UHNMTops the Charts for Recruitment

The breast cancer team, led by Clinical Oncology Consultant Professor Murray Brunt at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM), has topped the leader board for recruitment to the FAST-Forward radiotherapy clinical trial nodal sub-study.

The study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, is for women with early breast cancer. The study aims to look at whether five doses of radiotherapy delivered in one week post-surgery is more effective, or as effective, as the current standard treatment of 15 doses over three weeks.

UHNM is the top recruiting centre in the UK to the FAST-Forward sub-study, currently having recruited over 100 more patients than the Trust in second position. Not only this, but a recent trial newsletter announced that the three highest recruiting clinicians to the sub-study in the country are all from the UHNM breast team, namely Professor Murray Brunt, Dr Daljit Gahir and Dr Apurna Jegannathen.

Professor Brunt, said: “This tremendous recruitment is a result of all of our team coordinating to offer our patients access to not only the best available treatment but also the chance to participate in potential ‘treatments of the future’.”

Dr Apurna Jegannathen, Consultant Oncologist at UHNM, also achieved randomising the first patient in the UK to this trial. She said: “I am very excited to be involved in this trial and feel honoured to have been able to recruit the first patient in the UK. I am working with a prestigious team at UHNM who are dedicated in their research and care of patients.”

Professor O’Brien Publishes 18th Textbook...

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at UHNM, Professor Shaughn O’Brien, has recently published his 18th textbook for Cambridge University Press.

This latest publication, ‘Biopsychosocial Factor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology’, focuses on the emotional and biopsychosocial factors of women’s healthcare. The textbook shows the need to incorporate these elements into all relevant future research into obstetrics and gynaecology, and demonstrates where new research is needed.

Professor O’Brien, who is also Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Keele University School of Medicine, continues in active research and also has several on-going systematic reviews, such as Cochrane reviews, with plans to write another textbook in the forthcoming year.
Research Undertaken between University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) and Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust (SRFT) has been published in the international journal, ‘Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism’.

The article, titled ‘Improving Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus glycaemic outcomes is possible without spending more on medication: Lessons from the UK National Diabetes Audit’, has reported a new methodology for analysing the relation between the way that treatment is organised and delivered for people with type 2 diabetes.

This research used data from GP practices across England and was led by Professor Tony Fryer, R&D Director at UHNM, and Dr Adrian Heald, Honorary Consultant in Endocrinology and Diabetes at SRFT, in partnership with Res Consortium, a consultancy agency working with the NHS.

Prof Fryer, pictured right, said: “This study highlights the value of using national data to identify areas where we can improve the service provided to people with type 2 diabetes. It illustrates that significant improvements can be made without the need for additional investment, by challenging traditional approaches to service delivery.”

Dr Heald, said: “We have found that with some basic changes in the way GP practices and associated specialist services organise services and prescribe medications, we could bring more than 200,000 people with type 2 diabetes into better blood glucose control and significantly reduce the number of people at risk of major health problems by bringing their blood glucose levels down.

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Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment

A study co-led by University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust and the Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group has been published in the online journal, BMJ Open.

The study, led by Dr Simon Lea and Dr Keira Watts from the Trust’s R&D Academic Development Team, with Prof Ruth Chambers and Dr Barnabas Panayiotou from S-o-T CCG, found that comprehensive geriatric assessment carried out by secondary care geriatricians in a general practice care setting, is feasible and may be beneficial to patients.

Three secondary care geriatricians visited GP practices in one region of Stoke-on-Trent and carried out assessments on a total of 186 local residents. After consultation, recommendations were made regarding further assessments, investigations or medication changes. There was an average of four medication changes per patient (predominantly to stop medications or to lower the dosage).

This study demonstrated constructive collaboration between GPs and secondary care geriatricians and had a significant impact on medicines optimisation. This, in turn, appears to have had a positive impact on planned and unplanned healthcare usage which the team plan to investigate further.

The full paper can be viewed online here: http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/9/e015278.
A national trial involving more than 8,000 patients has revealed that giving oxygen to stroke victims makes no difference to their recovery or chances of survival.

The trial was led by Professor Christine Roffe, Clinical Research Lead for Stroke at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (pictured below), along with North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust and researchers from Keele University, the University of Oxford and the University of Birmingham.

During and after stroke, blood supply to part of the brain is reduced, leading to lack of oxygen. The Stroke Oxygen Study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, looked at whether or not giving patients oxygen soon after their stroke could prevent further brain damage and reduce the risk of disability or even death.

Prof Roffe, who was also Chief Investigator in the UK for this trial, said: “When a stroke happens, either due to a blood clot or a brain haemorrhage, part of the brain dies because it’s being starved of oxygen, and other parts of the brain are unstable and vulnerable to low oxygen levels.

“Our study provided low-dose oxygen to keep the patient’s oxygen levels within the normal range to test whether this would help to maintain brain function and help recovery. However, we found that this intervention did not make a real difference.

“At present, it is common when a stroke patient first receives care that they are given an oxygen mask, but our results provide clear and unambiguous evidence that, although it remains important to monitor oxygen levels, patients admitted to hospital with a stroke do not need routine oxygen treatment.”

During the nine-year study, which is one of the largest stroke studies to have been conducted in the UK, three treatments were used. These included providing continuous oxygen (day and night) for three days, overnight oxygen supply only for three nights, and no routine oxygen supply for three nights (unless required).

The results found that providing oxygen did not improve the functional outcome in any patients, and there was still no difference in results after 90 days. The results were published in September in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), and will now help clinicians to better understand how stroke patients should be treated when they first present at hospital.

Save the Date...R&D Forum

The next R&D Forum will take place on Monday 4 December, between 9am and 12pm. The event will be held in the UGMS lecture theatre and is open to all R&D staff. This will provide opportunity for all those working in Research and Development at UHNM to come together.

Please take this opportunity to liaise with your teams to identify topics for the agenda, including presentations you may wish to present, and feed this information back to Emma.Sadler@uhnm.nhs.uk.
The month of September marked World Alzheimer’s Month, and saw the Neurodegenerative Active Partnership (NOGAP) Team receive recognition at Stoke City Football Club.

The NOGAP Team, set up in 2015 between University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT), created a video to raise awareness of the dementia research being undertaken locally between the two Trusts.

This video was played out during the pre-match show at the Stoke City vs Chelsea football match at the Bet365 Stadium on Saturday 22 September. Included in this video were eight members of the Stoke City Old Boys Association (S.C.O.B.A.).

Local favourite, Neil ‘Nello’ Baldwin, stood alongside Dennis Smith, Terry Conroy, Mike Pejic, Eric Skeels, Harry Burrows, Jackie Marsh, Mike McDonald and John Ruggiero to show support for the dementia research being undertaken by the NOGAP Team.

Also included in this video were several different teams and members of staff from UHNM and NSCHT, all of whom contribute in some way to the delivery of the dementia research currently taking place between the Trusts. Pictures from the video can be seen below.

Shown left is the NOGAP Team, made up of staff from both UHNM and NSCHT. Special thanks to Imogen Howard, daughter of Emily Howard, Research Sister in the Neurosciences Research Team at UHNM, who featured in the video, as seen in some of the images above.

Got an idea for our Commercial team? Email: commercialresearch@uhnm.nhs.uk
The Research and Development Department at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) has been hailed as Highly Commended in three categories at this year’s regional research awards.

The results of the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network West Midlands annual awards were announced at an awards ceremony in Birmingham on Wednesday 11 October.

The awards ceremony welcomed Trusts from across the West Midlands, with a total of 33 individuals or teams from 13 separate Trust around the region shortlisted for the awards. Eleven of those Trusts, including UHNM, plus four others were also nominated for the Special Network Awards.

Out of the 33 individuals or teams shortlisted for the awards, which were split into ten separate categories, two of those were from UHNM. Dr Brendan Davies, Consultant Neurologist at the Trust, was shortlisted into the category of ‘Investigator of the Year’, for his work as Principal Investigator in many trials at UHNM.

Also shortlisted was Viv Colclough, Research Administrator in the Medicine Research Team, in the ‘Collaboration in Research’ category, for her work in developing links between UHNM and Leighton Hospital to support recruitment of patients to studies in renal medicine.

Both Dr Brendan Davies and Viv Colclough were highly commended in their shortlisted categories. UHNM was also highly commended in the Business Intelligence Leader category of the Special Network Awards.

Professor Tony Fryer, Research & Development Director at the Trust, said: “We are delighted to be recognised again for all the hard work that staff at UHNM have put into bringing the latest treatments to our patients. It is a real testament to their desire to be the best at what they do.”

David Loughton CBE, Chief Executive of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, and Viv Colclough, highly commended.

David Loughton CBE and Dr Brendan Davies.

David Loughton CBE and Jill Stacey.
A total of three new studies opened in the month of September. These studies were opened by the Renal Medicine Research Team, the Women’s and Children’s Research Team and the Cancer Clinical Trials Team.

Five studies hit the within 30 day target for first patients recruited in September.

The CRP trial recruited its first patient on the first day of being open.

The team recruiting the highest number of patients to a single trial in September was the Neurosciences Research Team, recruiting 23 patients to a multiple sclerosis study.

The second highest recruiting team to a single trial in September was the Women’s and Children’s Research Team for the Pregnancy Lifestyle Study 2017. The team also reached its target recruitment figure for this trial in September, recruiting 19 more patients.

Dr Sanjeev Nayak and the Acute Research Team achieved highest recruiting team in the UK for the PRACTISE study in September.

The Cancer Clinical Trials Team continues to recruit well to the FAST-Forward trial, with UHNM maintaining position of the highest recruiting site in the UK.

Recruiting its first three patients to a cardiology trial in September was the Medicine Research Team for the ‘MASTER DAPT’ trial.

The Women’s and Children’s Team recruited its first two patients to a trial aimed at finding a biomarker to guide asthma treatment for children.

After recruiting another patient in September the Generic Research Team needs to recruit just one more patient to reach target for the REDUCE trial.

Just two more patients are needed to reach target for the Neurosciences study, Optipark.

The latest R&D Employee of the Month is Donna Brayford, Research Midwife in the Women’s and Children’s Team. Donna has been instrumental in the setup and subsequent success of the newly opened ANODE trial. At times, Donna has worked over her normal working hours and has even been responsible for facilitating GCP training for several clinical midwives to ensure the study runs smoothly.

The Team of the Month award goes to R&D’s CSOs, for their efforts in recent weeks to continue with work despite staff shortages.

Don’t forget, nominations can now be made for October’s winners to: Anthony.Fryer@uhnm.nhs.uk

R&D welcomes back Michelle Till, Commercial Research Specialist, and Jane Copestick, Clinical Studies Officer, both of whom have recently returned from maternity leave.

For all the latest news on job vacancies within the R&D Department at UHNM, please visit www.jobs.nhs.uk