

Research News Bulletin

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Research headlines

Research Matters: changing lives in east London and beyond

Barts Health, in association with QMUL, hosted their second Research Matters: changing lives in east London and beyond on Weds 24 May.

This was part of the Trust's annual International Clinical Trials Day programme. The conference featured talks from some of our leading academics and clinicians, who showcased some of the latest developments in research at Barts Health and QMUL's School of Medicine and Dentistry. Topics included the Whitechapel Life Sciences development, public involvement in Women's Health research and improving outcomes in trauma haemorrhage. Guests later had the opportunity to meet our speakers and discuss their projects further, during a wine reception. The event was very well received with attendees praising the 'informative' and 'diverse' range of topics covered.

'Excellent information of (sic) current and exciting projects'
'All topics covered were enjoyable, eye opening and informative'

There will be a short film highlighting the event, which will be available for viewing at www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/takepart in the near future.

Last year's Research Matters highlights and speakers' videos are currently available for viewing.

Building Research Partnerships workshop

As part of the celebrations for International Clinical Trials Day, the Research Engagement and Diffusion Team hosted the NIHR CRN Building Research Partnerships workshop, for over 20 research staff and lay advisors.

The workshop, facilitated by Jamie Spencer, explored the various ways to actively and constructively involve the public in the research process. By the end

of the workshop, participants understood 'the research cycle' and how the public can be involved in every part of that process. Lay advisor participant feedback highlighted how comfortable they felt to contribute to proceedings and staff commented that they enjoyed listening to other people's views and how open and honest conversations were.

New JRMO website

The JRMO is developing a new website for our researchers.

By "our" we mean researchers based at Queen Mary University of London, Barts Health or those elsewhere seeking to work at our sites or collaborate with local researchers.

This will replace our existing website, currently hosted by Barts Health, and be operational in July. As soon as it is open for business we will be contacting all our users. To receive specific updates please contact Nick Good and be added to the circulation list for these R&D News Bulletins:
nicholas.good@bartshealth.nhs.uk

The new website will cover much of the same areas as the existing website but with overall the aim of being more user-friendly than the existing site. It will also be more configurable so, over time, as we all get used to it, we will be able to present content in more flexible ways. In addition to being revised and updated it will also contain more information about the services we offer to non-clinical researchers.

Our patient-focussed pages (www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/takepart) will remain on the Barts Health website which is, itself, being overhauled during the summer.

By the autumn there will be both new JRMO and a new Barts Health websites, so please keep an eye out for relevant links to the information that matters to you.

Study records update

It is a regulatory obligation to put CTIMP reports on EUDRACT. It is also good practice to put results of all trials on such a publically available database and publication is a condition of ethical approval. For NIHR portfolio studies a lay summary of results should also be sent to the NIHR who will also make this publicly available.

QMUL and other academic institutions recently received a Freedom of Information (FOI) request from a journalist concerning the uploading of closed studies to publicly accessible websites such as EUDRACT, Clinical trials.gov and ISRCTN.

Despite many of our studies being published in academic journals it became apparent, from the compiled response to the FOI requests, that uploading details of publications to these websites has not been as common as it should be. In some cases the record itself was not kept up to date and studies appeared to be still active although they had, in fact, been closed.

All researchers should ensure that their results are appropriately placed in the public domain and that all records are kept up to date.

We anticipate that the full details of the FOI information will be put into the public domain and also expect further FOI requests on this subject. Should researchers need any further advice on what to do including uploading the clinical study report to the EUDRACT portal please contact Marie-Claire Rickard in the JRMO: m.rickard@qmul.ac.uk

Study closure review project

A Study Closure Review Project has been launched by the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) to develop a consistent, harmonised study closure review and quality assurance process for all studies. This holistic approach to study closure information collection will generate study intelligence from both Local Clinical Research Networks (LCRNs) and the NIHR CRN Co-ordinating Centre to

improve performance monitoring by all users in all areas.

Study closure review is a vital process carried out by NIHR CRN, enabling the extraction and provision of meaningful, usable information regarding clinical study performance and the reasons for successful delivery and failure to recruitment to time and target.

As the workstreams progress, the project team will be inviting different stakeholders (LCRNs, CRNCC & National Specialty Groups) to participate in the project. If you have any questions about this review please contact the Project Manager James Williamson in the first instance for project related queries:

james.williamson@nihr.ac.uk

To read the full project brief [please click here](#)

EDGE

Last year Barts Health implemented the use of EDGE to capture information on the accruals to studies. This was featured in previous R&D News Bulletins.

Many of our research teams are now routinely using EDGE, and have discovered how it can support various aspects of study activity including updating local records. This year over 9,000 accruals were reported for our Trust through EDGE.

Teams need to keep up the good work and continue to upload their accrual regularly. Failing to do so could affect our future funding from the CRN.

If you are not using EDGE or want some further training or advice on aspects of EDGE you may not yet have discovered, please contact Zabed Ahmed in the JRMO:

zabed.ahmed@bartshealth.nhs.uk.

CRN News

- **CRN North Thames leads recruitment to portfolio studies for 2016/17**
During 2016/17 CRN:NT enrolled over 76,000 patients onto studies across 30

specialties, over 15,000 more than the previous year. That contributed significantly to the CRNs performance overall, providing more patients with the opportunity to participate in clinical research studies than ever before. As at 7 June 2017, the 15 CRNs across the country collectively recruited more than 670,000 patients to participate in research.

- **Professor Rosalind Raine appointed as NIHR Senior Investigator**
Health Services Research Sub-Specialty Lead, Professor Rosalind Raine, has been appointed as an NIHR Senior Investigator, a position reserved for the most prominent and prestigious researchers within the NIHR Faculty. [For more information please click here.](#)
- **Funding review**
CRN North Thames funding for

2017/18 is slightly reduced compared with the funding that we received in 2016/17. In light of this the Network is reviewing the funding that it allocates to all Trusts in our network. The outcome of this review will help ensure that scarce resources are allocated effectively, allowing them to maximise efficiencies in recruitment, expand our research portfolio and provide more opportunities for patients to benefit from clinical research. Funding allocation letters are due to be sent to Trusts shortly.

- **RCP/NIHR CRN Research Awards**
The Royal College of Physicians and Clinical Research Network awards are now open for applications. These awards seek to recognise NHS consultants and trainees who are active in research. This year, ten awards are available. [For more information please click here.](#)

Local research news

Liz Clough retires from JRMO

Liz Clough who has been the Governance Operations Manager in the JRMO since May 2014 is retiring at the end of June. Liz has had a long career in clinical research and within Barts Health.

Liz worked at Whipps Cross from 2002 in a variety of Research Governance and management roles undertaking sponsor reviews, permissions, providing GCP training, auditing and support for research across the whole of Whipps Cross trust. As the networks began to develop Liz worked with the Central East London network to secure funding for research posts and helped develop and manage the clinical research unit which opened in 2008.

When the local Trusts merged to form Barts Health, Liz led the Barts Health harmonisation hub which was a new initiative to streamline the approvals process for trusts in our area. The hub undertook permissions and sought new commercial research opportunities for all Trusts in the network on behalf of the Central and East London. Barts Health was awarded the prize for the most efficient hub in 2013/4.

Prior to working in the NHS Liz worked as clinical researchers on different projects including developing new molecular identification methods for bacteria production of monoclonal antibodies for rhesus d and looking at the immunobiology of pregnancy.

Liz intends to spend a year relaxing and travelling before taking up new challenges.

Welcome to Heather Clarke

Dr Heather Clarke has joined the JRMO for 6 months to work with the Governance and GCP teams to improve processes and ways of working.

Heather brings almost 30 years' experience in clinical research from a variety of organisations – big pharma, biotech, and CROs across all Phases of research. She is well placed to help us to learn from the best approaches from other organisations and to adapt them for use in QMUL and Barts Health. Heather will focus on talking to researchers and their teams to understand what support you need, to listen to feedback and to discuss and ideas or suggestions you may have.

If you would like to contact Heather to discuss any matters around research governance delivery in the JRMO she can be contacted at heather.clarke@qmul.ac.uk.

QMUL tops UK league table for dentistry and reaches top 5 for medicine

Queen Mary University of London is the UK's highest ranking university for dentistry, as published recently in The Complete University Guide league table for 2018. It is also the only university in the country to achieve the maximum overall score of 100 in that subject.

QMUL has also moved up three places in the rankings to be one of the top five universities in the UK for Medicine, achieving an overall score of 97.6 out of 100, and the maximum score of 100 for the employability of graduates on completion of their course.

These results are based on student satisfaction scores from the National Student Survey and other measures from the Research Excellence Framework and Higher Education Statistics Agency. The Complete University Guide is compiled from Higher Education Statistics Agency data on university entry standards, student-staff ratios, spending on academic services, spending on facilities, good honours degrees, graduate prospects, completion and overseas student enrolments. [For further information please click here.](#)

£2m research centre for women's health launches

Barts Charity has awarded £2m to establish a Barts Research Centre for Women's Health. The pioneering new research centre will focus on improving the health of mothers and babies.

The ethnically diverse population of East London has a significantly increased risk of maternal and newborn complications, including diabetes where it has the highest rates in all of England with 10-15% of local mothers developing it in pregnancy.

Researchers at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London are now

creating a dedicated centre - Barts Research Centre for Women's Health (BARC) - for landmark research to improve the health of women before, during and after pregnancy.

The suite of research will focus on conception, pregnancy, birth, and post-birth, focusing on the following projects:

- **More successful IVF treatments:** The use of novel time-lapse imaging technology to identify the healthiest embryos for use in IVF treatments;
- **Preventing diabetes in pregnancy:** How we can prevent diabetes during pregnancy and its long-term risks;
- **Preventing excessive bleeding during childbirth:** Looking at the effectiveness of a blood product called "cryoprecipitate" to prevent bleeding during childbirth; and
- **Preventing post-birth diabetes:** Whether diet – specifically a Mediterranean diet involving more food such as olive oil and nuts – can improve health and reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes post-birth for women who've suffered from diabetes during pregnancy.

[For more information please see the Barts Health website.](#)

Athena SWAN Award

QMUL has been successful in its application for an Athena SWAN Silver Award. This award, and the Athena Swan charter more broadly, recognises the commitment by a university to the advancement of gender equality in academia. This achievement builds on the Bronze Award that was secured in 2008, and reflects a range of steps that have been taken in recent years to support equality of representation and opportunity amongst staff and students.

Although this is a significant step forward it is realised that it is imperative that all staff continue to focus on the issue of gender equality, and on questions of diversity and inclusion more broadly. This award is a platform to deliver further improvements in this area, which will include continuing efforts to secure and where possible improve awards at School and Institute level. All Schools and Institutes within Science and Engineering and the School

of Medicine and Dentistry hold an award, and following expansion of the scheme work is ongoing to extend this recognition to Schools in Humanities and Social Sciences.

[Further information on this award and next steps can be found on the QMUL website here.](#)

Contacting Pharmacy re trials

The Barts Health Clinical Trial Pharmacy services has asked the Bulletin to flag up that requests to it about input into any clinical trials, including request for costing, should be sent to a new generic inbox: CTpharmacy@bartshealth.nhs.uk

In addition, if you directly correspond with a particular member of pharmacy staff and receive no response you should forward that email to the generic inbox so that Pharmacy can address any urgent issues.

Organic compound found in early stages of star formation

Researchers from QMUL are part of a team that have for the first time detected methyl isocyanate (or CH₃NCO) in a solar-

type protostar, the kind from which our Sun and the Solar System formed. Methyl isocyanate (CH₃NCO) is one of a family of prebiotic molecules, thought to be the precursors of more complex compounds, such as peptides and amino acids, associated with living organisms on Earth.

Findings indicate that the key ingredients for the origin of life could have been produced at an early stage of the Solar System accordingly to co-author [Dr David Quénard](#) from QMUL's [School of Physics and Astronomy](#). The team used data from the ALMA telescope (Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array) in Chile to detect the compound in the warm, dense inner regions of the cocoon of dust and gas around very young stars in the multiple star system IRAS 16293-2422. Using a new computer model jointly developed by QMUL and University College London they were able to use the new observations to understand more about the chemistry in the proto-stellar material and the mechanisms by which this complex molecule is formed.

The results are published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, [for more information please click here.](#)

Events

JRMO's RSU drop-in sessions

- Are you a researcher new to the approvals process or stuck with how to answer those tricky ethical questions on your IRAS application form?
- Or perhaps you've been through it all before but need some help navigating the latest changes in regulatory approvals?
- How does the HRA Approval process affect your study?
- Could your study be eligible for REC Proportionate Review?
- How do you apply to the QMUL Ethics of Research Committee?
- Which organisation can be sponsor?

The JRMO's Research Support Unit (RSU) team is running two drop-in sessions:

Dates:

Thursday 13 July (12.00pm - 1.30pm)

Wednesday 19 July (2.00pm - 3.30pm)

Venue: Lower Ground Floor, Foyer area, QM Innovation Centre, 5 Walden Street, Whitechapel, E1.

From small queries to in-depth assistance with your study paperwork the RSU team - Katherine, Jack, Laura and Hazel - is here to help.

For further information [please click here for the RSU's webpage.](#)

Chiaroscuro, from War Crime Trials to Clinical Trials

It is 70 years since the Nuremberg 'Doctors' Trial — the prosecution of Nazi doctors for illegal medical experiments in the death camps. From that appallingly dark time came the light of hope. The judges promulgated a set of ethical principles for medical research on humans, known as the Nuremberg Code that underpins today's medical research and has led to new international legal standards.

Simon Callow will interview 92 year old Ralph Koltai, probably the most famous stage designer alive today, who worked as librarian for the prosecution at Nuremberg.

In this unique commemoration of the emergence of the Nuremberg Code, David Collier, colleagues and patients of the William Harvey Clinical Research Centre will examine its significance for present-day clinical trials.

Venue: The Great Hall of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, EC1A 7BE

Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2017 at 7:30 pm

[For further information and to book tickets click here.](#)

QMUL Festival of Ideas

The inaugural QMUL Festival of Ideas will take place on Thursday 29 June 2017. To register your attendance, [please click here](#).

The unique day of activities will showcase the huge variety of research taking place at QMUL in an interactive and engaging way. This inspirational event will provide an opportunity for staff from all disciplines, both academic and professional, to learn about some of our diverse activities. The Festival of Ideas will encourage staff to work together to generate new ideas and collaborative projects.

There are many reasons to be proud to be part of the QMUL community. This Festival of Ideas is a fantastic opportunity to showcase these. All staff are invited to this event and, in agreement with your line

manager, should feel free to attend during normal working hours.

Optimizing Clinical Trials: Site Selection, Patient Recruitment and Feasibility Summit

The [11th Annual Optimizing Clinical Trials: Site Selection, Patient Recruitment and Feasibility Summit](#) (3 - 5 October) returns this year to London.

The largest brands will come together for two days for an event packed full of case studies, workshops, networking, discussions related to topics such as patient as partner in clinical trials, protocol challenges, patient centricity, technology & transformation of clinical trial execution.

Keynote speakers include:

- **Tariq Sethi** | Vice President, Respiratory Translational Medicine Unit Early Clinical Development | **AstraZeneca**
- **Francois-Xavier Frapaise** | Vice President, Clinical Development, Drug Safety and Medical Affairs | **Merck**
- **Amy Froment** | Global Feasibility Operations Director, Global Study Management | **Amgen**
- **Oriol Serra** | Director Feasibility Center of Excellence | **Pfizer**
- **Markus Schugens** | Director, Clinical Country Management | **Biogen**

RDS London drop-in clinics

RDS London holds regular next drop-in clinics for researchers preparing applications to NIHR Applied Health Streams (RfPB, EME, HTA, Programme Grants, Programme Development Grants and Fellowships) or medical charities. Drop-ins take place in East London on the last Friday of the month. RDS London can support researchers at all stages of preparing grant applications. Advice and guidance can be provided on study design, identifying a research team and targeting an appropriate funding stream.

The next East London clinics will be held on Fridays: **28 July, 25 August, and 22 September**, all 12 – 2pm. There is no

need to book, just turn up on the day:
Room G15, Yvonne Carter Building, 58
Turner Street, London, E1 2AD (reception:

020 7882 5882). [For more information please click here.](#)

Training

JRMO GCP training

To book your place on JRMO run GCP-related training courses please [visit our website](#). Core courses available are:

- Good Clinical Practice (GCP) full course One day
- GCP refresher 2.5 hours
- Research Governance Framework (RGF) full course 4.5 hours
- RGF refresher 2 hours
- GCP for Pharmacy - full course 4 hours
- GCP for Pharmacy - refresher 2 hours

[For more information on dates and instructions on how to book your places please see the JRMO website](#) or email: research.training@bartshealth.nhs.uk.

Pride and Pragmatism: Celebrating 50 years of pragmatic trials

A course entitled [Pride and Pragmatism: Celebrating 50 years of pragmatic trials](#) is being run by QMUL's Pragmatic Clinical Trials Unit.

This event will run on **28 September 2017** and will comprise a half-day course on understanding, conducting and reporting pilot and feasibility studies run by the PAFS group* who developed the recent CONSORT

extension for pilot trials, followed by lunch and an afternoon of talks exploring the current state of pragmatic trials, including invited speakers Professor Shaun Triweekly (Professor of Health Services Research Aberdeen), and Professor Kerry Hood (Professor of Trials and the Director of the Centre for Trials Research at Cardiff University).

[Early registration is encouraged and to do that and find out more please click here.](#)

Clinfield research training

Clinical Research runs a number of courses aimed at those new to the field of clinical research as well as those who have gained experience in the field but who would like to refresh their knowledge and skills and pick up tips and tools to enhance their practice. Over the next few months the following training is being offered ([click to see more](#)):

Course dates for summer 2017:

- [Developing Yourself in Clinical Research](#) - June 26
- [Applying for Ethical Opinion in the NHS](#) - June 29
- [Lab Skills for Clinical Research Staff](#) - September 27

To book a place or find out more please click on the links above.

Research funding

NIHR funding deadlines

- [Antimicrobial Resistance in a Global Context – A Cross-Council call in partnership with the Department of Health](#) - **Closing date: 11 July 2017**. This is a £10m call under the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) cross-research council initiative in partnership with the Department of Health.
- [Programme Development Grants - Competition 19](#) - **Closing date: 19**

July 2017. Applications are invited for Competition 19 of the Programme Development Grants programme.

- [Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Competition 33](#) - **Closing date: 19 July 2017**. Applications are invited for Competition 33 of the Research for Patient Benefit programme.
- [Programme Grants for Applied Research - Competition 24](#) - **Closing date: 27 July 2017**. Applications are invited for Competition 24 of the

Programme Grants for Applied Research programme.

Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme funding streams. **Closing date 4 July 2017:**

- [17/37 - Interventions to slow the progression of chronic kidney disease](#)
- [17/39 - Intraoperative imaging for oncological surgery](#)
- [17/35 - Mechanisms of action of health interventions](#)
- [17/38 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)
- [17/11 - Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme Researcher-led call](#)

[17/44 - Public Health Research Programme researcher-led](#) - **Closing date: 25 July 2017.** The Public Health Research Programme is accepting standard outline applications to their researcher-led workstream.

[17/43 - Public Health Research Programme researcher-led \(evidence synthesis\)](#) - **Closing date: 25 July 2017.** The Public Health Research Programme is accepting evidence synthesis applications to their researcher-led workstream.

[17/03 - Better oral health](#) - **Closing date: 1 August 2017.** Applications are invited to the Public Health Research Programme.

[17/04 - Public mental health](#) - **Closing date: 1 August 2017.** Applications are invited to the Public Health Research Programme.

[17/01 - Interpersonal violence and abusive relationships in children and young people*](#) - **Closing date: 1 August 2017.** Applications are invited to the Public Health Research Programme.

[17/02 - Health and wellbeing for older employees in the workplace](#) **AVAILABLE**** - **Closing date: 1 August 2017.** Applications are invited to the Public Health Research Programme.

HTA Programme funding streams, **closing dates 3 August 2017:**

- [17/14 - Zoledronic acid to reduce fractures in patients with alcoholic liver disease **WEBINAR SLIDES AVAILABLE **](#)

- [17/16 - A national pre-hospital major trauma triage tool/process](#)
- [17/17 - Management strategies for pilonidal disease **WEBINAR SLIDES AVAILABLE**](#)
- [17/18 - Treatment of children with medial epicondyle fractures](#)
- [17/19 - First trimester detailed ultrasound scan for the earlier detection of foetal anomalies](#)
- [17/20 - Improving continence in children and young people with neurodisability](#)
- [17/22 - Mode of delivery for preterm infants](#)
- [17/23 - Treatment of torus fractures](#)
- [17/25 - Cognitive behavioural therapy-based treatment for adults with intellectual disability and harmful sexual behaviours](#)
- [16/74 - Optimal treatment strategies for fistulising perianal Crohn's disease](#)

[17/41 - HTA Researcher-led call evidence synthesis](#) - **Closing date: 9 August 2017**

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting expression of interest, evidence synthesis applications to their researcher-led workstream.

[17/42 - HTA Researcher-led call primary research](#) - **Closing date: 9 August 2017**

The Health Technology Assessment Programme is accepting full applications to their researcher-led workstream.

[17/45 - Health Services and Delivery Research Programme researcher-led \(evidence synthesis\)](#) - **Closing date: 7 September 2017.** The Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme is accepting full evidence synthesis applications to their researcher-led workstream.

[17/49 - Health Services & Delivery Research Researcher-led standard call](#) - **Closing date: 7 September 2017.** The Health Service and Delivery Research Programme are accepting Stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.

For further information please see the NIHR website:
<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/current-funding-opportunities/>

To subscribe to the NIHR's themed call mailing list please [click here](#).

Royal College of Physicians and NIHR CRN awards

Ten prizes are available again this year to recognise outstanding contributions of NHS consultants and trainees to the conduct of NIHR Clinical Research Network Portfolio studies.

[Full information on eligibility and how to apply can be found on the NIHR website here.](#)

Awards will be split between five consultant awards of £500 per consultant and five trainee awards of £500 per trainee. Consultant award winners will be invited to the Harveian Oration on 18 October 2017. Trainee award winners will be invited to the Royal College of Physicians new members' ceremony on 27 September 2017.

Completed application forms must be received by **midnight on 2 July 2017**.

Royal Academy of Engineering Enterprise Fellowships

The Royal Academy of Engineering Enterprise Fellowships scheme is now open for applications. Enterprise Fellowships support the founders and leaders of tomorrow's high-tech companies. The awards provide money-can't-buy bespoke support and one-to-one mentoring from the Academy's Fellowship.

Fellowships are available to both university-based academics of any experience level who wish to spin-out a company, and also to recent graduates wishing to create a company. Prior experience of commercialisation activities is not essential, Closing date: **Monday 2 October**.

More details are available on the [Royal Academy's website](#), or you can contact the [enterprise](#) team.

Royal Society of Edinburgh – International exchange programme – bilateral

This programme aims to facilitate collaboration between researchers in Scotland and those based in institutions with which the society has a formal memorandum of understanding. Grants are worth up to £3,000. Visits should last between one and four weeks. **Closing date:** 31 Aug 2017 (recurring).

Fritz Thyssen Foundation | Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, DE, conference grants

These awards support scholarly events, in particular national and international conferences with the aim of facilitating the discussion and analysis of specific scholarly questions as well as fostering cooperation. Grants cover the costs of travel and accommodation for speakers and meals of active participants, as well as up to €500 to defray incidental conference costs. **Closing date:** 31 August 2017 (recurring).

Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowship applications

This call opens on the 30 June 2017.

New applicant guidance has been uploaded on the [RAE website here](#).

The **closing date is now 4pm on Wednesday 6 September**, not Monday 4 September. There is only one application stage this year but all information will need to be submitted by the closing date.

Research professional

Research Professional (formerly Research Research) now offer an easy to use self-service sign up: <http://www.researchprofessional.com/>

Funding information: [Further funding information can be found on the Research Professional website – to access click here \(account and password required\).](#)