

“ Welcome to the first edition of the Research and Development newsletter. Our aim is to reach out each quarter to keep you updated on all the latest work we are doing on behalf of the Trust. This is one way we can celebrate our achievements and also provide an insight into the kind of research carried out at DBTH.

Each newsletter will have a different focus, this quarter we cover COVID-19 and the clinical and non-clinical research that is being undertaken across the Trust.



Photo taken in 2019

The team



We are a team of clinical and non-clinical staff members working alongside each other to ensure we are providing our patients and staff with the most up to date, evidence based practice in order for us to provide the highest possible standards of care.

We have a Senior Sister who oversees and coordinates a small team of Research Nurses and Clinical Trials Assistants. There are two

research managers, a research facilitator and an administrator. We also have dedicated team members in pharmacy, pathology and the blood bank, plus many other departments within the Trust.

We are currently based in the West Block (previously 'Silks' restaurant) and are always available to discuss any research currently being undertaken or any research proposals.

COVID K9 study



Open



Recruiting



34 Recruited participants



We are looking for colleagues who become mildly unwell (potential COVID-19 so looking for COVID-19 symptoms) to be swabbed and consented to wear a mask for 3 hours and socks for 12 hours, which are then sent to a laboratory to be used in controlled circumstances to train dogs to be able to sniff out covid in public areas.

One
of the top
recruiting
positive
samples site
in the UK!

[Click here to find out more about Medical Detection dogs](#)





Siren is an observational study looking primarily at antibodies, how and when we build them, how long they last, and whether they offer us protection from covid and if so for how long.

We are looking at swabbing and blood sampling 250 staff every 2 weeks to monitor antibody levels and active infection rates.

RECOVERY Trial



The RECOVERY Trial is an urgent Public Health study. The Chief Medical Officers for England and the devolved nations have written to participating NHS Trusts, asking that all hospitalised patients with COVID-19 are invited to take part in the trial.

If you have a patient under your care who are being actively treated for COVID-19, please consider offering them the chance to take part in the trial.

Please contact the Research & Development Team at dbth.research.covid19@nhs.net or call 644071 to see how we can help set up and support the trial in your ward area.

More information about the trial can also be found at www.recoverytrial.net



RECOVERY is a national research trial, looking at potential treatments for hospitalised patients with COVID-19. So far the trial has found that two treatments, Hydroxychloroquine and Lopinavir/Ritonavir, were not effective in treating patients with COVID-19. More encouragingly, the trial has also shown that Dexamethasone, a commonly used steroid treatment, is effective in reducing mortality for patients requiring oxygen therapy or ventilation.

These findings have directly led to a change in national clinical practice, meaning those who are admitted to hospital with COVID-19 requiring

oxygen therapy, are now treated with Dexamethasone. This is a fantastic example of the importance of clinical research and the role it plays alongside clinical care in helping to improve treatments and outcomes for our patients and ensuring the care we deliver is underpinned by the best available evidence.

A special note from Respiratory Consultant, Dr Wong, who is leading the RECOVERY trial here at DBTH:

'I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the patients at DBTH who have so far been enrolled in the national RECOVERY trial. They have contributed significantly in helping identify treatments that work and also treatments that don't work in COVID-19. Sadly we can see both locally and nationally the number of patients admitted with COVID-19 is increasing. The medical and research staff at DBTH are continuing to recruit patients onto the RECOVERY trial as there are still treatments of uncertain benefit and also potential new treatments coming out that need to be assessed.'

Convalescent Plasma Donations

Convalescent Plasma is one of the potential new treatments being tested to see if it can help improve recovery time and chance of survival for patients with COVID-19. NHS Blood & Transplant are asking for people who have had symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test, to consider donating their plasma, which can then be used for patients taking part in research trials, such as RECOVERY. To register your interest and for more information [please click here](#)



The ISARIC WHO study is being headed by ISARIC (International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infections Consortium). ISARIC is a global federation of clinical research networks, providing research on outbreak-prone infectious diseases. Its purpose is to prevent illness and deaths from infectious disease outbreaks.

The specific aim of this study is to accelerate our collective understanding of COVID-19 to help improve patient care and inform public health policy. It is designed to collect data obtained through examination and review of hospital notes collating details including: epidemiological factors, demographics, co-morbidities, onset and administration, signs and symptoms, pathogen testing, daily assessments undertaken, lab results, treatment, medication and outcome.

This is a large scale international non-interventional study with over 96,000 patients recruited internationally (562 research sites in 42 countries).

To date, there have been over 350 added onto study at DBTH. The data trends identified in the study include:

- New symptoms, such as change in taste and smell.
- Extent of demographic differences in infection and severity, for example in gender, ethnicity and age.

Our R&D Team continue to collate and input details of new patients admitted due to COVID-19.

A summary report has been issued by ISARIC on the data collected (3 September 2020). At this point, data has been collected and entered onto their database for 96074 individuals from across the world. To read the report [please click here](#).

If you would like more information regarding the study or about ISARIC [please visit their website](#).

A message from Sam Debbage

It is shown that Trusts who fully integrate research into their organisation outperform organisations that do not, leading to better patient quality care; better patient outcomes and improved use of resources.

As an active research organisation, DBTH is proud to be leading and supporting a range of research activity, most recently the national research trials looking to develop treatments for individuals with COVID-19. We have a dedicated and enthusiastic central research team who have a wealth of experience with supporting a range of research. We are keen to promote all current research and engage all our staff across team DBTH to help us identify potential recruits (staff and patients).



If you would like to become involved in either leading a new trial or supporting an existing one then please do get in touch.



Email: dbth.clinicalresearch@nhs.net
Call: 644073