

Research and Development

Research bulletin, September 2019

Safe effective care through research

Shortlist for the Greater Manchester Clinical Research Awards announced

The Greater Manchester Clinical Research Awards are an annual celebration of the wealth of research talent across the Greater Manchester region. Congratulations to go to Yvonne Grimes and Karen Davies, jointly shortlisted for the Research Nurse of the Year Award and to Bev Hammond, shortlisted for the Research Midwife of the Year award. Finalists are invited to a celebration event in Manchester on 7th November 2019 where the overall winners will be announced. We wish Bev, Karen and Yvonne the best of luck.

Helen Thompson receives funding to investigate frozen shoulder



Helen Thompson, Orthopaedic Upper Limb Physiotherapy Practitioner, receiving her BESS award

Helen Thompson, Orthopaedic Upper Limb Physiotherapy Practitioner at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT), has been awarded a Pump Priming Grant by the British Elbow & Shoulder Society (BESS). The grant will enable Helen to undertake a Delphi Survey, a technique used to congregate expert opinion to achieve a group consensus. Helen will collaborate with colleagues at York Clinical Trials Unit and with upper limb orthopaedic consultants and consultant radiologists in the United Kingdom.

Helen will be investigating hydrodilatation, a procedure used to treat frozen shoulder, a painful condition that causes reduced movement of the shoulder joint. The procedure aims to improve the movement of the shoulder joint and decrease pain in the shoulder. Helen hopes to use the survey results to develop shoulder hydrodilatation guidelines, and to inform protocol development for a future clinical trial.

‘The BESS award is a fabulous honour,’ said Helen. ‘We are really delighted to continue with mechanisms for research and our work to benefit patients within ELHT.’

Cathie Melvin joins NIHR 70@70 Research Leader Programme



Clinical Research Development Lead, Cathie Melvin

Cathie Melvin, ELHT Clinical Research Development Lead, has successfully gained a place on the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) 70@70 Senior Nursing & Midwifery Research Leaders Programme. The programme aims to strengthen the research voice of nurses and midwives, recognising that nurses and midwives play a vital role in the delivery of quality clinical care, and that their contribution to developing a research rich environment is essential.

In her new role, Cathie will promote the importance of a vibrant, integrated research culture to improve quality of care and health outcomes, acting as a champion for developing nurse and midwife research capacity and capability, and encouraging research collaborations and the interdisciplinary sharing of research knowledge and skills. Cathie will also support the identification of research priorities within front line nursing and midwifery practice, ensuring they have a presence in the research landscape.

‘Clinical research activity is a key contributor to best patient care,’ said Cathie. ‘I’m delighted to have been given this opportunity to be part of the NIHR 70@70 Programme and, together with my nursing and midwifery colleagues at the Trust, to help shape our professions and the NHS and social care of the future.’

Study news

First patients enter new research studies at ELHT

Sunflower study



Research Nurse Jill Fitchett

Congratulations to Research Nurse, Jill Fitchett for recruiting the first participant to the Sunflower study at ELHT. The research, funded by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme, is being conducted in patients with symptomatic gallstones who are due to undergo laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

Some patients who are waiting for gallbladder surgery may also have gallstones that have moved into the bile duct. Currently, it's uncertain whether testing for bile duct stones in these patients, is necessary. The Sunflower study will investigate the clinical and cost effectiveness of pre-operative imaging of the common bile duct in these patients, using Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography.

The ELHT team for the Sunflower study is led by Consultant Surgeon and Principal Investigator, Mr Daren Subar and the study is sponsored by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The support of ward staff has been invaluable. Research Nurse Jill Fitchett thanked everyone who's helping with the research. "Thank you to the staff on ward C14B for accommodating the needs of the research team at short notice and for their previous and ongoing support and commitment to anaesthetic and surgical research."

200 East Lancashire patients join the EVAREST cardiology study

Congratulations to the team involved in the EVAREST cardiology research study. They entered the 200th ELHT patient into the study in August and reached the achievement of 6th highest recruiting site nationally this month. The team recruited the first Northern patient into the study just under a year ago.

EVAREST is looking at the use of blood biomarkers, including extracellular vesicles, to improve the diagnostic accuracy of image-based cardiac assessment by stress echocardiogram. It is led at ELHT by Principal Investigator and Consultant Cardiologist, Dr Sanjay Banypersad and is sponsored by the University of Oxford.

FROSTTIE study



Consultant Obstetrician and Study Principal Investigator, Mrs Schram and Research Midwife, Bev Hammond

The first two ELHT participants entered the FROSTTIE trial this month. The research is looking at whether breastfeeding support with or without a frenotomy helps mothers and their babies to successfully breastfeed. The ELHT team is led by Consultant Obstetrician and Study Principal Investigator, Mrs Schram with support from the Women's and Children's Health research team and a great collaboration with the ELHT infant feeding team.

Madeleine Hurd, co-ordinator for the FROSTTIE trial said, "It's great that the recruiting team at ELHT have got off to a flying start with their first two infant participants recruited in one day. The FROSTTIE trial aims to find out if skilled support for breastfeeding on its own (from infant feeding specialists) or support for breastfeeding together with a frenotomy helps mothers and their babies to successfully breastfeed. The findings will help to provide the services needed to best help women and their babies to breastfeed in the future, so every recruit counts. We at the trial coordinating centre really appreciate our recruiting sites' hard work and we're very pleased the East Lancashire team are a part of FROSTTIE."

Continued ACE success

The ELHT cancer research team were thanked for all their hard work in entering patients into the ACE research study, by the co-ordinating team based at the Clinical Trials Unit at the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. They confirmed that ELHT continues as the top recruiting site for the study. Senior Research Nurse Maricica Zabrantu commented "This achievement is primarily due to the hard work and commitment that the cancer research nurses are applying on a daily basis. Well done and keep up the excellent work."

The ACE research study collects cognitive assessment data in patients with metastatic prostate cancer who've started abiraterone acetate and prednisolone (AAP) or enzalutamide (ENZ) as a line of therapy. It is sponsored by University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and funded by a grant from Janssen-Cilag Limited.

ELHT research news

ELHT partnership with TriNetX



ELHT is now in [partnership with TriNetX](#), a global healthcare data analytics platform that is utilised by healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies and Clinical Research Organisations (CROs), in collaboration with each other, to advance research capabilities, improve the efficiencies of clinical trials process and facilitate collaborative research at a local, national and global level.

The TriNetX platform enables researchers from the Trust to explore de-identified or anonymised patient data in a secure and compliant manner to advance local research and treatments, from undertaking feasibility assessment for new studies to identifying patient cohorts for screening. In addition, TriNetX is improving the Trust's visibility to pharmaceutical companies and Clinical Research Organisations as they design trials and identify clinical research sites for participation. Since joining the network ELHT has been sent four potential new studies.

Michelle Stephens, Research Manager said, "We are starting to see the benefits of TriNetX in a short period of time in helping to bring more research opportunities for our patients at ELHT and improve our research intelligence capabilities and in turn improve overall study performance for sponsors."

Research team welcomes new intake of ELHT doctors



Senior Research Support Officer, Janice Hartley welcoming Foundation Year doctors

ELHT patients contribute to Patient Research Experience Survey



The NIHR Clinical Research Network Greater Manchester launched the Research Participant Experience Survey this month.

Up to 140 ELHT research participants will be invited to contribute to the survey, and share their experiences of taking part in a research study, by completing a short questionnaire. The survey results will inform a continuous improvement in research practice. This year, the survey will run through to 29th February 2020, enabling more patients to take part. Further information can be obtained from [Andy Lancaster](#).

National news

Suggest a research topic



The National Institute for Health Research is inviting patients, carers, clinicians, health care workers, service managers and researchers to suggest a research question. The suggestions help provide a balanced picture about which questions most urgently need answering and help the NIHR to make good decisions about what research to fund.

Research questions can be submitted [via this on-line form](#).

Health Research Authority report: Sharing Anonymised Patient-Level Data

New research, conducted by the Health Research Authority (HRA) and the University of Sheffield, explores patient's views about the use of their personal data. The research found that people readily accept NHS access to anonymised patient data for public benefit beyond their own care, for example as part of research. People's attitudes to commercial organisations' access to anonymous patient health data can change when they're informed about the ways that commercial organisations might be involved in developing healthcare products and services. The full report can be accessed [via the HRA website](#).

EU operational readiness in the event of a no-deal EU exit

There has been an [update on EU operational readiness](#) in the event of a no deal EU exit, released from NHS England & NHS Improvement. It includes details for patients and NHS staff and updates for clinical trials. Our planning for the supply of Investigational Medicinal Product (IMP), devices and consumables, continues with trial sponsors, and this is reflected in the guidance.

Research events and training

Improving healthcare through clinical research

Starts: 7th October
Commitment: 4 hours per week for 4 weeks
Cost: FREE, online course
Provider: University of Leeds and the National Institute for Health Research

Aimed at all health and social care staff, the course enables participants to find out how medical treatments are discovered, tested and evaluated to improve healthcare for all. Access the course [via this link](#)

NIHR Welcome to Feasibility

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has released a new e-learning module called Welcome to Feasibility. The module explains the factors that support the successful delivery of a research study. The e-learning course is free and should take 30 minutes to complete.

To access the module: Register for an NIHR Learn account <https://learn.nihr.ac.uk/>. Once you've accessed the site, select 'National Learning Directory' then 'Welcome to Feasibility'.

Support for writing skills

The ELHT Library Service has put together a whole range of information in support of writing and study skills. These can be found [via this link](#)

Developing funding proposals in applied health and social care: NIHR funding programmes

Date: Wednesday 30th October, 2019
Time: 9.30 am to 4.00 pm
Location: Burnley Campus, UCLan

This RDS NW event is for health and social care professionals and researchers in the North West of England who want to develop and submit an application to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding programmes. Register [via this link](#)

NIHR opportunities in speech and language therapy event

Date: Monday 18th November, 2019
Time: 10-5pm
Location: City 125, Whiskin Street Building, University of London

This event is for anyone interested in conducting research in the field of speech and language therapy at any stage of their career, from novices to those looking for sizeable grants.

The event will provide information about the help and support that is available from the NIHR Research Design Services and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. Individual sessions with NIHR research advisers will be offered.

Book a place [via this link](#)

Contact us

For support and information on research at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, please contact:

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Celebrating research at ELHT

If you'd like to include a story about your research, please contact: hazel.aston@elht.nhs.uk