

# UHNM Research and Innovation Update:

## Five Things Friday



### Welcome to our first '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.

UHNM has received government funding to launch a national research trial to improve surgical outcomes for endometriosis patients.

### **Case Study: The ICE Trial**

The 'ICE trial' is a two-year feasibility study supported by £250,000 from the National Institute for Health and Care Research's (NIHR) Research for Patient Benefit programme, one of the UK's most competitive research funding streams.

The trial will compare the standard stent method with a novel technique using indocyanine green (ICG) dye. Instead of inserting long stents, a small catheter delivers the dye into the ureters, which can then be seen under special light during surgery. This approach may significantly reduce patients' pain, surgical complications, and recovery time. [More>](#)



## 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 Department welcomes new Clinical Research Matron**

We're delighted to welcome Kiruba Shankari Rajan to UHNM as our new Clinical Research Matron.

Kiruba began her nursing journey in India with an honours degree which encompassed adult nursing, paediatrics, mental health, community care, and midwifery.

She has held research roles in Exeter and London, contributing to research in areas including cardiology, neurodegenerative conditions, hepatology, and haematology-oncology.

In her new role, she leads on feasibility meetings, oversees staffing and study set-up, manages acute issues and supports efficiency improvements in research delivery processes across the Trust.

Kiruba said: "Research is vital for the progression of medicine. It improves patient care, drives innovation, and makes treatment more accessible. I want to help promote research participation among people of all backgrounds."

"I'm loving meeting my new colleagues. I'm here to support, to listen, and to be a voice for research across the Trust. I'm proud to be working with a dedicated, talented team who are truly making a difference."





### 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)

#### **What is a CRDC?**

CRDCs were established in April 2025 to boost the speed, efficiency, and accessibility of commercial clinical research in the UK, strengthening the nation's global competitiveness in life sciences while improving health outcomes. There are 21 CRDCs across the UK, 15 managed by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) in England, alongside four in Scotland and one in Wales and Northern Ireland.

#### **The North Midlands CRDC**

In December 2024 it was announced that UHNM will receive £3.1 million in government funding to help accelerate medical research and provide cutting-edge technology and equipment to support the testing of innovative treatments, offering patients greater access to treatments still in trial phases through the establishment of the North Midlands CRDC.

Find out more about the North Midlands CRDC. [More>](#)



## 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@uhnms.nhs.uk](mailto:innovation@uhnms.nhs.uk) for further support.

### **UHNMS to host it's first Innovation Summit**

Advancements in healthcare, the generation of new ideas and developing technologies will be on the agenda as UHNMS gears up to host it's first Innovation Summit.

The event, which takes place on Wednesday 24 September at the Wade conference centre will feature panel discussions from experts in the NHS, healthcare industry and academic institutions, and exhibitions by Healthtech companies, AI experts, Pharma, Medtech.

**Click here for more information and to book your place. [More>](#)**

*PHOTO: Working with UHNMS's R&I team, engineers and clinical staff from the Royal Stoke University Hospital's Cancer Centre came up with an ingenious in-house solution to a national shortage of eye protection. Their efforts to maintain patient care earned them a UHNMS 'Team of the Month Award'. [More>](#)*



## 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@uhnms.nhs.uk](mailto:research@uhnms.nhs.uk).

### The Approval Process

Find out more about the Health Research Authority's (HRA) latest approval process. [More>](#)