UHNRM Research Wins Coveted National Award

The Research and Development Department at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNHM) has added another national award to its ever growing collection.

The latest award was received by the Acute Research Team at the prestigious 2016 Nursing Times Awards ceremony on Wednesday, 26th October, at Grosvenor House in London.

With 22 targeted categories, the awards cover every aspect of the nursing professions, from ‘Nurse of the Year’ to ‘Patient Safety Improvement’ and ‘The HRH The Prince of Wales Award for Integrated Approaches to Care’.

After having set up the UK’s first ever 24/7 research service in March 2015, the team entered this year’s awards under the ‘Clinical Research Nursing’ category. Its entry, “optimising opportunities and equalising access to acute research”, was shortlisted, beating other entries from around the country in what was a record-breaking year for entries to the Nursing Times Awards.

Following this success the team then travelled to London in September to present the entry to a judging panel. The Team demonstrated how the UHNHM-based service helped to maximise opportunities for patients in research by running 24/7.

Since starting the service in 2015, the team has been recruiting patients into research studies around the clock, seven days a week. Many of these patients would not have had the chance to take part in potentially life-saving trials, had they arrived out of hours.

The Nursing Times Awards are the most admired and relevant award in the nursing and healthcare sector. The awards provide industry recognition and unrivalled networking opportunities.

Holly Maguire, Research Sister for the Acute Research Team at UHNHM, was in attendance to receive the award with her team members, who won against nine other shortlisted entrants in the category.

She said: “We are absolutely delighted with our win. I am so proud of my team and what we have been able to offer stroke patients locally. To gain national recognition for our work is fabulous and hopefully this will be the beginning of us being able to share our model wider afield, meaning all stroke patients may have the choice and opportunity to access acute research 24/7.”

Judges of this year’s awards said: “This team has demonstrated high levels of innovations as they identified patient needs. The service they have developed is responsive and illustrates fantastic clinical research care, empowering patients.”

Pictured below: The Acute Research Team and Dr Darren Clement, R&D Manager, collect the team’s Nursing Times Award in London.
Professor Shaughn O’Brien, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Trust, has recently been successful in developing, as lead author, the ‘Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists’ (RCOG) evidence-based Green-top Guideline on the Management of Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS).

This guideline, to be published Wednesday, 30th November 2016, will have an important impact on the management of PMS nationally and beyond. Professor O’Brien has previously published numerous research studies on PMS, as well as consensus papers on its diagnosis, classification and research methodology. His ISPMD classification forms the new basis of the RCOG Guideline.

Cochrane reviews are also included in this long list of Professor O’Brien’s publications, having recently published the Cochrane review on PMS treatment, including the research on Selective Serotonin reuptake Inhibitors (i.e. drugs such as Prozac and Sertraline), as well as Cochrane reviews and protocols on the suppression of ovulations to treat PMS.

Alongside his role at UHNM, Professor O’Brien is also a Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Keele University School of Medicine, Chairman of the International Society of Premenstrual Disorders (ISPMD) and Chairman of the North Staffordshire Medical Institute (NSMI) where he has just co-developed the new Firelighter Research Award with NSMI and Trust R&D.

The guidelines will be available at www.rcog.org.uk/guidelines from Wednesday, 30th November.

Patient recruitment into research studies is on the increase at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) which has helped it to move up national performance rankings.

In a league table published by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network, which is the research delivery arm of the NHS, UHNM’s performance is on the up.

With a total of 3,319 patients recruited in 2015-2016, this helped the Trust to secure a national ranking of 37th place out of 241 NHS Trusts across the country and represents an improvement of six places on UHNM’s 2014-2015 position of 43rd.

This new position clearly demonstrates the Trust’s capabilities in rising up through the ranks of this league table, having been placed 51st in the country for patient recruitment only two years ago, in the 2013-2014 table.

Rapid progression through the ranks year on year is a key priority for the Trust, as set out in the UHNM R&D Strategy which states a target of being ranked within the top 30 trusts in the country for recruitment by 2019. The outlook is positive for UHNM in reaching this target, having climbed 14 places in the past two years alone.

The figures have been based on the performance of the R&D Department at UHNM, which runs from both Royal Stoke University Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent, and County Hospital in Stafford.

Prof Tony Fryer, Director of Research and Development at UHNM, said: “We are delighted that the recent performance of the Trust in providing opportunities for our patients to access the latest research has been recognised in these national figures, particularly as it follows on the back of our ‘Overall Best Performance’ award at the Clinical Research Network West Midlands awards in September. These figures are a great credit to the hard work of the research staff at the Trust.”

Dr Darren Clement, Research and Development Manager at UHNM, said: “As a research active Trust our overall aim is to give patients access to new cutting edge treatments, therapies and technologies.

“The R&D Team has worked really hard this year to make this happen, with more patients being recruited into studies compared to last year and us having moved up the league tables. This reflects the hard work and dedication of our research teams, who often pull out all the stops to make sure our patients get the best care possible.”

To view this year’s NIHR League Tables, visit: http://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-and-impact/nhs-research-performance/league-tables/
A Professor within R&D at UHNM has been praised by colleagues for his hard work on a home-grown Radiotherapy study.

Prof Josep Sulé-Suso, Professor of Oncology at the Trust, pictured right, began his recruitment to the VERT (Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training) study in August 2015 and to date has screened 74 patients, 69 of whom were recruited. This successful recruitment leads promisingly towards the target of 340 patients over a five year period.

The study looks at whether participants who are shown a 3D presentation of how their radiotherapy is planned and given, either prior to their radiotherapy or afterwards, makes the participant more compliant and reduces side effects from treatment.

Dawn Sirdefield, Monitoring and Audit Facilitator, said: “Whilst Prof Sulé-Suso does have radiographers and physicists working hard on the study, he is managing the administrative side and data entry himself, as he does not have administrative support for the study. “Despite this, both the Investigator Site File and relevant patient documentation proved to be first class both in standards and completion for the initial monitoring, which took place for this study recently. “This is an excellent example of how research can be delivered and conducted to the highest level even with minimal support. It is good to know that the future of home-grown research is in extremely capable hands.”

A new website has been launched by the Clinical Research Network West Midlands Training Collaborative which enables all staff contributing to NIHR Portfolio studies to access all research-related training across the entire region.

The newly launched site is a ‘one-stop shop’ for research staff, where they can now access information such as up to date course calendars and online booking requests. Information and links to national courses such as Good Clinical Practice will also be easily accessible, as well as resources including online learning modules and national information.

To access the website, visit: www.wmrtc.org.uk.

Research at UHNM will once again be showcased to healthcare professionals from across the country in December, following yet another request for one of our research staff to attend a UK-wide event.

Dr Neil Patel, Specialist Registrar in Respiratory and Intensive Care Medicine at UHNM, pictured below, will be in attendance at the British Thoracic Society Winter Meeting in December. Dr Patel will be holding a talk around how saliva based inflammatory proteins, alongside patient reported outcomes can be used to monitor COPD.

The findings of this abstract mean that early warning signs for exacerbations can easily be identified. This will potentially improve patient care with effective disease management, which could possibly lead to reduced hospitalisation, subsequently improving quality of life and mortality.

For this abstract Dr Patel has also been awarded a British Thoracic Society Learning and Best Practice Fellowship for the Winter 2016 meeting.
As we head into the Christmas period, here in the Neurosciences Research Team we are reflecting on a couple of busy months for Headache Research, which have established UHNM as a UK leading site for studying new treatments for migraine and other headache disorders.

We feel very fortunate to be able to offer the first disease-specific therapies designed for the preventative treatment of migraine to patients in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and the rest of the West Midlands. This new class of treatment for primary headaches, such as migraine, targets a neuropeptide called Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP), which has been identified as being important in the pathophysiology of migraine attacks.

Our first study for the prevention of chronic migraine involving the anti-CGRP monoclonal antibody, Erenumab, has just entered its follow-up phase. Whilst it’s sad that after 12 months we will no longer be seeing the patients on a regular monthly basis, we are all hopeful that they will have a prolonged benefit from being involved in research and a smooth transition back into the excellent specialist headache clinic here at UHNM.

Building on the success of this study, in March we were chosen as the UK lead site for a second anti-CGRP humanised monoclonal antibody. During the last month we recruited our final patient to this chronic migraine study, REGAIN, and also exceeded UHNM recruitment targets despite recruitment closing four months early. This wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of every member of the team. This includes Dr Davies, who leads the trials, Pathology, Pharmacy and the support of the set-up team, during what has been quite a stressful few months for everyone in R&D.

Both Dr Davies and the team are optimistic about the future of headache research and treatment options for patients at UHNM, and it is looking like we are going to have another busy year in 2017. Dr Davies has recently been invited to be UK Chief investigator for two further pivotal, global placebo-controlled randomised trials in migraine. The first will look at the effectiveness of a new treatment for episodic migraine, whilst the second study involves an innovative IV therapy for patients with chronic migraine.

The future of headache clinical trial research is bright at UHNM but, more importantly, the future for headache patients is brighter still. The promise of a "bench to bedside" approach to headache therapy is finally coming to fruition, and is ensuring patients receive appropriate evidenced-based therapies for migraine and headache disorders that are more effective and tolerable.

If anyone is interested in being involved in headache or migraine research and wishes to know more about our studies, you are welcome to contact the team on our generic Headache Research team email: Headache_Research@uhnm.nhs.uk.
Dear R&D Team,

Welcome to the November edition of the R&D Newsletter. You will, I hope, forgive us if we continue to bask in the glory of yet more additions to our ever-expanding trophy cabinet following the latest Nursing Times award and the success of the joint UHNM/Combined Healthcare Neurodegenerative Research Team in winning the UHNM Research Impact Awards as part of the Night Full of Stars evening on Friday, 18th November 2016, at King’s Hall in Stoke. In fact, we have been thinking about how we might best display these awards rather than letting them gather dust in a cupboard somewhere, so please let us know if you have any ideas.

Last month we talked about our challenging position regarding finance and workforce, and this continues to be a challenge, particularly in some areas where we have been unable to replace key staff. However, the finances are looking more balanced and will give us a much more sustainable footing as the R&D activity grows. After the frenetic expansion of the last three years or so, we are moving to a more measured growth phase, but it is still growth - the future pipeline of studies continues to expand.

In the forthcoming weeks we will see how the first ever Firelighter awards will be distributed. This initiative, led by Dr Adam Farmer from Gastroenterology, in collaboration with the North Staffordshire Medical Institute, aims to develop new talent in the research field and will climax with Dragon’s Den style ‘pitches’ by shortlisted applicants in the Grand Round on Friday, 9th December 2016, in UGMS1 lecture theatre; a spectacle not to be missed!

We have also been working hard with our partner academic institutions. Since the official launch of Keele’s Institute for Applied Clinical Sciences last month, we have been working with them and the Clinical Trials Unit to support delivery of home-grown research. On Wednesday, 16th November, we heard that we had been successful in our joint Keele/UHNM Business Engagement grant submitted to the European Regional Development Fund. This £1m grant will facilitate interaction with local businesses that interface with the healthcare sector and help bring the latest developments in the sector to our patients.

Staffordshire University continues to work closely with us and is aiming to build on the successes of our recent joint posts. Discussions are under way to extend engagement subsequent to a review of internal structures following in the appointment of the new Vice Chancellor.

In terms of internal reviews, we are now over a year into the appointment of the Divisional Leads and we are aiming to review how these have been doing against the objectives in the next month or two. It is critical that we embed research and innovation activity throughout the Trust if we are to maximise its impact, so establishing and implementing Divisional research strategies will be key to this.

Overall, it’s been a very positive month, and in very tough circumstances, so may I say a huge thank you to you all for your hard work and for never losing sight of why we do it all.

Many thanks,
Prof Tony Fryer.

---

**Dates of Interest**

- **Friday, 9th December** - Research Firelighter Awards 2016 Grand Rounds. Applicants to these awards will pitch their research idea to representatives from the North Staffs Medical Institute and UHNM.
- **Wednesday, 14th December** - INSPIRE Research Showcase at the Keele University School of Medicine. Talks will be given by UHNM Professors, amongst many other healthcare professionals.
- **Thursday, 15th December** - The Neurosciences Research Team will be supporting the Alzheimer’s Society in ‘Elf Day’. The R&D Christmas buffet will also take part on this day and fundraising activities will take place over lunch. Darren Clement, R&D Manager, and Jill Stacey, Head of Research Nursing and Midwifery, will both be taking part in a sponsored fancy dress as elves. Donations for this can be made to the Neurosciences Team. More information will be cascaded in coming weeks.

---

**SMT Monthly Message...**

Dear R&D Team,

Welcome to the November edition of the R&D Newsletter. You will, I hope, forgive us if we continue to bask in the glory of yet more additions to our ever-expanding trophy cabinet following the latest Nursing Times award and the success of the joint UHNM/Combined Healthcare Neurodegenerative Research Team in winning the UHNM Research Impact Awards as part of the Night Full of Stars evening on Friday, 18th November 2016, at King’s Hall in Stoke. In fact, we have been thinking about how we might best display these awards rather than letting them gather dust in a cupboard somewhere, so please let us know if you have any ideas.

Last month we talked about our challenging position regarding finance and workforce, and this continues to be a challenge, particularly in some areas where we have been unable to replace key staff. However, the finances are looking more balanced and will give us a much more sustainable footing as the R&D activity grows. After the frenetic expansion of the last three years or so, we are moving to a more measured growth phase, but it is still growth - the future pipeline of studies continues to expand.

In the forthcoming weeks we will see how the first ever Firelighter awards will be distributed. This initiative, led by Dr Adam Farmer from Gastroenterology, in collaboration with the North Staffordshire Medical Institute, aims to develop new talent in the research field and will climax with Dragon’s Den style ‘pitches’ by shortlisted applicants in the Grand Round on Friday, 9th December 2016, in UGMS1 lecture theatre; a spectacle not to be missed!

We have also been working hard with our partner academic institutions. Since the official launch of Keele’s Institute for Applied Clinical Sciences last month, we have been working with them and the Clinical Trials Unit to support delivery of home-grown research. On Wednesday, 16th November, we heard that we had been successful in our joint Keele/UHNM Business Engagement grant submitted to the European Regional Development Fund. This £1m grant will facilitate interaction with local businesses that interface with the healthcare sector and help bring the latest developments in the sector to our patients.

Staffordshire University continues to work closely with us and is aiming to build on the successes of our recent joint posts. Discussions are under way to extend engagement subsequent to a review of internal structures following in the appointment of the new Vice Chancellor.

In terms of internal reviews, we are now over a year into the appointment of the Divisional Leads and we are aiming to review how these have been doing against the objectives in the next month or two. It is critical that we embed research and innovation activity throughout the Trust if we are to maximise its impact, so establishing and implementing Divisional research strategies will be key to this.

Overall, it’s been a very positive month, and in very tough circumstances, so may I say a huge thank you to you all for your hard work and for never losing sight of why we do it all.

Many thanks,
Prof Tony Fryer.

---

**Got an idea for our Commercial team? Email:**
commercialresearch@uhnm.nhs.uk
**Trial News and Successes (October Performance)**

Well done to Holly Maguire, Research Sister for the Acute Research Team, who has recently been appointed as the UK Lead Research Nurse for the Hyperacute Stroke Research Centres. Holly will now be involved with national oversight and planning.

A total of 11 new studies opened in the month of October.

Three research studies achieved recruitment of the first patient within 30 days in October.

The team recruiting the highest number of patients to a single trial in October, for the second month running, was the Medicine Research Team. The team recruited 28 patients again to the e-ULTIMASTER trial.

Congratulations to the Acute Research Team, which recruited the first patient in the UK to the Action 2 study in October.

The Women's and Children's Research Team reached its target recruitment figure for the PREDNOS 2 trial in October.

October saw the Generic Research Team recruit its first patient to a trial evaluating the effectiveness of a drug in the treatment of Meniere's disease, compared with placebo.

Teams who also recruited the first patients to trial in October were the Women's and Children's Research Team, to the Peacock trial, and the Acute Research Team to a trial looking at the safety and efficacy of IV Natalizumab in acute ischemic stroke.

The Cancer Clinical Trial Team went over its recruitment target for the LORIS trial in October, having recruited one more patient.

Recruiting another patient in October, the Neurosciences Research Team reached its recruitment target for the REGAIN study in this month.

With a target recruitment figure of three patients, the Acute Research Team has gone above and beyond this target, having now recruited 11 patients in total to the ANNEXA-4 trial.

**Recognition Corner**

With 11 new studies opening in October, the department looks set to continue with successful performance into the winter period.

The Employee of the Month award for October goes to Emma Sadler, Senior Research Nurse in the Generic Research Team. Emma has recently had to step up to cover the role of Sister within her team, and has constantly worked hard to ensure continuity of service.

Having recently won an award at the NIHR CRN West Midlands Awards, and winning the UHN M Research Impact award at the recent ‘A Night Full of Stars’ event, the Team of the Month award for October goes to the Neurosciences Research Team. This is awarded for all the hard work the Team has put in to establish joint working with North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, to bring Neurodegenerative studies to UHN M.

---

**Latest vacancies in R&D………..**

For the latest jobs check out

[www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk)

Submit stories and news to

Alannah.Copeland@uhnm.nhs.uk  
Page 6

---

**2025Vision**

Being a place our families would choose