

# Overview of the Research & Development Directorate

Quarter 1 (Apr - Jun) 2024-25

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# Executive summary

## 1. Investment in People and Diversity Five Year Targets

- In March 2024, R&D were successful in getting a £30K grant to look at how to increase diversity in patients taking part in research at RPH. A working group has been set-up and work is underway.
- Project underway to collate baseline information on research activity of non-medics within the Trust and to identify areas of good practice.
- A 50:50 Respiratory Physiologist has been appointed with funding from the VPD-HLRI CRF, who is supporting Research Delivery across the CRF and R&D as well as working with Respiratory Physiology to increase research in the department. A research & education lead is to be appointed in ECHO, partly supported by the CRF (job description currently being reviewed).
- The Trust were successful in getting £206,979 from the CRN (split over 3 years) to continue to support the 8a Clinical Trials Pharmacist and to appoint a new Specialist Clinical Trials Pharmacy Technician (job description currently being reviewed).

## 2. Tissue Bank Five Year Target

- The Tissue Bank has now relocated from the JCBC to the HLRI. Discussions are ongoing about relocating the freezers from the off-site facility
- The ethics approval has been renewed for a further 5 years and amended so that researchers can apply for data only

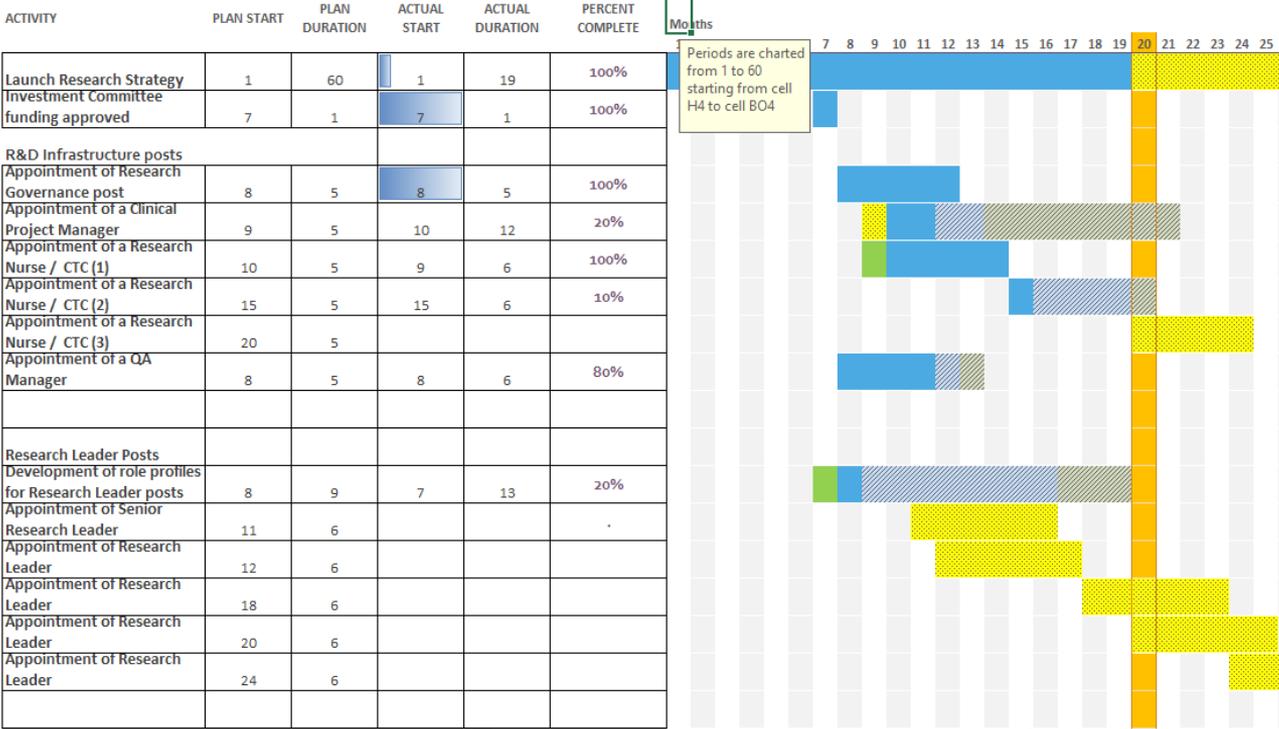


# Research Strategy Implementation Plan

Select a period to highlight at right. A legend describing the charting follows.

Period Highlight: 20

- Plan Duration
- Actual Start
- % Complete
- Actual (beyond plan)



**Research Leaders**  
 Discussions are underway with Charlotte Summers and have reached an advanced stage. The plan is for an advert to be released shortly with a focus on Interventional Cardiology for the first post. An email has been sent to the Clinical Directorates for them to express an interest in hosting a 50:50 post within their areas.

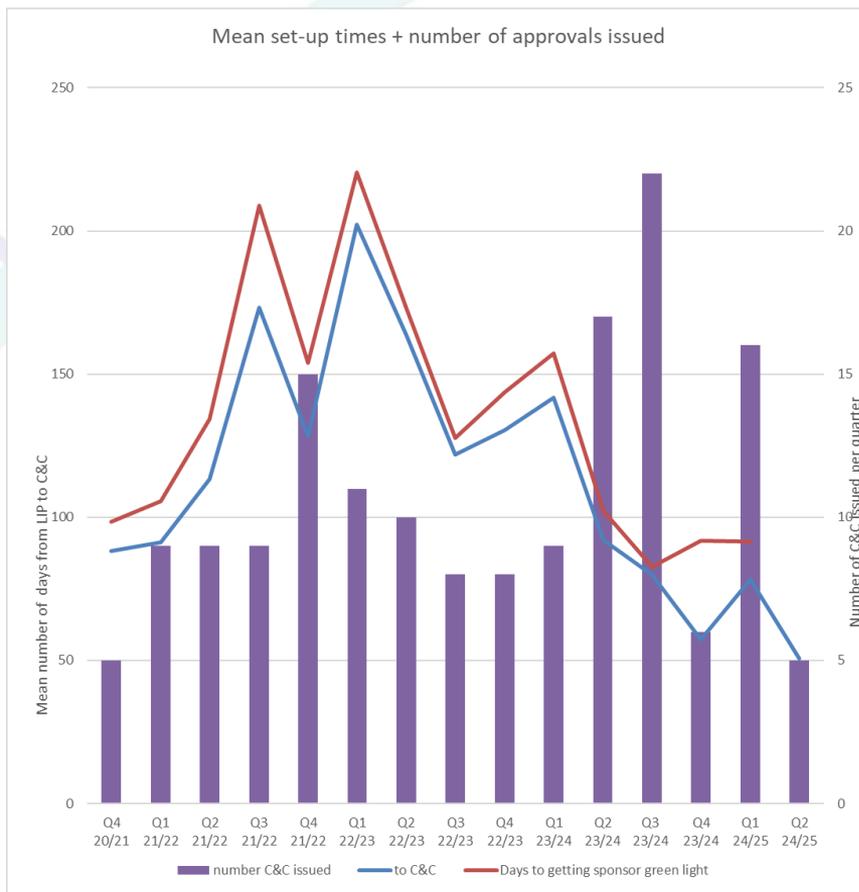
- Research Infrastructure posts**
- Research Governance post– appointed, started in December 2023
  - Clinical Project Manager – appointed, expected start date October 2024
  - Quality Assurance Manager - an interim post has been appointed, substantive post to go out to advert January 2025
  - 3 Research Nurses - first post appointed, started in January 2024

Implementation started January 2023 (Month 1)

## Spotlight – Research Governance (slide 1 of 2)



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The mean number of days to studies getting Trust C&C is currently 80 days (down from a maximum of 202 days at the beginning of 2022/23).

New metrics (still to be formally published) will be 60 days for commercial studies.

The number of studies being approved has steadily increased over the past 12 months. The appointment of 2 new Governance posts in December 2023 and January 2024 is having a sustained impact.

The current mean for Q2 2024/25 is 51 days (n=5).

## Spotlight – Research Governance (slide 2 of 2)



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Aim: to reduce the mean time from site selected to issuing C&C to 60 days (down from a peak of 202 days at the beginning of 2022/23) with a further 25% reduction by the end of year 5.

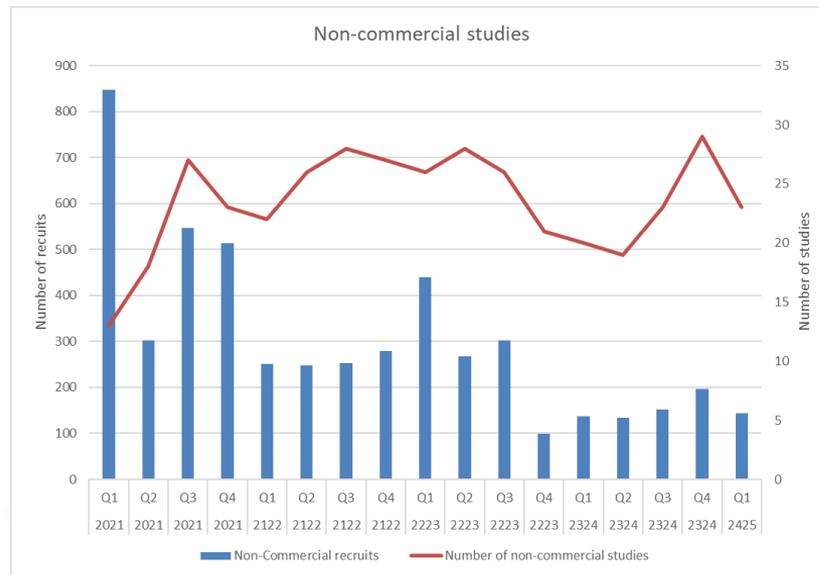
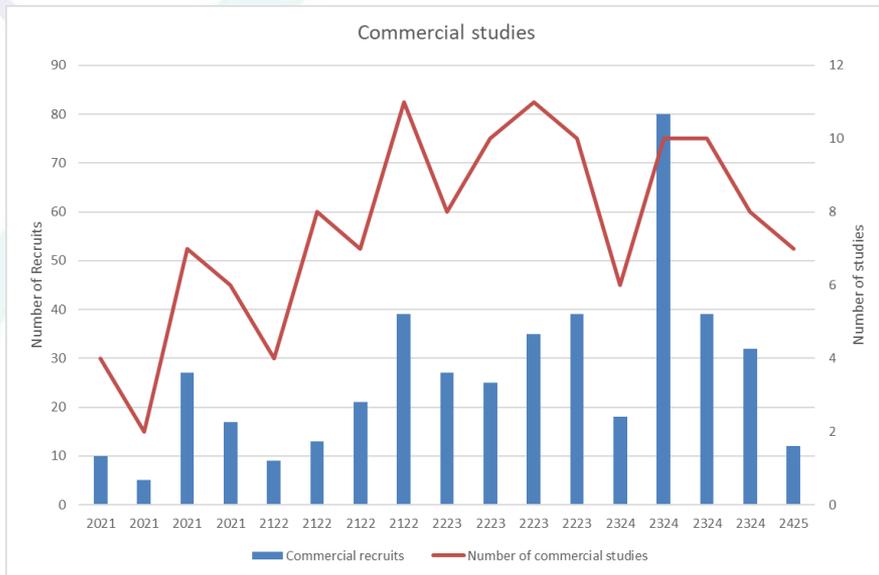
Actions completed:

- 1) Appointment of an additional band 6 Research Governance Co-ordinator – appointed started Feb 2024
- 2) Funding has been identified to appoint a Research Governance Facilitator to support the set-up of studies going through the HLRI CRF. The post holder started in December 2023.
- 3) Additional support for the Governance Team from other local NHS Organisations – completed.  
5 days a week support from North West Anglia Foundation Trust for a 6 month period (finished at the end Dec 2023)

Actions underway:

- 1) Additional support for Pharmacy – funding for an additional part-time Clinical Trials Pharmacist was identified from R&D funds and an application for further funding from the CRN to support this post was successful. Post has been filled and they started at the end of June 2023. A request for further funding has been successful to enable this post to continue for another 3 years as well as funding to appoint a Band 6 Specialist Clinical Trials Pharmacy Technician.
- 2) From November 2023 all commercial studies sponsoring Phase 2b, 3 and 4 clinical trials are now being required to use the model contract and a standard pricing structure (National Contract Value Review – NCVR). Sites are only allowed to negotiate if the actual costs at site are 10% higher than in the draft contract. This is starting to show real differences with the mean time to issuing C&C for commercial studies where the Local Information Pack was received after 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 is currently 29 days.

# Patient Recruitment



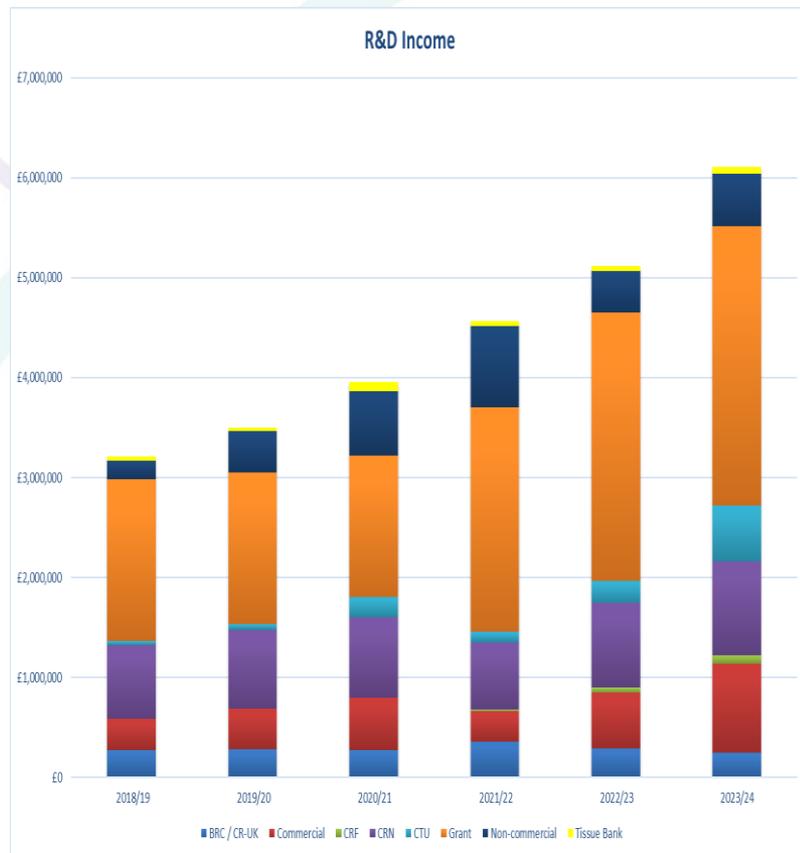
Recruitment for commercial studies continue to increase year on year and we continue to have UK and Global firsts for recruitment into commercial studies.

The recruitment for numbers for non-commercial studies are lower this year, but this is due to an increase in complexity of the studies we are running (which is reflected in the income – see next slide)

# R&D Income



## Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



R&D income over the previous 5 years is shown split into the various categories.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
BRC / CR-UK	£275,041	£282,501	£271,788	£353,262	£287,084	£243,910
Commercial	£310,120	£407,837	£526,699	£307,273	£559,714	£888,681
CRF				£17,210	£51,632	£91,502
CRN	£734,623	£785,757	£805,600	£672,355	£846,861	£940,709
CTU	£41,846	£61,132	£203,696	£105,811	£219,164	£558,020
Grant	£1,618,310	£1,513,975	£1,412,472	£2,243,643	£2,685,365	£2,795,184
Non-commercial	£187,074	£418,679	£643,222	£812,781	£417,882	£522,784
Tissue Bank	£45,218	£28,444	£91,029	£55,150	£49,368	£70,626

# Tissue Bank



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- 1) The ethics approval has been renewed for a further 5 years and amended so that researchers can apply for data only (previously researchers needed matched samples). It is hoped that this may attract additional requests for Tissue Bank support for projects.
- 2) The Tissue Bank has now relocated from the JCBC to the HLRI, all risk assessments have been completed and the Visitors agreements are in place. Work was able to restart in August 2024. The costing model has been updated to ensure HLRI investigators get a reduced rate ( in the same manner as BRC investigators).
- 3) Discussions are ongoing about relocating the freezers from the off-site facility. This is currently Advent, based in Sawston and costs over £12,000 per year for the cost of housing the freezers plus additional fees every time we need to deposit or pick samples.

## Collaboration with Campus Partners

### 1) VPD HLRI Clinical Research Facility

The Clinical Research facility in the CPD HLRI is supported by an NIHR Infrastructure Grant gained in collaboration with CUH. The grant provides funding for staff within the VPD HLRI CRF, as well as access to the Scientific Advisory Board and support from the CUH CRF (CCRC). RPH provided members to sit on the SAB.

### 2) Access to the Cell and Gene Therapy committee for research studies

CUH are providing access to their Cell and Gene Therapy Committee for RPH studies which require risk assessment and review. RPH provided members to sit on the group.

### 3) West Anglia Commercial Research Delivery Centre

CUH, RPH and CPFT collaborated to write a bid for funding an NIHR Commercial Research Delivery Centre to be co-directed by Pippa Corrie and Robert Rintoul. The centre (if funded) will be housed by CUH.

### 4) Healthtech Research Centre

RPH is a collaborator in a recent successful bid to become a Healthtech Research Centre, hosted by CUH. Dr I Smith is a named collaborator on the bid which provides funding for statistical support from RPH as the potential for studies to use the RPH Clinical Trials Unit.

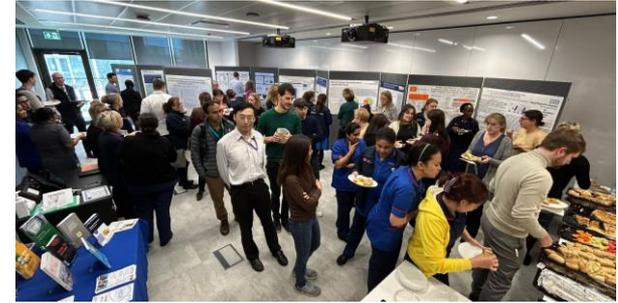
## Investment in People & Diversity (Slide 1 of 2)



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A Celebration of research event was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Funding was secured from the CRN to host the event, which started with a poster session open for patients, staff and members of the public to attend, with refreshments.

There were 22 posters displayed from staff across the Trust and University. These were judged by Dr I Smith and Dr J Ahluwalia.



This was followed by a workshop hosted by Dr Jag Ahluwalia and Dr Paddy Calvert, which included members of the Trusts EDI Group and interested members from R&D to look at how we could embed health equality and culturally inclusive practices into the research we do.

## Investment in People & Diversity (Slide 2 of 2)



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Following on from the workshop, we secured a further £30,000 from the CRN from their Promoting Access to Research: Inclusive Trial Opportunity (PARITY) funding stream. This work will be ongoing until the end of September 2024.

We have 4 workstreams running:

### **1 - Develop and establish a staff working group with the focus of EDI and inclusivity in research**

We have appointed someone on bank to have conversations with staff about barriers to research within their different community groups. This will culminate in a follow-up workshop and a plan on how we can address the barriers moving forwards to promote access to research in hard to reach groups. There is a parallel workstream looking at barriers to research for people with neurodiversity.

### **2 - Follow up on patients who have chosen not to participate in research**

Screening logs of current research studies are being reviewed to see if trends can be identified with regard to reasons for declining taking part in research studies. There is also a patient experience questionnaire being created, and a dedicated member of staff will approach patients to see if they would be willing to talk about their views on research.

### **3 - Language barriers and translation services**

Funding has been provided for translation services to see if this will help access to research for people for whom English is not their first language and also for patients who are blind or deaf.

### **4 - Producing Easy Read information guides for Papworth Sponsored Studies**

A local company (Thinklusive) has been commissioned to produce easy read guides for 2 current Papworth Sponsored multi-centred studies. This should help improve accessibility and understanding for potential participants and potentially result in increased recruitment.

# Delivering against the Trust Strategy



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As part of the Trust Strategy there are some of the following aims:

## **Foster a research environment that encourages all staff groups to participate in and lead research activities**

Progress: We set-up a Non-medic Research Steering Group in 2023. This identified a lack of baseline metrics to measure at research activity. A nurse and AHP have been appointed to carry out a short term project to gather research activity across the Trust for all Clinical Practitioners. They will also identify areas of good practice and

A 50:50 Respiratory Physiologist has been appointed with funding from the VPD-HLRI CRF, who is supporting Research Delivery across the CRF and R&D as well as working with Respiratory Physiology to increase research in the department. A research & education lead is to be appointed in ECHO, partly supported by the CRF (job description currently being reviewed).

The NMMSG put in an application to the recent Charity Education call to fund 3 Chief Nurse Internships (open to all Clinical Practitioners) to be run in conjunction with CUH.

The recent Innovation Fund application included a call for non-clinical projects.

## **Develop closer links between research and education**

R&D and Education meet quarterly to develop strategies for working more closely. We are now running some joint Clinical Educators Forums.

# Love Research Campaign



Royal Papworth Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust

Love Research is a joint campaign between Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, designed to raise awareness of our world-leading healthcare research and encourage staff-patient conversations about participating in research.

We are asking every member of our staff to [pledge](#) to increase their discussions about research with patients. Whether it's introducing the idea during a routine appointment, or responding to enquiries with more information, every conversation is a step forward in patient care and research. You are able to see other members of staff who have pledged on the digital wall.



# RPH Innovation Fund

The RPH Innovation fund has been running since 2021 funded by Royal Papworth Charity and managed and run by the R&D Department.

The latest round in 2024 has just closed to applicants and a record 22 people have applied for funding. Of these 7 are non-medics (31%) and the bids come to over £600K with £200K to allocate.

Year	Number applied	Total number funded	Number of non-medics funded	Funding allocated
2021	11	5	1	£230,928
2022	4	2	0	£93,691
2023	7	3	1	£32,093
2024	22			

# Workforce update

## 2023 NHS Staff Survey results

The survey was completed by 69 / 102 members of the R&D Directorate (68%) compared to the Trust response rate of 56%.

The results were very good (see table) with the Directorate having results that were >3 points more than the Trust average in nearly all domains. In only 7 / 99 questions did the directorate have a result that was <3 points below the Trust average.

Category	R&D results >3points above Trust average
Your Job	78%
Your Team	100%
Your Managers	100%
People in your organisation	100%
Your health & well being at work	70%
Your personal development	70%
Your personal development	70%
Your organisation	70%

	Mandatory Training	IPR Compliance	Sickness absence
R&D Total	88.41%	82.47%	2.27%
Trust Total	87.63%	73.60%	4.63%

## IPR, Mandatory Training, sickness absence

IPR compliance and Mandatory training are now above to the Trust totals (as of June 2024) representing an increase from the last report.

Sickness rates continue to be significantly lower than the Trust average.

# Recent publications



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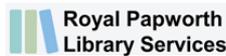
Papworth staff continue to publish regularly

2021 – 350 articles

2022 – 288 articles

2023 – 284 articles

Recent published papers include:



## Research publications and papers by Royal Papworth Hospital authors

[Take a look at recent publications from our colleagues](#)

The below hyperlinks will take you to the abstract on the publisher's website. All full references can be found on the [publications page of our website](#) and [Library Services](#) are happy to source full text for articles upon request. The Library also tweet any new abstracts via [@RoyalPapLib](#) using the hashtag #PapworthAuthors - why not give them a follow?

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