

Research and Development

Winter 2024 newsletter

Season's greetings from the Director of Research and Development

“Huge thanks to all for working tirelessly to promote and deliver research at RPH in 2024. Your dedication and hard work are very much appreciated and there is much to celebrate with many major successes for R&D. We hope that you have a peaceful Christmas Holiday and come back rejuvenated for an exciting 2025. Merry Christmas to all!”



Dr Patrick Calvert

Welcome to Winter edition of the Royal Papworth Hospital 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 [Katrina Hobson-Frohock](mailto:Katrina.Hobson-Frohock@nhs.uk).

Achievements

**Global first for Royal Papworth
First two patients recruited to new
international heart surgery trial that could
reduce blood loss**

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has become the first centre globally to recruit to a new groundbreaking international research study for patients who are undergoing complex cardiac surgery and are at a higher risk of bleeding.

The study, led locally by consultant anaesthetist Dr Andrew Klein, will assess the efficacy and safety of an experimental study drug, called fibrinogen concentrate in the management of bleeding in patients undergoing complex cardiac surgery and whether it reduces the need for blood products (red blood cells, platelets and plasma) transfusion after surgery.



Transplant games 2024

Ron Flewett one of our longest serving Patient Research Ambassadors underwent a double lung transplant in May 2023. Ron represented Royal Papworth Hospital in the British Transplant Games in Nottingham, which saw more than 1000 participants compete.

Ron competed in Archery, Table Tennis, Donor walk and won the Bronze medal for Pentaque.

We are so incredibly proud of all you have achieved!



Bronze, silver and gold for Georgia Moule, Clinical Trials Coordinator A busy summer of Championship Wins

In May, Georgia travelled to Porto, Portugal with Team GB to compete in the COMPAK European Championships.

The championship is held over four days totalling 200 targets. She won a bronze medal there and individually was the fourth highest score overall.

In July she travelled to Arras, France to compete in the Grand Prix COMPAK Sporting Classic Challenge. This championship was held over two days totalling 250 targets, where she competed against six different categories and won a gold medal.

On to August, and she competed in the British Open for two disciplines English Sporting where she came fourth and Sportrap where she won silver.

Well done Georgia!

CRN EoE 10 year awards

The NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) East of England helps to increase the opportunities for people to take part in health and social care research. CRN East of England also ensures that studies are carried out efficiently, and supports the Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences by improving the environment for commercial contract clinical research in the NHS and social care across East Anglia.

On Wednesday 19 June Kitty and Lauren attended the CRN research awards at The Maltings in Ely. The celebration provided a unique opportunity to commemorate and reflect on our community's exceptional efforts in delivering health and care research since the Network's launch in 2014.

Kitty and Lauren were presented with a wonderful plaque and certificate for Royal Papworth's contribution to health and care research.



Royal Papworth Staff awards 2024

We held special staff awards ceremony and dinner on Thursday 12 December 2024 at Homerton College in Cambridge.

730 nominations were whittled down to a shortlist of 45 and last night we revealed our 30 highly commended colleagues and 15 winners.

The evening was a chance to say a big 'thank you' to you - our talented and committed staff members and onsite partners, who work so hard to provide an excellent experience for our patients and their families.

Well done to Helen MULCAHY (R&D manager) WINNER of Learning and Development. This award recognises a staff member who has shown an extraordinary commitment to personal and professional development either personally or on behalf of others.

Helen has been instrumental in helping us to achieve our Physio vision -Improving Physio's involvement in Research and Development (R&D) Helen has supported myself and the physio team in developing a Research internship programme to support staff in gaining experience and exposure of R&D pathways and procedure. Allowing staff to develop valuable knowledge and skills so staff feel more confident in their ability to develop research, service improvement and evaluation ideas. Without Helen's enthusiasm, support and guidance the internship would not have been achievable. The positive feedback speaks for itself and is down to Helen- so thank you so much.



Promoting diversity in research and development **An informative stand for staff and visitors**

The R&D team were in the atrium every Thursday and Friday over the summer highlighting the importance of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in research.

At the core of ground breaking research lies a commitment to EDI. By integrating this from the start of your research, we ensure that our research is robust, credible, and truly reflective of the communities it aims to serve.

Raising awareness in the atrium

Here are some of the stands you may have missed recently

Our atrium has been alive with different interactive and awareness raising stands recently, benefitting staff, patients and visitors to our hospital.

The library team were promoting health literacy month, which saw NHS libraries across the country organise events to highlight the wealth of different health literature available to read.

On Friday 1 October our PVDU team marked Pulmonary Hypertension Day by raising awareness of the disease, its treatments and the research that we offer.

October is also lung cancer awareness month. Our lung cancer specialist nurses and other members of the oncology service were breaking down some of the stigmas attached to lung cancer, showing their support for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation and conducting breath tests to educate people on their carbon monoxide levels.



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 are now in the process of setting up a working group.

Thank you to all who came!

Championing diversity in health research

On Friday 4 October, our R&D team hosted a remarkable workshop that spotlighted the underrepresentation of ethnic minorities in research and tackled the barriers hindering their participation in studies.

We were honoured to hear 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.

The workshop was brimming with engagement and insightful contributions.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and participated!



The Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Heart & Lung Research Institute Clinical Research Facility (VPD-HLRI CRF)

New pulmonary fibrosis study opens to recruitment at the VPD-HLRI CRF

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is the most common type of pulmonary fibrosis. IPF is an incurable lung disease in which scars are formed in the lung tissues. It is a devastating condition characterised with increasing breathlessness, disability and death, typically three to four years after diagnosis. It also impacts on mental health, causing problems such as depression and anxiety. It is estimated that around 30,000 people in the UK live with IPF.

The study will test a drug called axatilimab, a monoclonal antibody approved in the United States for the treatment of chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGVHD).

Axatilimab is not approved for use in the UK or EU. The objective of the study is to discover whether Axatilimab is safe, tolerable and effective in patients with IPF. Around 135 patients will be randomised in this Phase IIb trial of Axatilimab. The study will be conducted in approximately 90 centres globally.

Dr Nicky Simler, Respiratory Consultant at Royal Papworth Hospital, is principal investigator. Dr Christine Fiddler and Dr Irfaan Mobein are co-Investigators of this major international study, with involvement from pharmacy, radiology and respiratory physiology.

Research nurse Winnie Marshal and the wider CRF nursing team are supporting recruitment and delivery of the study at Royal Papworth Hospital.



Quality of Life After Cardiac Surgery (QUACS) QUACS Trial Steering Committee result presentation

Nationally, 29 NHS cardiac surgical centres participated in this study, with Royal Papworth serving as the lead centre. A total of 2,948 patients were recruited, with Royal Papworth being the largest individual recruiter, enrolling 438 patients.

On Tuesday 29 October, members of the QUACS Trial Steering Committee (TSC) gathered to present the study results. It was a fantastic day, showcasing the team's hard work throughout the study. There is still further work to be done, and the final results along with a patient feedback event are scheduled for Spring 2025.



IQM (R&D SOP compliance system)

Please use this [link](#) to access the website.

Password resets: You are unable to reset your own password via the website please email papworth.randdiqm@nhs.net to have it reset.

New staff / IQM queries: please email the generic inbox papworth.randdiqm@nhs.net rather than individuals.

GCP/CVs: please email any new or renewed certificates /CVs to

R&D governance: papworth.randdenquiries@nhs.net

Upcoming events

How to write a lay summary

Online event on Wednesday 29 January 10:00 - 11:00

Lay summaries are brief descriptions of research aimed at the general public, particularly those without research or clinical experience. They are important for most research grant applications and can also help engage the wider public with research.

Hosted by Dr Amanda Stranks from Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Book your place [here](#).

Consolidation workshop for the introduction to GCP eLearning

**Next face to face GCP consolidation is Friday 7 February 09:00 - 12:30
room 100 HLRI**

We are running both virtual and face to face workshops designed to consolidate the key learning from the introduction to GCP eLearning.

You must have completed the introduction to GCP eLearning within the past 18 months. The learning objectives for this interactive and engaging workshop, led by qualified GCP facilitators, are:

- Refresh core GCP learning from eLearning
- Explore the feasibility process and its importance
- Demonstrate an assessment of eligibility
- Appreciate the importance of monitoring, audit and inspection
- Explore data quality
- Define the classification of safety events appropriately
- Recognise different sources of safety information
- Give examples of study documents and how to manage these correctly
- Identify local processes which learners need to know

Book via NIHR Learn. If you have any issues booking please contact Helen Mulcahy.

Upcoming events

Clinical research skills course

21, 22 and 23 January 2025 room 89 ground floor, HLRI

The course is aimed at anyone seeking an introductory course on clinical trials, and who is likely to be involved in the design, conduct, management and reporting of clinical trials.

The course will walk you through the process of designing a clinical research project from idea to delivery, using a mix of lectures and group work.

The course will cover:

- Developing an idea
- Applying for a grant
- Patient and patient Involvement
- Clinical data management
- Capacity and capability
- GCP and study delivery
- and much more

There are a limited number of places.

If you would like to attend, you will need to log in to KnowledgeShare with your NHS OpenAthens details to book a place. For more information, please email [Lorraine Gargiulo](mailto:Lorraine.Gargiulo@nhs.uk).

You will be required to attend all three days.