

Winter, 2024

Research Newsletter

NHS

**Mersey and West Lancashire
Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Trust

NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research



Why take part in research?

We can make faster improvements to people's health and care if more people take part in research. There are a range of reasons that people choose to participate in research:

- To improve health and social care for others, as well as giving hope for future generations
 - To learn more about their condition
 - To try a new treatment or device
- To be more closely and regularly monitored by health and care professionals

[How to take part \(nihr.ac.uk\)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk)



Marshalls Cross Medical Centre Research Hub Opened 30th August 2024



A new research hub based in Marshalls Cross Medical Centre at St Helens Hospital will be a huge boost for the Trust.

The Primary Care Research Hub, which was officially opened by Chief Executive Ann Marr, will play a crucial role in enhancing research engagement and capacity in the organisation.

It will also support the health needs of the local population after being chosen as one of two pioneering sites in St Helens to receive significant investment aimed at advancing and delivering high-quality research while improving engagement in research activities.

Professor Greg Irving, a GP based at Marshalls Cross Medical Centre, was a driving force behind the development of the new hub which will aim to promote high-quality research across health and social care disciplines, recruit people into studies who have not always been given the opportunity and provide a valuable meeting space to support co-production of research with local patients.

He said:

“Thanks to the incredible commitment of all the staff here Marshalls Cross has earned its reputation as a leading site for research in the region. We were one of the top recruiting sites for the Panoramic trials during the COVID-19 pandemic and have been at the forefront of initiatives like the Deep End Cheshire and Mersey Project, which focuses on addressing health inequalities in the region through research.

“The hub is incredibly important as it allow us to increase not only the amount of research we can do but the breadth of the studies we undertake as well, allowing us to do types of studies that we haven’t been able to do before.”

Ann Marr said:

“To have this new centre is a huge accolade for everyone here and all our staff should feel very, very proud.

“This is an exciting new development which will benefit the local area and beyond and it is nice to see something so ground-breaking.

“As a Trust we are not just focused on treating people who come into hospital, we are interested in health promotion and how we can help prevent illnesses in the long term and this centre is perfectly placed to do that.

“I have no doubt that as we move forward from today, we will see more and more exciting work being developed with research that makes a real difference to patient care.”

New Research Clinic Room Opened 18th September 2024



After some refurbishment on the 18th September 2024, The Research Hub at Whiston Hospital opened a new larger research clinic room.

Medical Director, Dr Peter Williams who cut the ribbon said:

“Our research teams deliver some great work and with the new hubs that have also recently opened at Ormskirk Hospital and Marshalls Cross Medical Centre, I’m sure we will continue to go from strength to strength.”

In the same week the team at Whiston Hospital also welcomed the first patient to the bright and spacious clinic. Michael Harrison, who is taking part in a study for a new treatment which aims to reduce blood pressure for patients living with uncontrolled hypertension, explained how it has impacted his life.

This study has given Michael new hope for future treatments, and many more living with the condition. He said: “I’m hoping this research will help reduce the amount of people suffering with high blood pressure, it’s great that I get to be a part of that.”

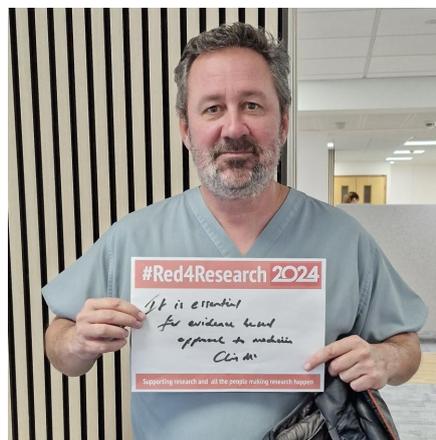
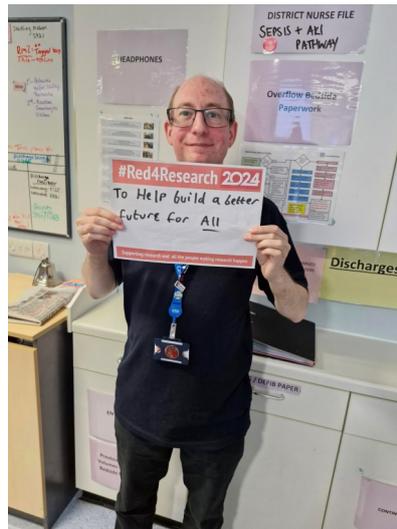
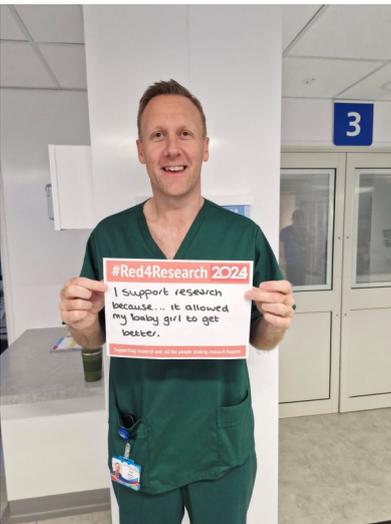
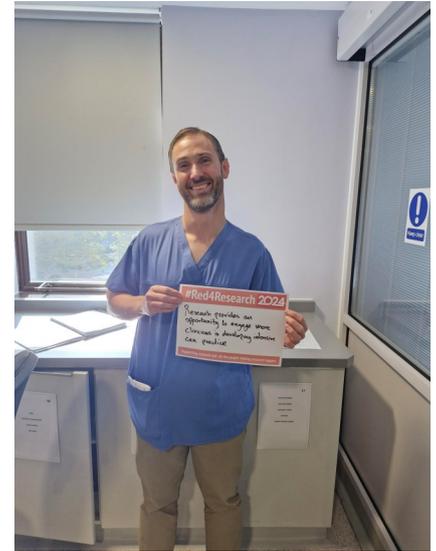
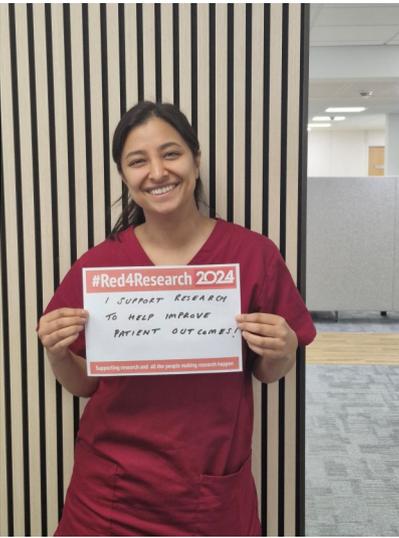


New Development for Research

In November 2024 two Consultants at MWL were notified that they had been successful in securing Specialty Lead positions with the new North West RRDN. Dr Ascanio Tridente has been appointed as the Specialty Lead for Critical Care, and Dr May Ng the Specialty Lead for Paediatrics. This is excellent news for the Trust, they will provide leadership, advice and support research delivery and they will also be a vital link between the regional, geographically based networks.

Red 4 Research 2024

A celebration of why we do research



Achievements & Recruitment

MelMarT-II Top recruiter for the study



SITE	OPENED	TOTAL RECRUITS	2024 RECRUITS
Mersey & West Lancs	08Sep21	87	11

ROSETA Recruiter of the month



Huge congratulations to
Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Who recruited **8 participants** in **OCTOBER**, making them the **recruiter of the month!**

Refining and Optimising a behavioural intervention to Support Endocrine Therapy Adherence

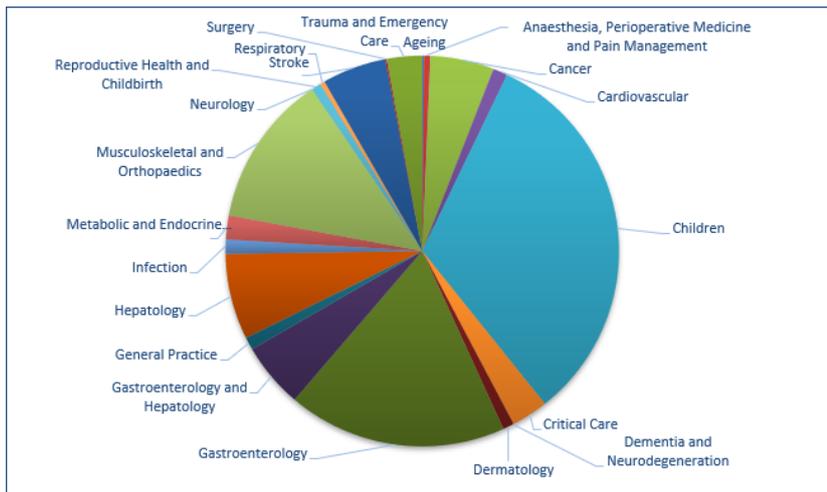
Gentafoil 1st UK patient to commercial study

A Post approval study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Gentafoil resorb for the prevention of tissue adhesions.

We are thrilled to announce that the Whiston site randomised their first patient to a hypertension commercial study

Across MWL there were 760 confirmed participants recruited to 50 studies during April—December

Participants were recruited to studies in the following NIHR specialties:



And to the design types:

85% of participants were recruited to observational studies

11% of participants recruited to Interventional studies

88% of participants were recruited to a non-randomised study

12% of participants were recruited to a randomised study

RAPID RESCUE



Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a common lung condition that causes breathing difficulties. COPD occurs when the lungs become inflamed and damaged. People living with COPD are also prone to 'exacerbations' which are a worsening or flare up of symptoms, in many cases caused by a chest infection.

There are many treatments that can reduce the risk of COPD exacerbations, but none of these work completely. Earlier treatment with antibiotics and/or corticosteroids (a 'rescue pack') as an exacerbation starts can speed up recovery and lead to a reduced chance of needing hospital admissions.

We are investigating whether rescue packs on discharge from hospital, in addition to a supported management plan, will reduce readmissions compared to usual care.

[Understanding corridor care in UK emergency departments: A prospective observational cohort study of current practice](#)

UNCORKED

The UNCORKED study aims to understand how temporary escalation areas (where patients are cared for when the usual cubicle spaces are full) are used within the Emergency Department (ED). This study does not involve any changes to the tests or treatment that are carried out and involves no extra questions other than those that your doctor will ask you routinely. We are not seeking written consent for this study because it involves no change to your clinical assessment or care. This research aims to describe how many patients experience care in temporary escalation areas, describe which types of patients experience this care and how long they spend in these areas and describe how these areas are used. Through this we hope to begin to understand if being cared for in a temporary escalation area has any impact on the care delivered.

PLUMB study (Pneumothorax after Lung Biopsy: Understanding the Management Basis)

A collapsed lung, known as pneumothorax, is a collection of air between the lung and chest wall due to a hole in the lung. Pneumothorax can occur due to a variety of causes. It is the most common complication after lung biopsy, affecting around 26-60% of patients. However, there is limited data on the management of pneumothorax after lung biopsy.

This study aims to collect clinical data of patients who developed collapsed lung after lung biopsy to understand the current management in different hospitals across the UK.

SELF BREATHE



Research has shown that Breathlessness clinics, which focus on non – drug ways to self-manage breathlessness have been shown to improve patient's ability to cope with their breathlessness, improving their quality of life. Alternative ways of providing patients access to these breathlessness treatments are needed. The internet provides a potential way by which patients could access these treatments. SELF-BREATHE is an online breathlessness self-management programme that has been developed alongside people living with breathlessness due to advanced disease. Due to open Feb 2025.

The following are quotes from patients taking part in research at Whiston Hospital, it is wonderful to know that patients are benefiting from taking part in research at MWL.

“Thank you so much for calling me and asking me to be part of this trial, I am so happy its working 6 months ago I was miserable not knowing what to do next as nothing seemed to be working. Thank you so much”. (patient taking part in an ulcerative colitis study)

“Thank you so much for everything and all the support you have given me throughout the clinical trial. This trial has given me my life back, I will be forever grateful” (patient taking part in an IBS study)

Feedback from Sponsors

Email from the sponsors of a Breast cancer study taking place at St Helens Hospital:

This morning, we received a Quality of Life questionnaire from one of the patients being treated at St Helens, where they commented very positively regarding the treatment and care they had received, stating it had been “extremely good”.

Email from the sponsors of a Diabetic study who conducted a monitoring visit at St Helens Hospital:

There are no Outstanding Action identified, which is reflected in your monitoring report. It is very unusual to monitor and not find any actions, so I wanted to share what an impressive job you have done, credit to you.

For your opportunity to give feedback, please contact us on the back page or ask your research nurse!



Equity in Doctoral Education through Partnership and Innovation

Committed to tackling persistent inequalities in healthcare and education.



The EDEPI PhD programme has been created to enable NHS staff from racially minoritised groups to set a new research agenda relevant to their experiences. PhD study is not only a chance to undertake important research with the potential for real-world change, but an opportunity for unique professional development that can advance your career. Diversity in leadership is crucial for the future of the NHS, particularly in light of the need to implement the NHS Long-Term Plan, which promotes greater staff diversity at all levels, and expresses the need for transformational change across health services.

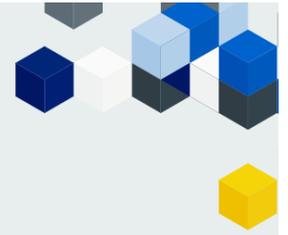
By creating these specialised PhD opportunities, the EDEPI project hopes to begin dismantling processes, policies, and unconscious biases within both the research sector and the NHS, that have harmed and hindered staff and patients from racially minoritised groups. The purpose of the project is to bring marginalised voices and perspectives to the forefront, illuminating areas of knowledge where gaps have been identified with diverse perspectives. By embracing equity, we work to build a better future for everyone, starting with you.

To get you started on your journey into research, the EDEPI team have created an [online e-learning module](#) for staff interested in part-time research opportunities. There is also a [module for line managers of prospective researchers](#), to provide further information on the programme and how it works.

Once the introductory e-learning module has been completed, prospective research candidates can book on to our 2024 workshops taking place on the following dates:

6th February: 1pm – 3pm (online)
27th March: 12pm – 4pm (in-person)

For queries regarding the programme, please contact EDEPI@ljamu.ac.uk



North West Secure Data Environment

The North West Secure Data Environment (SDE) will provide secure access to data and a range of services to accelerate research and innovation leading to improved patient care. It is part of NHS England's Data for Research and Development Programme and is a member of the NHS Research Secure Data Environment Network.

The Secure Data Environment and Its Benefits for NHS Researchers

A Secure Data Environment (SDE) is a vital tool for the NHS, ensuring secure, privacy-compliant access to sensitive health data. These environments enable researchers to analyse data without duplication or transfer, maintaining the highest standards of confidentiality and meeting UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements. Key features include robust encryption, multifactor authentication, and stringent access controls of de-identified data to protect patient privacy while maximizing data utility.

For researchers, SDEs streamline access to high-quality datasets, such as electronic health records and genomic data, which are invaluable for studying diseases, assessing interventions, and improving patient care. SDEs foster secure collaboration, allowing teams from various institutions to analyse large datasets collectively. They also simplify regulatory compliance by adhering to strict governance processes and approvals, such as those from the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) and HRA REC.

In the North West of England, three Integrated Care Boards—Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside, and Lancashire and South Cumbria—have established a federated SDE. This regional initiative supports cross-boundary collaboration, enabling secure and innovative health research. By leveraging SDEs, the NHS empowers researchers to drive innovation, improve outcomes, and uphold public trust, creating a safer, more efficient, and data-driven healthcare system.

Michelle Stephens

Research Governance Lead, Lancashire and South Cumbria SDE

Contact details

To find out more about the North West Secure Data Environment, email the team at nw.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk, dataintoaction@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk or lsc.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk



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