

# UHNM Research and Innovation Update:

## Five Things Friday

### Welcome to our 'Five Things Friday' update!

On the last Friday of every month, we'll share a quick snapshot of what's happening in Research & Innovation (R&I) at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM). These updates are designed to help you better understand the wide range of support our R&I department offers.



## 1. Home-Grown Research and Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

**Our experienced team can support you in developing high-quality proposals and securing local, national, or international funding.**

We'll support you through every stage of your study, from design to delivery and ensure patients and the public are meaningfully involved through our dedicated PPIE team. We also offer tailored communication support to help your research find the right audiences.

### **CRDC PPIE team supports community partnership event in Hanley to promote inclusive health research**

Members of the North Midlands Clinical Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) team recently attended a partnership community event in Hanley aimed at improving health outcomes for Black and Asian communities across Staffordshire. The event brought together organisations including Staffordshire Police, NHS partners, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to provide information, advice and opportunities for local people to engage with health research.

Held at Fountain Square, the event focused on improving access to research and helping communities better understand how involvement in studies can shape future healthcare. Visitors were able to speak with our staff, learn more about ongoing studies and discuss barriers to participation in health research.

The CRDC PPIE team used the event as an opportunity to strengthen community links, raise awareness of research opportunities and support wider work to tackle health inequalities across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.



## 2. Research Delivery

**Our hands-on research delivery team works directly in clinics and services across UHNM to support study recruitment, ensuring our patients have access to world-leading research opportunities.**

### **UHNM's R&I team delivers UK first in adolescent bronchiectasis study**

UHNM's Research & Innovation (R&I) research delivery team has successfully screened the first adolescent participant in the UK for the AIRTIVITY Phase 3 clinical trial.

The global study is exploring whether a once-daily investigational tablet (BI 1291583) can safely reduce airway inflammation and decrease the number of pulmonary exacerbations in people living with bronchiectasis. The trial includes both non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis and cystic fibrosis-related bronchiectasis, reflecting the wider patient population seen in routine respiratory care.

Participants are randomly assigned to receive either the active treatment or placebo for up to 76 weeks. The main aim of the study is to assess whether the treatment can reduce the annual rate of flare-ups compared with placebo.

UHNM is one of the key UK sites taking part in recruiting younger patients, supported by the North West Midlands Cystic Fibrosis Centre and its transition service between paediatric and adult care.



### 3. The North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC)

**UHNM is home to a dedicated Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC), working with industry partners to deliver high-quality commercial studies.**

**This centre strengthens our reputation as a research-active Trust and brings cutting-edge treatments to our patients faster.**

**For further information please contact our team via [research@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:research@uhnm.nhs.uk)**

#### **North Midlands CRDC part of growing UK-wide research network**

The North Midlands Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) is part of the wider CRDC UK Network, a national group of centres working together to strengthen commercial clinical research across the UK. The network brings together organisations from all four nations to share knowledge, develop new ways of working and help more patients access research opportunities closer to home.

The recent launch of new Primary Care CRDCs means research is now expanding beyond hospitals and into GP surgeries and community settings, helping more people take part in studies in places that are convenient for them. By working closely with colleagues across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the North Midlands CRDC is helping to support faster, more joined-up research and improve access to innovative new treatments and technologies.



## 4. Innovation

**From concept to implementation, our Innovation Manager helps staff bring ideas to life, supporting evaluation, adoption, and spread of innovations that improve patient care and operational efficiency.**

Please contact our team via [innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk) for further support.

### **UHNM staff help shape future Innovation Champions network**

A group of UHNM staff taking part in the Birmingham City University (BCU) Innovation Programme are helping to drive forward plans for a future Innovation Champions network across the Trust.

During the programme, participants explored how innovation can become “everyone’s business” at UHNM, with discussions focusing on improving awareness, guidance and access to innovation pathways for staff across all roles and bands. Colleagues highlighted the importance of creating a culture where staff feel empowered to share ideas and support positive change regardless of their role.

The programme has brought together colleagues from a range of professional backgrounds, alongside partners from across the West Midlands, to develop project ideas and strengthen innovation skills.

UHNM participants have also offered to act as local champions within their own teams and departments to help embed innovation into everyday practice.

To find out more, email [innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:innovation@uhnm.nhs.uk)



## 5. Governance, Research Funding and More

**Our expert support teams set-up the study, keep your research safe, compliant, and on track, handling governance, costing, contracts, and everything in between.**

Please contact us via [research@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:research@uhnm.nhs.uk).

### **R&I team supports showcase event for innovative UHNM discharge tool**

Members of UHNM's Research and Innovation (R&I) team attended a multi-agency showcase event at Keele University highlighting how the Trust's High Risk of Delayed Transfer of Care (HRD) tool is helping patients leave hospital sooner and improving patient flow.

The event brought together clinicians, operational teams, academic partners, local authorities and NHS organisations to share learning and explore how the digital tool is being used in practice. Developed in-house at UHNM, the HRD tool uses real-time information from GP, hospital and social care records to identify patients at risk of delayed discharge earlier in their stay, helping teams coordinate support sooner.

Support from the R&I team played an important role in helping the project get off the ground, alongside wider collaboration with system partners and academic organisations. The event also provided an opportunity to showcase how research, innovation and partnership working are supporting more joined-up care and better outcomes for patients across the region.