

Research and Development

Autumn 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Royal Papworth R&D Newsletter.

Please circulate this to colleagues who may be interested in receiving it. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list please email [Leanne Hurren](mailto:Leanne.Hurren@papworth.nhs.uk)

COVID-19 Research

We continue to deliver a Covid19 research programme to improve our knowledge of the disease and develop effective treatments.

The Covid19 portfolio includes Urgent Public Health Studies and a range of observational studies and interventional trials, including the RECOVERY and HEALCOVID trials which provide our patients with the opportunity to access additional treatment options.

Twelve trials and studies are currently open to recruitment and three studies are in the follow up stage - over 2050 patients and staff have been recruited to date!

Royal Papworth Hospital staff have so far authored or contributed to more than 75 research publications on Covid19 ([view the full list here](#))



Thank you to staff participating in the HICC and SIREN studies investigating immune response and vaccine effectiveness.

Please do continue attending your clinic appointments – your contribution is invaluable!

Humoral Immune Correlates of COVID-19 (HICC Study)

For the past 18 months Royal Papworth Hospital has been leading on a national project called Humoral Immune Correlates of COVID-19 (HICC Study). RPH are collaborating on this study with the University of Cambridge, along with a wider team of scientists (the HICC Consortium) and have been awarded a grant of £1.5 million from the NIHR. This study aims to understand the antibody response in COVID-19 disease in two groups of people: NHS workers and COVID-19 patients. Participants undergo one year of regular blood tests, swabs and questionnaires.

To date 556 members of staff from Royal Papworth Hospital have enrolled in the study along with 403 patients from NHS Trusts around the country! To read more about this study and the recent developments visit the [latest news section](#) on our website.

Papworth Trials Unit Collaboration (PTUC)– Latest News



Nasal Oxygen Therapy After Cardiac Surgery (NOTACS)

The NOTACS study is a multicentre randomised controlled trial investigating the effect of administering High-Flow Nasal Therapy (HFNT) to patients that are at high risk of postoperative pulmonary complications after cardiac surgery.

The study is an NIHR HTA funded study and is the result of a successful pilot study conducted at Royal Papworth Hospital. The study is currently recruiting at 3 sites in the UK and there are plans to open an additional 7-9 sites in the UK, 8 sites in Australia and 1 site in New Zealand. **Go to our website to read more about the study.**



QUACS reaches 1,500 milestone!

The Quality of Life After Cardia Surgery study (QUACS) is sponsored by Royal Papworth Hospital and now has 28 sites across the UK recruiting patients to this important study.

In November this year we passed 1,700 recruits and are looking forward to continuing to add more recruits who are helping improve our understanding of quality of life after surgery.

*****A big well done to the team at Papworth who were the first site to recruit 250 patients!*****

Effective Treatments for Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms (ETTAA): A prospective cohort study

There are currently two main methods of repair for arch/descending Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms: *Open Surgical Repair* (OSR) and *Endovascular Stent Grafting* (ESG). ETTAA researchers conducted a systematic review of the published literature and found that there was limited and increasingly dated evidence available comparing ESG and OSR for treatment of arch/descending TAA [[You can read the results of the systematic review here](#)].

There was insufficient information to design a clinical trial comparing treatments for Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms so the ETTAA prospective cohort study was designed and conducted to investigate aneurysm growth rates, monitor patient outcomes and collect information regarding NHS costs.

You can read more about ETTAA in the [lay summaries](#) section of our website.



NOMAB

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and [Thirty Respiratory \("30 Technology"\)](#) have just started a Phase II clinical trial of a nebulised nitric oxide generating solution (RESP301) to treat chronic infection with Mycobacterium abscessus in patients with cystic fibrosis. You can read more about this trial, called NOMAB, on our [website](#).

*****Congratulations to the team for recruiting the first patient in November!*****

Rituximab in patients with acute ST-elevation Myocardial Infarction: an experimental medicine safety study (RITA –MI)

RITA-MI aims to develop of a novel therapeutic concept to target the immune response in patients with acute myocardial infarction (MI) by depleting B-cells with a single injection of Rituximab which is approved for clinical use in cancer, autoimmune disease and inflammatory conditions. The goal is to re-purpose the drug, and translate the discovery into benefit for patients at high risk of cardiovascular events.

The data from this first trial has provided the pilot data for a successful EU grant application to conduct a multi-national randomised controlled trail using a single dose of Rituximab to assess efficacy, which will begin later this year.

To learn more about the trial read [Saji's article on our website](#).
[View the RITA-MI publication here](#).



Saji Victor, Senior Research Nurse for RITA-MI study

Study Achievements



Cardiovascular Acoustics and an Intelligent Stethoscope (CAIS) – 100th patient!

This study is directed at patients with suspected valve disease or congenital heart disease who have been referred for an echo as part of their routine care. The primary objective of the clinical study is to collect heart sounds recordings and develop an artificial intelligence software capable of analysing heart sounds and automatically providing an early diagnosis of a variety of sound-producing heart diseases (congenital heart diseases and valvar heart diseases) at an early stage.

In June 2021 Fatima Hajee, Senior Cardiology Research Nurse, recruited the 100th patient to the study!

A huge well done to the SPORT team who recently recruited the 200th patient to the study, with the Papworth Thoracic Oncology team recruiting, and the lab team processing, a whopping 154 of those!

Well done to the teams on the following studies for recruiting their first patients:

BOSTON 2

NOVARTIS

CANAL TREVI

OSIRIS

ITACS

OWLSTONE in CF

BPA IN CTEPH

HEAL-COVID

Congratulations!!

As a Trust we are thrilled to announce that Jo Oliveira has been awarded the Pre-Doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowship (PCAF) which is a highly competitive HEE/NIHR award. This is what she has to say about her award....



I am very humbled to have been awarded the PCAF to complete in part-time a MSc in Clinical Research with UEA, complete a systematic review in Cardiac Rehabilitation for patients with Microvascular Angina and prepare an application for the Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship. The PCAF will support the dissemination of my research in national and international conferences, will allow to expand my research network through a variety of placements and to have support from academic and clinical supervisors. Alongside the PCAF, I will continue to develop in my Senior Research Nurse role, setting up and delivering complex CTIMP trials for the Cardiology Team.



Dr Laura Succony and Earl Palas were successful in gaining the Greenshoots award from CRN Eastern. This funding is to support them training to become Principal Investigators. Earl is the first RPH non-medic to gain this funding!





Congratulations to Suzy Deeley, Senior Research Nurse, who has been awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Health Education from Anglia Ruskin University which was supported by the Education Department! Suzy has been a nurse for 39 years and it is the role of teaching and assessing within Nursing that Suzy has always enjoyed being involved in. Over the past few years Suzy has been instrumental in ensuring Multi-disciplinary students have an 'Insight placement' within Research and Development. This placement is pivotal in encouraging future recruitment within the speciality.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in R&D

What PPI support can we provide?

We have 6 patient research ambassadors (PRAs) in R&D.

To find out more about them and what they do please [visit their section on our website](#).

The PPI team can help with the following:

- Document review (including lay summaries, questionnaires, project proposals)
- Focus groups
- Ongoing study involvement – steering groups etc.

It is always best to include PPI in the early stages of the research process and a lot of the work can be done via email. If you would like further information or to discuss a specific project please email papworth.ppi@nhs.net or contact [Leanne Hurren](#)

PPI Training sessions

We are starting to build a library of recorded training sessions on our website. Visit our [latest news](#) page and look for the following:

- 'Why does research take so long'
- 'Study designs in clinical research'
- 'Why does research take so long?'

Lay summaries

One of our PRAS, Marijcke, has kindly been working on some lay summaries of current research projects. The aim is to provide information about the study in a format that is easy to read and understand. These are called '[Research Project Summaries](#)' on our website. Feel free to share them with patients or colleagues that you feel might find the information useful.

Email: papworth.ppi@nhs.net

PI Essentials Live Interactive Training

All training is 09:30-12:30

Dates until the end of March 2022

Who is this training for?

- For staff who are new (up to 18 months) to the role of PI
- For those who are interested in the role of the PI or becoming a more effective PI
- For staff who are new to the role of Co-Principal Investigator or those who will be providing support and guidance for these roles.

Learning objectives:

- Define the PI's responsibilities in leading the conduct of a study at a research site
- Recognise what makes an effective PI and the importance of effective leadership in delivering studies at site
- Understand and reflect on the skills and behaviours required to be an effective PI
- Know how to access support

To apply, visit:

<https://forms.gle/SS1bVjdyj3Cm5rN99>

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<https://royalpapworth.nhs.uk/research-and-development>



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- evidence searches
- research support
- training in study and research skills, and accessing information resources
- books, and much more

Check our [website](#) for all scheduled training sessions.

And don't forget **PapPubs!** [Click here](#) to be added to our mailing list and get Papworth Publications Updates directly into your inbox.

BREAKING NEWS!!!

HICC – keep an eye out over the next few months for a talk on some of the results coming out of this study!

A **Research Steering Group** is being set-up to promote research in nonmedical professionals – contact [Vikki Hughes](#) for further information.

If you have any comments or suggestions about R&D please complete our [anonymous survey here](#)