

Your Path in Research

Without research, we would not have the interventions and the NHS we have today. If you provide care in the NHS then what you do and how you do it will have been influenced by research. Research happens every day, right across the NHS and in a multitude of settings, but how much do you know about it and do you know how to engage with it to benefit you and your patients?

Did you know...?

There were over 500 active Barts Health clinical research projects in 2019/20, including approximately 60 COVID-19 research projects, led by over 160 Principal Investigators (consultants, doctors, nurses, and other clinical staff actively leading or conducting research in hospital settings). Over 16,500¹ patients took part in NIHR studies in Barts Health hospitals last year, ranging from completing a simple questionnaire to donating blood or tissue; from taking part in an observational study to being randomised in a complex interventional trial and everything in-between and, in 2019², for a third year running, Barts Health was the lead NHS Trust for patient recruitment within the North Thames Clinical Research Network area.

The Trust has an ambitious [research strategy](#), which aims to develop and grow research over the next four years, ensuring we provide opportunities for more of our patients to participate in safe, high-quality research which “actively influences service design and contributes to improved patient pathways, clinical outcomes and patient experience”.

COVID-19 studies at Barts Health

The COVID pandemic has seen Barts Health colleagues come together to help deliver 60 studies and recruit over 850 patients across our five hospitals. Barts Health has been the lead recruiting site for several Urgent Public Health Studies such as RECOVERY, PRIEST and the GenoMICC studies. We have also recruited to many other COVID-19 studies such as COVID-19: Healthcare worker Bioresource: Immune Protection and Pathogenesis in SARS-CoV-2 where chief investigator James Moon has recruited over 500 patients to date. Imogen Skene, a research nurse said ‘The benefits of being a clinical research nurse during the COVID-19 pandemic, means I have been able to contribute directly to patient care, having returned to a clinical role in the emergency department, but I’ve also have privilege to be a part of the national COVID -19 research effort’.

We are looking for staff to help us deliver future vaccine trials. If you are interested, [please contact Jo Morgan](#) (Assistant Director of Research and Development).

Your Path in Research

For two weeks from 5 October 2020, to mark James Lind’s birthday, the NIHR are promoting the ‘Your path in research’ campaign. This campaign is targeted at healthcare professionals (HCP) with a goal to increase their engagement with research and the NIHR.

The campaign launched with a [news item on the NIHR website](#), highlighting the variety of ways healthcare professionals can learn about the research taking place locally and taking their first steps towards a research career. The campaign also features a collection of case studies and blogs from healthcare professionals and patients.

What are the benefits of undertaking research?

Good for patients:

- Evidence shows that research-active trusts delivering clinical research trials and studies have better patient outcomes.
- Patients value the opportunity to participate in research studies and trials as part of their care.

¹ Based on 2018/2019 LCRN data

² Based on 2018/2019 LCRN data

Good for you:

- Many healthcare professionals say they find the experience of being involved in research studies positive and rewarding.

Good for your organisation:

- You'll be helping your trust too. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) now has a remit to assess how trusts are supporting and using clinical research to improve patient care.

Ways to get involved in research

Keep informed on developments in research

Want to stay informed on practices and treatments which could benefit your patients? NIHR Signals are short, accessible summaries of the latest important research from the NIHR and others.

Signals provide healthcare professionals and decision-makers in the NHS, public health and social care with quick, accessible access to research. [Sign up for NIHR Signals](#)

All research at Barts Health is supported by the [Joint Research Management Office](#) based at Empire House, Whitechapel. The JRMO support academics and clinicians by providing information and advice for their research. Services include:

- Costing and contracting
- Ongoing financial management of research funds
- Ethics preparation
- Research governance and good clinical practice advice
- Business development
- Encouraging and supporting local research
- Improving patient engagement

You can sign-up to the JRMO bulletins on the [Joint Research Management Office website](#).

Find out what research is happening in your trust and how you can get involved

Are you interested in research but don't know where to begin? Many healthcare professionals say they find the experience of being involved in research studies positive and rewarding as well as helping their career.

[Make contact with R&D at Barts Health/Queen Mary University](#), [check out the training opportunities](#) or if you would like to discuss how to involve patients and the public in your study, contact the [Engagement and Diffusion team](#).

Make patients aware they could participate in a trial or study

Do you have patients who may be interested in taking part in the research? The NIHR ['Be Part of Research' website](#) enables patients and members of the public to find relevant ways to get involved to help improve patient care.

At Barts Health, patients can [email the Patients in research](#) inbox to enquire about studies taking place locally, or see current opportunities to get involved in research on the [Barts Health Take part in Research](#) pages and/or can sign up to the Research Community database, where involvement opportunities are regularly emailed out. They can also contact the team if they would be interested in becoming a Patient Research Champion, which would enable them to volunteer with a research team or ask about the Patient Research Experience survey for those who have taken or are taking part since Jan 2019 (NB PRCs are currently volunteering virtually). These elements are manned by the Research Engagement and Diffusion team.

Healthcare professionals discussing research

Tell NIHR where research is required by suggesting a research question

What research questions would you like answers to? You know your patients best and for the NIHR to make informed decisions about what research to fund, we need a complete and balanced picture about which questions most urgently need answering. We want to help ensure patients receive the best care and treatments possible so [let us know your questions](#).

You can also contact the Trust's research leads to discuss your career in research:

Clinical Boards (by specialty)	First name	Surname	Email
<i>Clinical Director for Research and Development</i>	Rupert	Pearse	r.pearse@qmul.ac.uk
<i>Deputy Clinical Director for R&D</i>	Stephen	Kelly	stephen.kelly5@nhs.net
<i>Emergency care</i>	Karim	Brohi	k.brohi@qmul.ac.uk
<i>Medicine (and deputy clinical director for R&D)</i>	Kieran	McCafferty	kieran.mccafferty4@nhs.net
<i>Surgical</i>	Hemant	Kocher	h.kocher@nhs.net
<i>Women & Newborn Health</i>	Shakila	Thangaratinam	s.thangaratinam@qmul.ac.uk
<i>Children's Health</i>	Deanna	Gibbs	deanna.gibbs1@nhs.net
	Stewart	Cleeve	stewartjames.cleeve@nhs.net
<i>Cardiovascular</i>	Steffen	Petersen	s.e.petersen@qmul.ac.uk
	Pier	Lambiase	p.lambiase@nhs.net
<i>Cancer</i>	Nicholas	Lemoine	bci-director@qmul.ac.uk
<i>CSS</i>	Anju	Sahdev	a.sahdev@nhs.net

How you can support the campaign

- Print posters and display them in your departments
- Tweet what you're doing to celebrate 'Your path in research' to other researchers
- Promote the campaign at any relevant virtual events you may have coming up
- Consider holding a virtual learning session to promote ways that staff can get involved in research
- Promote the campaign at an upcoming departmental meeting

Printable materials

- [Your Path to Research Poster](#) (Can be printed at A3, A4, or A5) (PDF - 8.3MB)
- [Your Path to Research Poster 2](#) (Can be printed at A3, A4, or A5) (PDF - 1.5MB)
- [4 Ways to get involved in Research](#) leaflet (PDF - 1.7MB)
- [Slide set with campaign branding](#) (PPX - 293kb)
- [Social media board](#) (PDF - 1.2MB)

Twitter	Facebook	LinkedIn
BartsHealthResearch	Barts Health Facebook	Barts Health LinkedIn
NHSBartsHealth	NIHR	NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) NIHR Community
NIHR Research		LinkedIn
NIHR Community	<i>The hashtag #YourPathInResearch will be used on Twitter and LinkedIn.</i>	