investigator Pipeline Programme

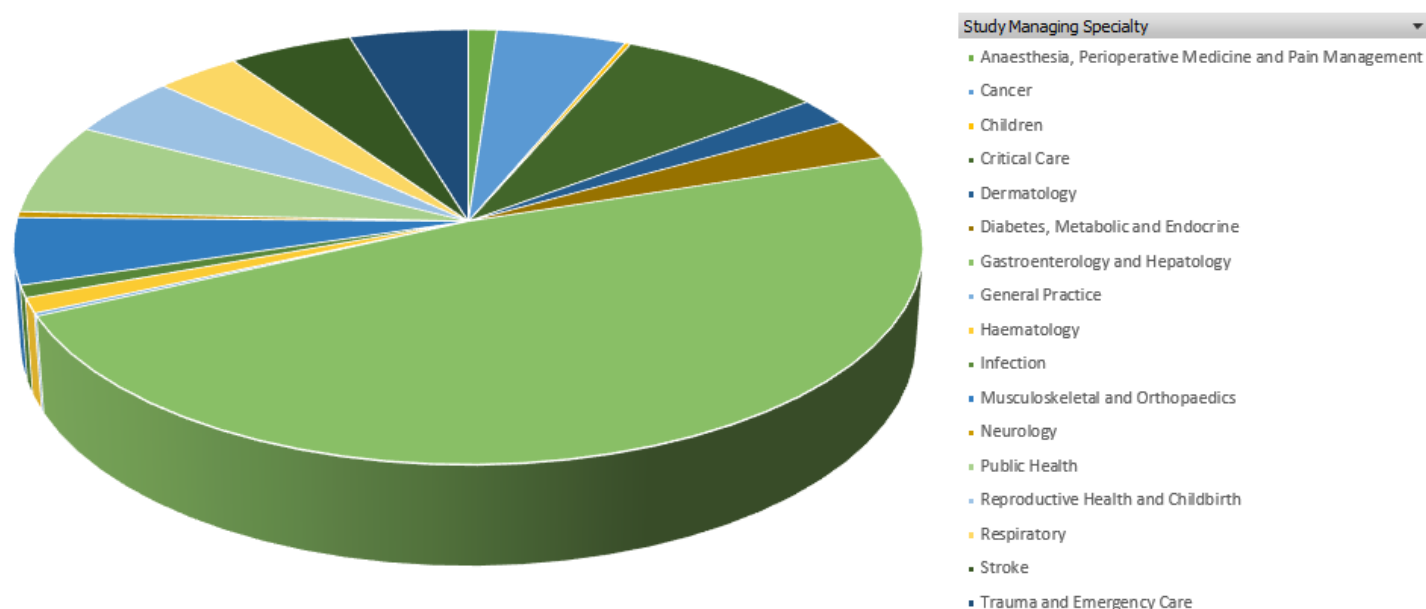
Zoe Grindley
Clinical Research Midwife

Our Clinical Research Midwife at Whiston has been accepted onto the Principal Investigator Pipeline Programme. Congratulations Zoe!

The Principal Investigator Pipeline Programme (PIPP) is a 12-18-month programme providing theoretical learning and practical experience for research delivery staff to develop as principal investigators (PIs). It is designed for health and care professionals who want to develop their leadership skills and confidence as PIs.

Recruitment Figures by Speciality for MWL

Recruitment by speciality from 01/04/2026—28/07/2026 with a grand total of 445 participants so far!



Anaesthesia, Perioperative Medicine and Pain Management	5
Cancer	23
Children	1
Critical Care	37
Dermatology	9
Diabetes, Metabolic and Endocrine	14
Gastroenterology and Hepatology	214
General Practice	1
Haematology	5
Infection	4
Musculoskeletal and Orthopaedics	22
Neurology	2
Public Health	30
Reproductive Health and Childbirth	20
Respiratory	15
Stroke	22
Trauma and Emergency Care	21
Grand Total	445

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



**Mersey and West Lancashire
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NHS Trust

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