Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Senior Registrar
Networking and Research Training
Course

27th-28th September 2019
Birmingham Conference and Events Centre, Hill Street, Birmingham
Welcome

The NIHR was established in 2006 to maximise the direct and indirect benefits of research to patient care. A key goal of the NIHR is to ensure that research in the NHS is conducted to the highest standards and throughout the NHS. Delivering excellent research in the NHS is dependent on a well-trained and skilled workforce and wider participation in research will require the participation of more NHS consultants in research.

Registrars are the consultants of the future. Training to become a consultant is currently assessed against a clinical curriculum, which incorporates three objectives relating to research methodology. However, these are limited in scope and do not mandate the acquisition of basic skills of clinical research such as completion of the Good Clinical Practice course (GCP) or actual participation in clinical trials. This introduces heterogeneity among trainees – some will complete higher research degrees beyond the compulsory curriculum whilst others will meet the minimum requirements. For some, their research training will be entirely laboratory based and whilst they may attain research distinction as scientists they may have acquired little or no experience of clinical research.

As a result of the heterogeneity in training, some registrars transition into the consultant grade without the training or skills that would enable them to participate in or lead clinical research, a key component of the NHS. As a consequence not all consultants feel able to engage in clinical research and as a result some NHS patients are denied the opportunity to participate in research.

The Hepatology and Gastroenterology CRN wants to lead the way in addressing this variation in research experience and research engagement. We want to ensure that every trainee moving into the consultant grade has the core knowledge and skills necessary to enable them to meet the aspirations of NIHR, to participate in and to lead clinical research in the NHS. We have developed a research-training curriculum that encompasses the necessary skill sets to enable “graduates” to participate in clinical research and practice evidence-based medicine. As a component of this core curriculum we have developed this course for Hepatology and Gastroenterology trainees in collaboration with the NIHR Research Design Service. The course, supported by online materials, is a key component of the research training curriculum.

The completion of this curriculum is currently in a trial phase for hepatology and gastroenterology trainees, but it is hoped that in the medium term the research curriculum can be applied to the full range of medical specialties.

The course will address specific objectives from the research curriculum including understanding the principles of formulating a research question and study design; the process of study set up, and the infrastructure supporting clinical research in the United Kingdom including responsibilities and roles of the Clinical Research Network (CRN). Importantly, it will also provide an opportunity to meet and share ideas with your fellow hepatology trainees.

Professor William Rosenberg
Course Faculty

Prof. William Rosenberg
William is Clinical Lead for Viral Hepatitis at the Royal Free London and UCL where he is a clinical investigator. He is NIHR National Specialty Lead for Hepatology and was one of the pioneers of evidence-based medicine.

Dr. Lynsey Corless
Lynsey is the Research Lead for Hepatology at Hull University Teaching Hospitals. The team contributes to a range of commercial and non-commercial studies across the spectrum of Hepatology, including locally developed projects. She is also the Deputy NIHR National Specialty Lead for Hepatology and represents Yorkshire for the Specialty Group.

Prof. Aftab Ala
Aftab is Clinical and Research Director for Hepatology at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, Surrey where is Chief Investigator and Clinical Investigator. The Research Team contributes to multiple home grown, national and international multicentre clinical trials in Hepatology. He is the NIHR Specialty Group Hepatology Lead for Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Dr. Issy Reading
Deputy Director of the Research Design Service South Central. In addition to her work in the RDS, Issy currently collaborates on a variety of clinical trials and other health research. Her main areas of interest are common musculoskeletal conditions, surgical trials and obstetric interventions. She sits on a number of Trial Steering Committees and Data monitoring Committees and is currently a member of the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Regional Advisory Panel South West.

Dr. Sean Ewings
Senior Statistician Research Design Service South Central. Sean completed his PhD in medical statistics at the University of Southampton in 2012. He is based at the University of Southampton, splitting his time between: working as a senior research advisor for the Research Design Service (South Central), supporting academics and clinicians apply for research funding; working as the statistician on a number of NIHR-funded studies; and teaching research and supporting postgraduate and postdoctoral research projects in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Course Organising Committee

Julie Solomon
Head of Research & Learning, BSG

Louise China & Ryan Buchanan
Trainee Representatives for the NIHR Hepatology National Specialty Group

William Rosenberg, Lynsey Corless & Aftab Ala
Course Programme

DAY 1: INTEGRATING RESEARCH WITH CLINICAL PRACTICE

09:45  Continental Breakfast and Registration
10:00 - 10:20  Welcome and Introduction to the Research Training Curriculum

SESSION 1

10:20 - 12:45  Converting Clinical Problems into Research Questions
Speaker: William Rosenberg

TEA & COFFEE

Group Work: Formulating Research Questions from Clinical Problems
(Facilitated by the Faculty)

LUNCH

SESSION 2

13:30 - 16:00  Critical Appraisal
Speaker: William Rosenberg

TEA & COFFEE

Group Work: Critical Appraisal
(Facilitated by the Faculty)

SESSION 3

16:00 - 17:30  Participating in Clinical Research as an NHS Consultant
Round Table Discussion (panel members TBC)

NETWORKING AND DINNER
DAY 2: SO YOU'VE GOT A QUESTION – HOW DO YOU ANSWER IT?

SESSION 4

09:00 - 10:00 | Negotiating Research Infrastructure

Speaker: Lynsey Corless

TEA & COFFEE

SESSION 5

10:15 - 12:45 | Preparing a Research Proposal

Presented by: NIHR Research Design service

Group Work: Preparing a Research Proposal

LUNCH

SESSION 6


Chair: William Rosenberg

15:30 - 16:00 | Concluding Remarks and Close
Post Course

Resources
All presentations and papers used in the course are available via a dropbox file, which you will be invited to in advance of the course.

This repository also holds the research curriculum, checklist of required competencies for your placement, and additional educational materials on critical appraisal.

GCP training
The online GCP training course can be accessed at: https://www.nihr.ac.uk/our-faculty/clinical-research-staff/learning-and-development/national-directory/good-clinical-practice/

Feedback
Please complete the course feedback, which will be sent to you via email. We will contact you (and your supervisors) again later this year for feedback on what is going well with the curriculum and what could be improved.

If you have any queries in the interim, contact the curriculum co-ordinator by email – lynsey.corless@nhs.net

Re-imbursement for Travel
Delegates can claim up to £100 from the BSG for travel, against receipts and using the BSG’s claim form, at: https://www.bsg.org.uk/discover/claims-for-reimbursement-of-expenses.html