



Royal Papworth Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Overview of the Research & Development Directorate

Quarter 2 (Jul - Sep) 2024-25

Dr Paddy Calvert & Vikki Hughes



Executive summary



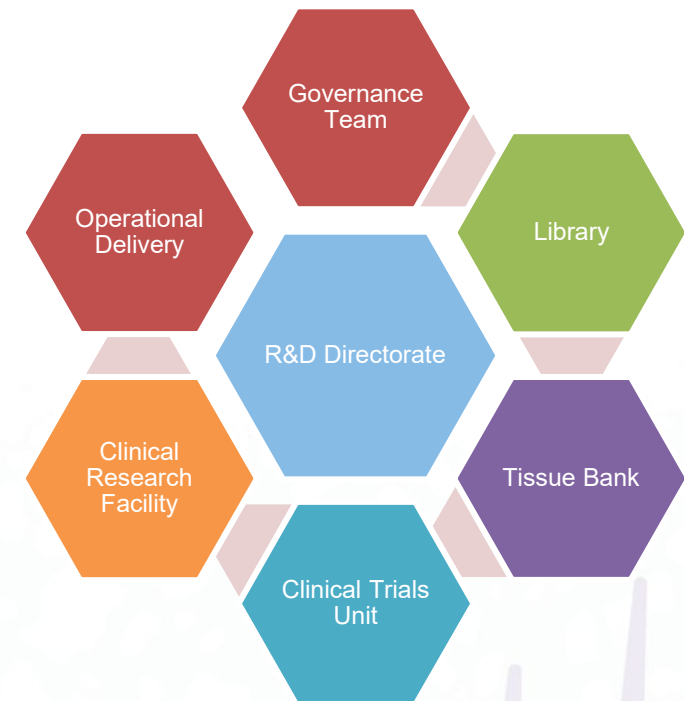
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1. Investment in People and Diversity Five Year Targets

- In March 2024, R&D were successful in getting a £30K grant to look at how to increase diversity in patients taking part in research at RPH. This was really successful, and a follow-on grant has been submitted.
- Project underway to collate baseline information on research activity of non-medics within the Trust and to identify areas of good practice.
- The latest round of the Innovation Fund was very popular with 22 applications received and 7 receiving funding (including 2 non-clinical projects).

2. Tissue Bank Five Year Target

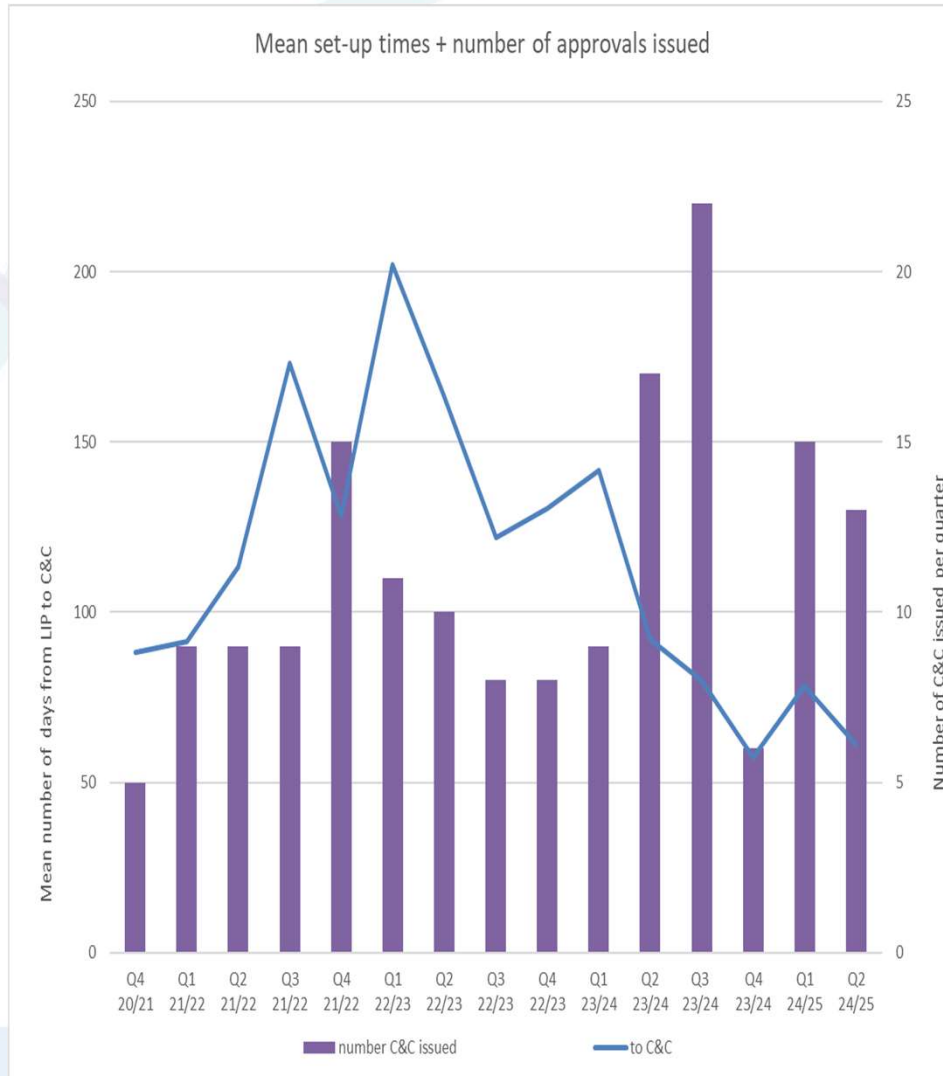
- The Tissue Bank has now relocated from the JCBC to the HLRI. Approval has been granted to relocate the freezers from the off-site facility to the HLRI (in December 2024).
- The ethics approval has been renewed for a further 5 years and amended so that researchers can apply for data only



Spotlight – Research Governance (slide 1 of 2)



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The mean number of days to studies getting Trust C&C has been consistently less than 100 days for the last 12 months (down from a maximum of 202 days at the beginning of 2022/23).

New metrics (still to be formally published) will be 60 days for commercial studies.

The number of studies being approved has steadily increased over the past 12 months. The appointment of 2 new Governance posts in December 2023 and January 2024 is having a sustained impact.



Spotlight – Research Governance (slide 2 of 2)

Aim: to reduce the mean time from site selected to issuing C&C to 60 days (down from a peak of 202 days at the beginning of 2022/23) with a further 25% reduction by the end of year 5.

Actions completed:

- 1) Appointment of an additional band 6 Research Governance Co-ordinator – appointed started Feb 2024
- 2) Funding has been identified to appoint a Research Governance Facilitator to support the set-up of studies going through the HLRI CRF. The post holder started in December 2023.

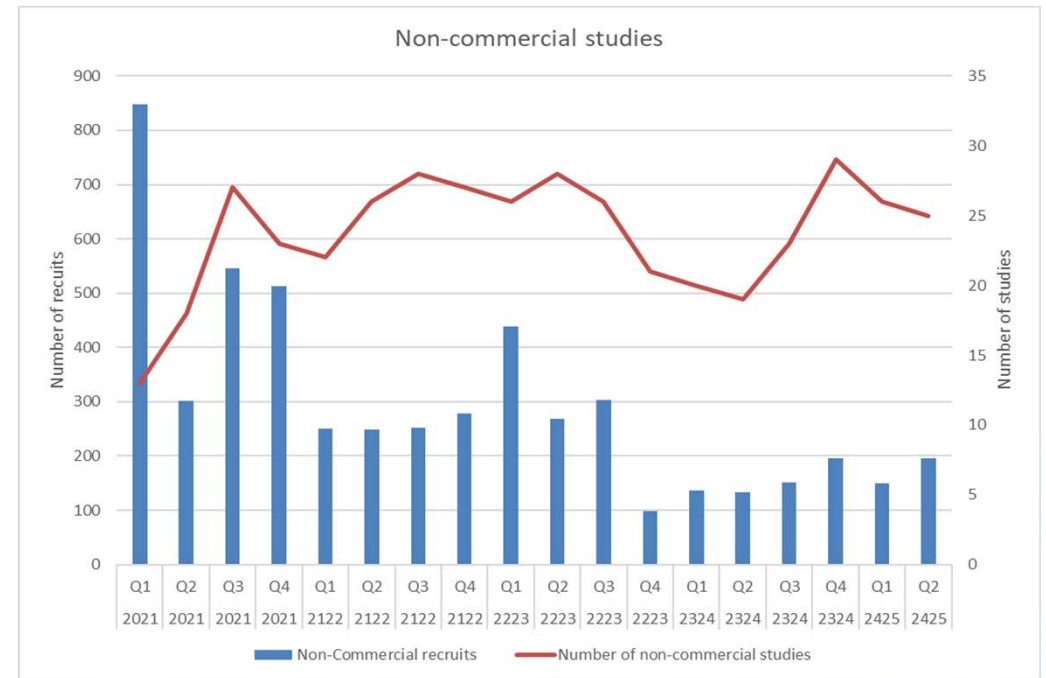
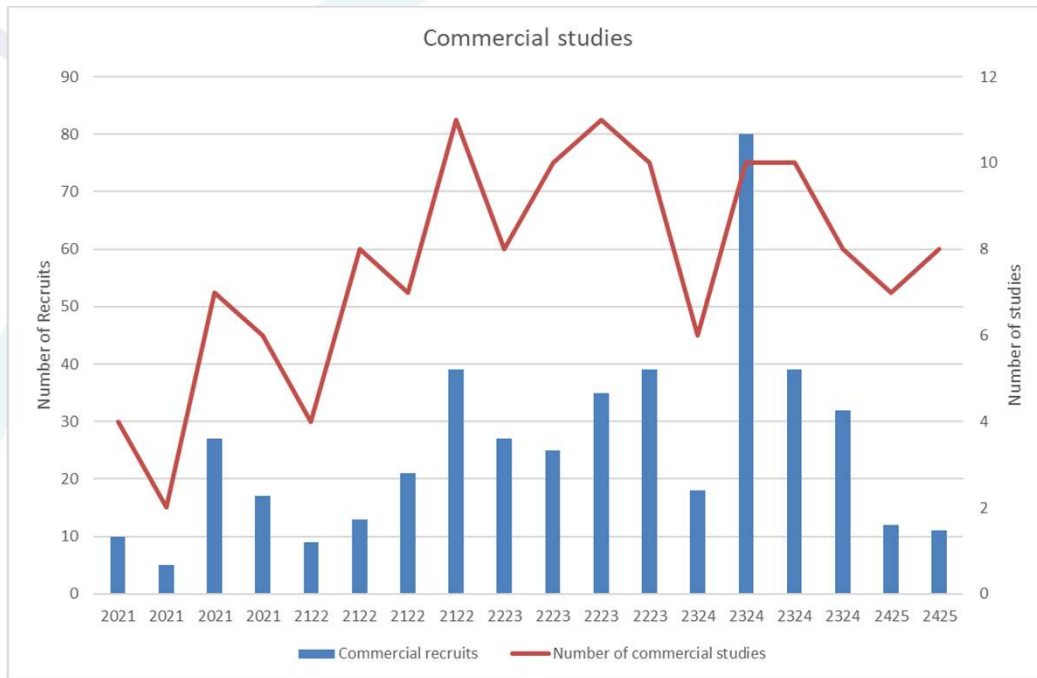
Actions underway:

- 1) Additional support for Pharmacy – funding for an additional part-time Clinical Trials Pharmacist was identified from R&D funds and an application for further funding from the CRN to support this post was successful. Post has been filled and they started at the end of June 2023. A request for further funding has been successful to enable this post to continue for another 3 years as well as funding to appoint a Band 6 Specialist Clinical Trials Pharmacy Technician (due to start early 2025).

Patient Recruitment



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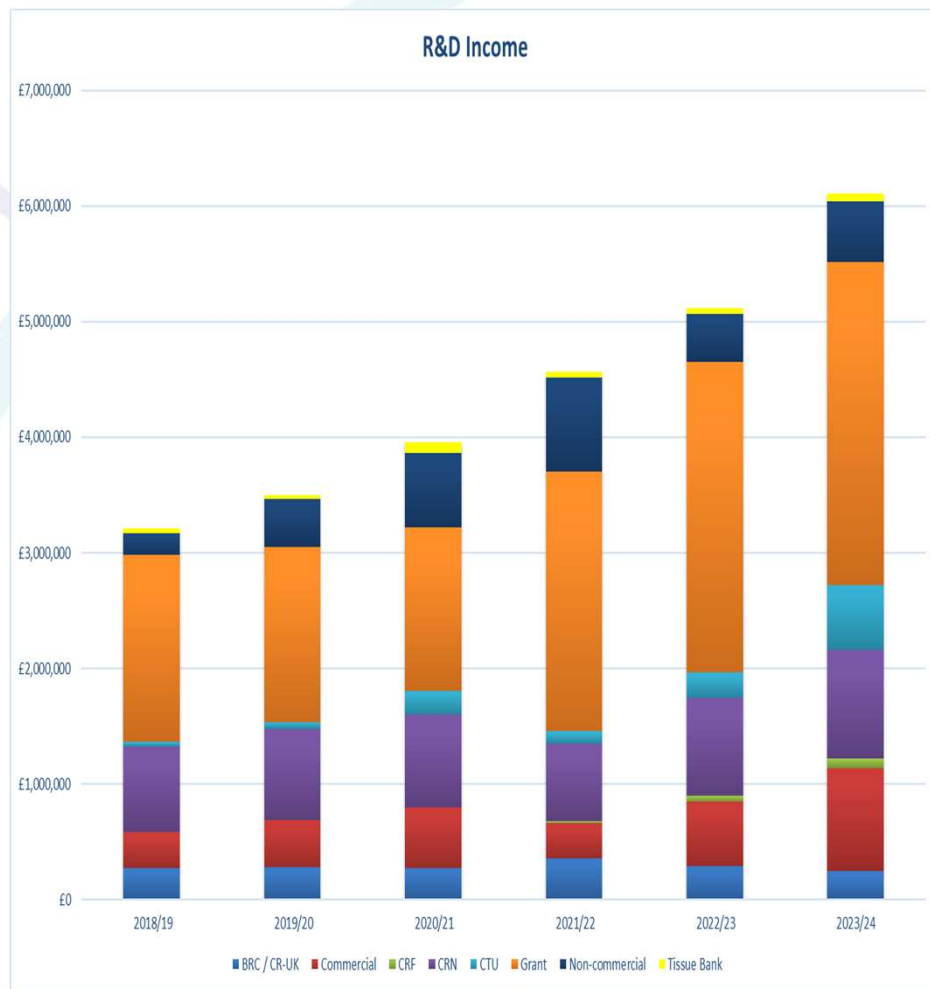
Recruitment for commercial studies continue be steady despite the increasing complexity and we continue to have UK and Global firsts for recruitment into commercial studies.

The recruitment for numbers for non-commercial studies are lower this year, but this is due to an increase in complexity of the studies we are running (which is reflected in the income – see next slide)

R&D Income



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R&D income over the previous 5 years is shown split into the various categories.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
BRC / CR-UK	£275,041	£282,501	£271,788	£353,262	£287,084	£243,910
Commercial	£310,120	£407,837	£526,699	£307,273	£559,714	£888,681
CRF				£17,210	£51,632	£91,502
CRN	£734,623	£785,757	£805,600	£672,355	£846,861	£940,709
CTU	£41,846	£61,132	£203,696	£105,811	£219,164	£558,020
Grant	£1,618,310	£1,513,975	£1,412,472	£2,243,643	£2,685,365	£2,795,184
Non-commercial	£187,074	£418,679	£643,222	£812,781	£417,882	£522,784
Tissue Bank	£45,218	£28,444	£91,029	£55,150	£49,368	£70,626

Tissue Bank



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- 1) The ethics approval has been renewed for a further 5 years and amended so that researchers can apply for data only (previously researchers needed matched samples). It is hoped that this may attract additional requests for Tissue Bank support for projects.
- 2) The Tissue Bank has now relocated from the JCBC to the HLRI, all risk assessments have been completed and the Visitors agreements are in place. Work was able to restart in August 2024. The costing model has been updated to ensure HLRI investigators get a reduced rate (in the same manner as BRC investigators).
- 3) Approval has been given to relocate the freezers from the off-site facility to the HLRI. Move took place on the 12th December 2024.



Collaboration with Campus Partners

1) VPD HLRI Clinical Research Facility

The Clinical Research facility in the CPD HLRI is supported by an NIHR Infrastructure Grant gained in collaboration with CUH. The grant provides funding for staff within the VPD HLRI CRF, as well as access to the Scientific Advisory Board and support from the CUH CRF (CCRC). RPH provided members to sit on the SAB.

2) Access to the Cell and Gene Therapy committee for research studies

CUH are providing access to their Cell and Gene Therapy Committee for RPH studies which require risk assessment and review. RPH provided members to sit on the group.

3) West Anglia Commercial Research Delivery Centre

CUH, RPH and CPFT collaborated to write a bid for funding an NIHR Commercial Research Delivery Centre to be co-directed by Pippa Corrie and Robert Rintoul. Unfortunately the application is unsuccessful.

4) Healthtech Research Centre

RPH is a collaborator in a recent successful bid to become a Healthtech Research Centre, hosted by CUH. Dr I Smith is a named collaborator on the bid which provides funding for statistical support from RPH as the potential for studies to use the RPH Clinical Trials Unit.

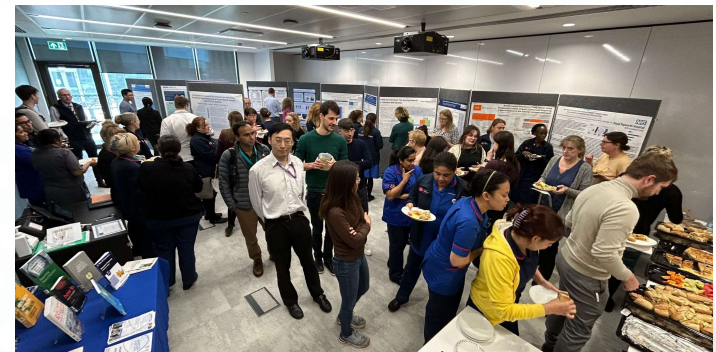
Investment in People & Diversity (Slide 1 of 3)

Diversity in research

On Monday 29 April, members of the EDI network, R&D, Dr Patrick Calvert, and Chair Dr Jag Ahluwalia met to discuss understanding barriers to communities becoming involved in research and how we can make research more accessible.

It was inspiring to see active engagement and valuable perspectives shared.

Together, we have developed actions moving forward and we set up a working group.



Investment in People & Diversity (Slide 2 of 3)



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Following on from the workshop, we secured a further £30,000 from the CRN from their Promoting Access to Research: Inclusive Trial Opportunity (PARITY) funding stream. This work will be ongoing until the end of September 2024.

We have 4 workstreams running:

1 - Develop and establish a staff working group with the focus of EDI and inclusivity in research

We have appointed someone on bank to have conversations with staff about barriers to research within their different community groups. This will culminate in a follow-up workshop and a plan on how we can address the barriers moving forwards to promote access to research in hard to reach groups. There is a parallel workstream looking at barriers to research for people with neurodiversity.

2 - Follow up on patients who have chosen not to participate in research

Screening logs of current research studies are being reviewed to see if trends can be identified with regard to reasons for declining taking part in research studies. There is also a patient experience questionnaire being created, and a dedicated member of staff will approach patients to see if they would be willing to talk about their views on research.

3 - Language barriers and translation services

Funding has been provided for translation services to see if this will help access to research for people for whom English is not their first language and also for patients who are blind or deaf.

4 - Producing Easy Read information guides for Papworth Sponsored Studies

A local company (Thinklusive) has been commissioned to produce easy read guides for 2 current Papworth Sponsored multi-centred studies. This should help improve accessibility and understanding for potential participants and potentially result in increased recruitment.

Investment in People & Diversity (Slide 3 of 3)



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Championing diversity in health research

On Friday 4 October, we hosted a workshop that spotlighted the underrepresentation of ethnic minorities in research and tackled the barriers hindering their participation in studies. There were compelling presentations from Onika Patrick-Redhead, Dr. Martin Besser, Dr. Nicole Asemota, Vikki Hughes, Josevine McClean, Helen Mulcahy and Elani Gale.

Additionally, the Black Thrive Haringey joined us, shedding light on the inequalities that Black individuals face throughout their lives, which detrimentally impact their mental health and well-being. We enjoyed a wonderful selection of Guyanese and Caribbean food, along with an assortment of sandwiches, fruit, and desserts. Over 50 people attended the event.

Following this event we were invited to attend a Health and Wellbeing event at Cambridge Central Mosque where we spoke to lots of people about the importance of research in a healthcare setting.



Delivering against the Trust Strategy



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As part of the Trust Strategy there are some of the following aims:

Foster a research environment that encourages all staff groups to participate in and lead research activities

Progress: We set-up a Non-medic Research Steering Group in 2023. This identified a lack of baseline metrics to measure at research activity. A nurse and AHP have been appointed to carry out a short term project to gather research activity across the Trust for all Clinical Practitioners. They will also identify areas of good practice and

A 50:50 Respiratory Physiologist has been appointed with funding from the VPD-HLRI CRF, who is supporting Research Delivery across the CRF and R&D as well as working with Respiratory Physiology to increase research in the department. A research & education lead is to be appointed in ECHO, partly supported by the CRF (job description currently being reviewed).

The Non-Medics Research Steering Group put in an application to the recent Charity Education call to fund 3 Chief Nurse Internships (open to all Clinical Practitioners) to be run in conjunction with CUH (called for an interview – September 2024)

The recent Innovation Fund application included a call for non-clinical projects.

Develop closer links between research and education

R&D and Education meet quarterly to develop strategies for working more closely. We are now running some joint Clinical Educators Forums.



RPH Innovation Fund

The RPH Innovation fund has been running since 2021 funded by Royal Papworth Charity and managed and run by the R&D Department.

The latest round in 2024 has just closed to applicants and a record 22 people have applied for funding. Of these 7 applications were funded, 2 for non-clinical projects. 5 out of 7 successful projects were led by non-medics.

Year	Number applied	Total number funded	Number of non-medics funded	Funding allocated
2021	11	5	1	£230,928
2022	4	2	0	£93,691
2023	7	3	1	£32,093
2024	22	7	5	£182,276