



Research & Innovation Annual Report 2022-2023

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1. Introduction

Research and Innovation (R&I) at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust (CCC) has had another great year during 2022/23. This report details the notable successes which have been achieved.

R&I has recovered well after the national pause in cancer research in an NHS setting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are continuing to implement the key aims of the Trust's Research Strategy (2021-26) and are making great strides in achieving its vision to strengthen links and collaborations through our flagship hospital in Liverpool – within the city's Knowledge Quarter – and academic partners, including the University of Liverpool, other NHS organisations and stakeholders, which will ultimately improve the treatment and care of cancer patients.

In furthering this vision we are delighted to report that CCC is now an associate partner with the Royal Marsden in gaining Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) status and we also retained CRUK Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) status for the next five years.



These two national funding awards, in combination with our collaboration with the Liverpool Clinical Research Facility (CRF), are remarkable achievements as this is the first time that CCC has held such prestigious awards, and it is especially encouraging as they were gained within a highly competitive environment nationally.

These collaborations mean that CCC can now expand its early phase trials portfolio, bringing novel therapeutics to our patients and establishing CCC on a national platform as leaders in the key themes within the BRC and ECMC, notably in the cancer vaccine field.





As one of the most important centres nationally for cancer vaccine research, we have expanded our clinical trials in this pioneering treatment during 2022/23, with a number of important UK-first studies opening here and being led by researchers at CCC.

We have also continued to expand the diversification of the research portfolio in terms of translational, real world trials and qualitative studies – including opening our first international investigator-led research study – bringing a different dimension to the scope of the studies we carry out at CCC.

Our focus and reputation for always enhancing services for the benefit of patients is another key driver within the Trust’s Research Strategy and we continue to improve choices, care, experience and outcomes for patients through cutting-edge research.

In striving to achieve this, we have embedded our new Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Liverpool into the clinical research environment, with the support of the hospital’s wider clinical teams. The unit has allowed us to open more important early phase clinical trials at Clatterbridge and given our patients an enhanced experience while they participate in them.

Our Biobank has also seen a rapid strengthening in its ability to collect and store important material to enhance our own clinical research trials and to provide a valuable biobanking service to other institutions and research teams across the sub-region.

In the area of innovation, CCC’s Innovation Strategy (2023-25) was launched, giving strategic direction to our aim of solidifying a culture of enterprise within the Trust’s workforce. The Strategy aims to generate fresh ideas, novel solutions and new ways of working which will drive the ultimate aim of R&I – better outcomes for patients.

Dr Gillian Heap, Director of R&I Operations
Dr Sheena Khanduri, Medical Director



Dr Gillian Heap



Dr Sheena Khanduri



2. Highlights of 2022/23

The R&I Directorate has been responsible for a number of notable achievements during 2022/23.

These include:

- Associate partner in the successful £29.1M NIHR Biomedical Research Centre bid with the Royal Marsden and Institute of Cancer Research.
- Retention of the CRUK Liverpool Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre with the University of Liverpool securing up to £1.5M.
- 1166 new participants recruited into our research trials and studies.

£29.1M

Bid for NIHR Biomedical Research Centre status is successful. CCC is an Associate Partner

1166
 New participants on research trials and studies

37
 New research trials and studies opened to recruitment

- Opened 37 new research trials and studies to recruitment (45 given permission to open at CCC).
- Exceeded national target of 500 participants into non-commercial NIHR portfolio studies securing additional funding for research at CCC.

- The Innovation Strategy was launched February 2023 focusing on three key areas: Cultivating the Culture of Innovation, Nurturing New Innovations and Supporting Adoption of Innovation.
- Big Ideas Scheme was launched in January 2023 with two successful applications funded by the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.



BE INNOVATIVE

Be enterprising and innovative, exploring opportunities that improve or support patient care

- The CCC Biobank continues to expand with a recruitment drive this year to collect age-matched samples from healthy volunteers.
- Diversification of the research portfolio to include not only interventional studies but also real world, observational, quality of life and translational studies. CCC also supported nationally important COVID-related trials, including non-cancer.





3. Top Highlights by Month

April 2022

- The MPN Registry (The Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Registry) went live. CCC is the sponsor for this HO database which is the first of its kind for this disease.

CI: Dr Nauman Butt, pictured, Haematology



- The myeloma team were awarded the Myeloma UK CSEP (Clinical Service Excellence Programme) award for the second time. The award recognises best practice in myeloma care. This included being assessed within different areas. The team scored 100% in the 'Research and Clinical Trials' category.
- Dr Azman Ibrahim was a co-author on an article, 'A definitive prognostication system for patients with thoracic malignancies diagnosed with COVID-19', published in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology.

May 2022

- The first patient was randomised onto the ATNEC trial. ATNEC is a randomised trial investigating whether axillary treatment can be avoided in patients with no residual cancer in the lymph glands after chemotherapy for breast cancer. Patients are randomised to either radiotherapy to the axilla or no treatment to the axilla.

PI: Dr Shaveta Mehta, Breast, (pictured right)



- CUP-COMP observational study reached its target recruitment of 5 patients within 7 weeks of opening. A comparison across tissue and liquid biomarkers.

PI: Dr Elyaz Ahmed, Cancer of unknown primary (CUP)

- ANNAR study hit target recruitment. This is a biomarker study looking to identify bladder cancer patients who have a mutation in their FGFR gene. The patients identified can then potentially be recruited to other clinical trials investigating the effectiveness of the Erdafitinib drug which specifically targets the FGFR proteins.

PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Urology



June 2022

- The first patient was treated on the Immunicore103 study in our Early Phase Trials Unit on Ward 4 at the end of June 2022. This is a first-in-human study. The patient was well after treatment and the team collected all of the required PK samples. Immunicore103 uses an experimental drug developed to help the body's own immune system to fight tumours.

PI: Dr Joe Sacco, Various

- The Finding My Way study recruited 196 patients against a target of 128 which remained the highest in the UK.

PI: Emma Whitby, Observational



- It was Red4Research Day on 17th June 2022, when R&I staff wore red to highlight the fantastic research in healthcare and beyond and to thank our Clatterbridge patients who participate in research and clinical trials.

July 2022

- First patient recruited nationally onto the MOAT study, a multicentre, non-randomised, phase Ib, neoadjuvant study of intravenous dosing in patients with surgically resectable squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck.

PI: Prof Christian Ottensmeier, Head and Neck

- The ICI Genetics study achieved its target recruitment. The study is looking to identify genetic factors that may lead to toxicities from immune checkpoint inhibitors.

PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Urology

- Louise Turtle, Research and Development Expert Practitioner, pictured, presented 'Abdominal Motion Management' at the July UKIO Congress in Liverpool.





- The 300th patient was randomised to the Pivotal Boost study since it opened in 2018. This is a phase III randomised controlled trial of prostate and pelvis versus prostate alone radiotherapy with or without prostate boost.
PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Urology
- The Rad-IO study was opened 21st July 2022, the first patient was referred on 22nd July 2022 and randomised on 26th July 2022. This study is a multi-stage randomised trial with chemoradiotherapy in patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer.
PI: Dr Joachim Chan, Urology
- The ManCan study looks to help men who suffer with hot flushes and night sweats due to hormone therapy given for prostate cancer by the use of self-directed CBT. The ManCan2 Study had its first national face-to-face CBT workshop meeting for patients and recruited their first patient.
PI: Emma Whitby, Observational
- CCC was highest UK recruiter during July 2022 for the Atlanta study. Atlanta is a study for men with cancer which has spread from the prostate and is hoping to target the cancer with hormone therapy and other treatments.
PI: Dr Azman Ibrahim, Urology

August 2022

- A story was shared on local media following a male CCC patient on the Ironman study. Ironman, which is sponsored by men's health charity the Movember Foundation, is aiming to enrol 5,000 men across 16 countries, including in Australia, Brazil, Kenya and the United States.
PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Prostate
- Dr Rachel Brooker, pictured, passed her PhD viva following her successful CCC Clinical Research Fellow placement. Dr Brooker's thesis is titled 'Stratified Management of Oral Cavity Cancer – Reducing Side Effects and Improving Outcomes'.
- TACE-3, an immunotherapy trial designed to help a patient's own immune system fight the disease for patients with liver cancer. TACE-3 has opened as a site in a French hospital in collaboration with CCC. This is CCC's first investigator-led research study to open internationally.
PI: Prof Dan Palmer, HPB





September 2022



- BNT-113 in combination with Pembrolizumab is a cancer vaccine clinical trial for patients with HPV16+ squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, first opened in May 2022 and Dr Ehab Ibrahim recruited the first patient
PI: Prof Christian Ottensmeier, Head and Neck, pictured.
- The PEARLS trial was second joint highest recruiter behind the sponsor site, which was a great achievement from the team. This study is a phase II/III trial of Primary radiotherapy for Androgen sensitive prostate cancer patients with Lymph nodes.
PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Urology

October 2022

- Dr Tony Pope was co-author on an article published in The Lancet on 14th October 2022, 'Combination lurbinectedin and doxorubicin versus physician's choice of chemotherapy in patients with relapsed small-cell lung cancer (ATLANTIS): a multicentre, randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial'.
- 100th patient consented on to the RAPPER trial. The purpose of this study is to understand why some patients who receive radiotherapy are more likely to experience side effects than others.
PI: Dr Zafar Malik, Multiple, pictured
- CCC is consistently highest recruiter nationally each month for the Pivotal Boost trial averaging 5-10 patients monthly. A phase III randomised controlled trial of prostate and pelvis versus prostate alone radiotherapy with or without prostate boost.



- PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Urology*
- CCC consistently second highest recruiter in the UK for the Rampart study. An international investigator-led phase III multi-arm, multi-stage randomised controlled platform trial of adjuvant therapy in patients with resected primary renal cell carcinoma (RCC) at high or intermediate risk of relapse.
PI: Dr Richard Griffiths, Urology, pictured



November 2022



- Prof Isabel Syndikus, pictured, was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the University of Liverpool after working in medicine for more than 35 years and more recently teaching students at the University of Liverpool.
- The first two patients for the RADAR trial for newly diagnosed myeloma patients started treatment. This is a national study for newly diagnosed transplant eligible myeloma patients. It is looking at precision medicine using two risk platforms – one based on genetics at diagnosis and the second based on depth of response (MRD response) following induction and stem cell transplant.

PI: Dr Stephen Hawkins, HO

- Tagrisso is a prospective study looking at long-term survival and other outcomes after first-line Osimertinib. Recruitment target has been exceeded to date.

PI: Dr Carles Escriu, Lung

- CCC was the second highest recruiter in the UK for the ACTICCA trial, only two recruits behind the lead recruiter. ACTICCA study is looking at adjuvant chemotherapy with gemcitabine and cisplatin compared to standard of care (capecitabine) after curative intent resection of cholangiocarcinoma and muscle invasive gallbladder carcinoma. This is because survival rates are low following curative treatment due to high rates of disease recurrence, and, therefore, evaluation of adjuvant treatment in biliary tract cholangiocarcinoma is needed.

PI: Prof Dan Palmer, HPB



- ‘Clinical and molecular response to tebentafusp in previously treated patients with metastatic uveal melanoma: a phase 2 trial’ published in October’s Nature Medicine co-authored by Dr Joe Sacco. Together with previous publications in NEJM and JCO, this provides evidence for the efficacy of tebentafusp in metastatic uveal melanoma and provides really important data relating to the use of ctDNA to monitor benefit.



December 2022

- CCC was highest recruiting site for the Spruce study. Spruce is a study within a trial of electronic versus paper based Patient Reported Outcomes Collection health questionnaire completion.
PI: Dr Isabel Syndikus, Urology
- CCC was highest recruiter for The Validation/Cancer Immunotherapies study 'Patient perceptions of outcomes and burdens of receiving immunotherapies for cancer'. This study is looking at side effects of Immunotherapy treatment via QOLs.
PI: Dr Anna Olsson-Brown, pictured, basket study across all tumour groups
- The Hunter study has achieved target recruitment of 10 patients. The purpose of the study is examining why some people respond to treatments and some people do not in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).
PI: Prof Dan Palmer, HPB



- CCC was highest recruiter for the MOAT cancer vaccine study, receiving positive feedback.
PI: Prof Christian Ottensmeier, Head and Neck
- Dr Raj Sripadam, pictured, co-authored an article in the Lancet. Immediate surgery compared with short-course neoadjuvant gemcitabine plus capecitabine, FOLFIRINOX, or chem-radiotherapy in patients with borderline resectable pancreatic cancer (ESPAC5): a four-arm multicentre randomised phase 2 trial.

January 2023

- CCC in collaboration with the University of Liverpool renewed its ECMC status for the next five years. The renewal is part of a network of 17 ECMCs across the UK funded by Cancer Research UK. This has achieved a funding investment of up to £1.5m over next five years, which is fantastic news for clinical research, in particular early phase trials of novel treatments.
- First patient recruited onto the Stamina study. Stamina is a supported exercise training for men with prostate cancer on Androgen deprivation therapy.
PI: Michelle Cain, Urology





- Prof Dan Palmer was a contributing author in The Lancet – Gastroenterology & Hepatology, February 2023. ‘Immediate surgery compared with short-course neoadjuvant gemcitabine plus capecitabine, FOLFIRINOX, or chemoradiotherapy in patients with borderline resectable pancreatic cancer (ESPAC5): a four-arm, multicentre, randomised, phase 2 trial’.
- Dr Maria Maguire, pictured, Sharon McGinn and Louise Turtle were contributing authors on ‘Barriers and facilitators to conducting radiotherapy clinical trials: Findings from a UK survey’.



February 2023



- CCC was highest recruiter on the ‘How do patients make decisions about rectal cancer treatment?’ study. This is the DCE study – sub study from Aphrodite (PI: Dr Amir Montazeri, Colorectal and Lung, pictured).
- CCC achieved the recruitment target for the Vinehealth study. This study is an observational study, patients get randomised to a digital app or standard of care (PI: Dr Amir Montazeri, Breast, Colorectal and Lung).
- Through the Bright Ideas scheme, patients with Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression (MSCC) are now able to use a Levo screen holder which has been adapted for use in clinical environments, so patients having to lie flat and immobile for long periods while being diagnosed can still use a tablet device for entertainment, communication or to manage their care.

March 2023

- Prof Andy Pettitt received a grant award £278,968.87 from Blood Cancer UK. The importance of this grant is in terms of Liverpool’s position in the health data research in blood cancer. This was awarded following a collaborative study that CCC sponsored.
- CCC was the highest recruiter in March for the Paradigm study. The study is trying to find out if a new blood test can provide information about which current treatments for prostate cancer will work best for future patients with this disease.
PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Urology





- Dr Umair Khan, a Research Fellow and one of the leads for the UNCOVER Study gained his PhD which was excellent news and very well deserved. The PhD was awarded with no corrections which is very unusual and speaks to the high quality of his work.

4. Successful National Funding Bids

4.1 Clinical Research Facility and Early Phase Trials Unit

The NIHR Liverpool CRF is a collaboration between CCC, Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT) and Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital (LHCH). The collaboration was launched formally in November 2022.

NIHR | Liverpool Clinical
Research Facility

CCC has identified our first new study that will run out of the CCC-CRF called Attainment, 'a modular, multi-arm, first-in-human trial to evaluate the safety and tolerability of MDX-124 alone and in combination with anti-cancer treatments, in participants with locally advanced, unresectable or metastatic solid malignancies' (PI: Prof Dan Palmer). Strategic and Operational CRF meetings now take place regularly between the three sites to ensure aligned strategic direction and operational efficiency.

The Liverpool CRF collaboration has opened up shared training opportunities for the nursing and medical staff involved in early phase research and we look forward to developing this further in 2023/24. To enable cross-site working, the teams have ensured they have the necessary honorary contracts to work across sites. The CRF PPI strategy is drafted with content included from all sites. Professor Dan Palmer is the academic lead.



Investment in staff to support the complexity of the early phase work has led to the introduction of a number of new and exciting roles to support the delivery of the early phase portfolio. Two Clinical Research Fellows have been appointed to join the medical team and within the nursing team, pictured, we have introduced a new trainee Advanced Nurse Practitioner an exciting role taking on advanced nursing skills such as physical examination and prescribing.



The Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit continues to support the following first-in-human trials:

- **Transgene:** A randomised phase I trial in patients with newly diagnosed loco-regionally advanced, HPV-negative, squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN) evaluating a mutanome-directed immunotherapy initiated a completion of primary treatment at time of recurrence.

PI: Prof Christian Ottensmeier

- **MOAT:** A multicentre, open-label, non-randomized, phase Ib, neoadjuvant study of intravenous dosing of NG-641, an oncolytic adenoviral vector expressing a fibroblast activation protein-directed bi-specific T-cell activator antibody fragment (FAP-TAc) and an immune enhancer module (CXCL9/ CXCL10/interferon alpha2), as monotherapy or in combination with pembrolizumab in patients with surgically resectable squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck. CCC was the first UK site to open and also recruited the first UK patient.

PI: Prof Christian Ottensmeier

- **Immunocore 103:** A phase 1/2 first in human study of the safety and efficacy of lmc-C103c as a single agent and in combination with Atezolizumab in Hla-A*0201 positive patients with advanced Mage-A4-Positive cancer.

PI: Dr Joe Sacco, pictured



There are a number of first-in-human trials in the pipeline and the facility is already well-used.

4.2 Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre

It was confirmed at the end of January 2023 that we successfully retained Liverpool's ECMC status. The Liverpool ECMC is a collaboration between Clatterbridge, Liverpool Clinical Trials Centre and scientists and researchers at The University of Liverpool. It is part of a network of 17 ECMCs across the UK, funded by Cancer Research UK, which deliver clinical trials of promising new treatments. Prof Dan Palmer (pictured overleaf) is the academic lead.





The bid successfully secured up to £1.5M for Liverpool. This additional core ECMC funding will support new posts in research nursing, research governance and trial administration at CCC. CCC will continue to support ECMC research nursing and research administration posts. Two new Early Phase Clinical Research Fellows, additional pharmacy support and further research governance support will be provided by CCC.

The research team has revisited and strengthened its governance arrangements in light of the successful CRF and ECMC bids and have introduced a new early phase operational meeting chaired by Emma Whitby, Head of Research Delivery.

4.3 Biomedical Research Centre

NIHR | Biomedical Research Centre at The Royal Marsden and the ICR

During 2022/23 we successfully became an associate partner in a NIHR Biomedical Research Centre 2022-27. This is a collaboration with The Royal Marsden/Institute of Cancer Research. The successful bid included eight cancer research themes and CCC will collaborate on the five themes, as shown below. Prof Nagesh Kalakonda, pictured, is the academic lead.



Theme	CCC Lead
Immunotherapeutics	Christian Ottensmeier
Precision Diagnostics and Cancer Evolution	Carlo Palmieri
Advanced Technologies for Cure	Isabel Syndikus
Precision Therapeutics	Nagesh Kalakonda
Cancer Treatment Effects and Survivorship	Anna Olsson-Brown

5. Clinical Trials Portfolio

The focus this year was on the early phase trials portfolio as part of the strategy to successfully retain ECMC status and to continue to build our reputation and skill set in such complex drug trials.

The early phase clinic and use of our CCC-CRF has facilitated this step-change in capacity. We have opened the third Replimune trial using an oncolytic virus to infect and kill cancer cells, and became a pipeline site for the series of trials using novel vaccines to combat cancers. The MOAT and NEBULA trials recruited the first national participants to the studies





and TebeMRD recruited the first patient on study at CCC, a key trial in the melanoma portfolio.

There is strength in depth in the support given by radiotherapy as the regional centre supporting the ATNEC trial, continuing as national lead recruiter to the PivotalBoost trial and Brioché trials. The portfolio continues to diversify with the welcome opening of the prehabilitation study SIPSMArt. CCC hosted the first face-to-face CBT workshop nationally for the MANCAN2 prostate cancer study.



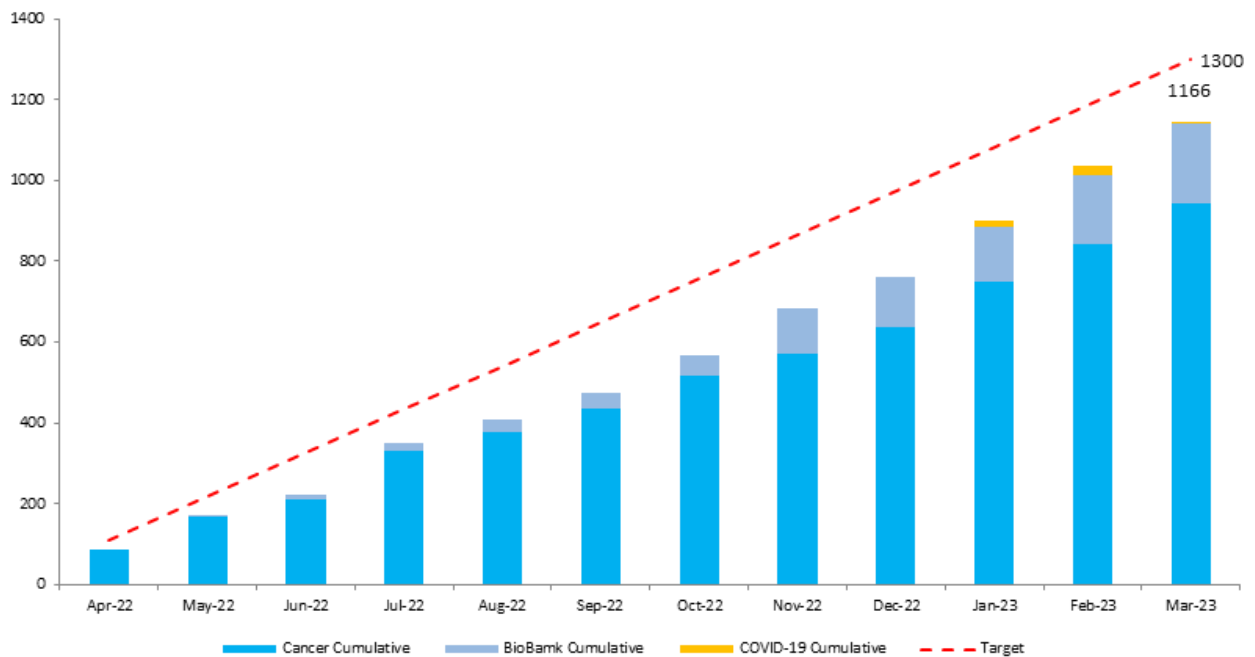
The Trust also supported the RAPID PROTECTION trial for immunosuppressed patients highly vulnerable to infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus. This extended our research reach nationally and we could also support non-cancer patients as part of this trial. The R&I team supporting those trials was also expanded and is led by a dedicated Research Practitioner.

As we have come to expect, CCC achieved some notable ‘firsts’ and achievements again as detailed in Section 4.

6. Research Performance

6.1 Patient Recruitment

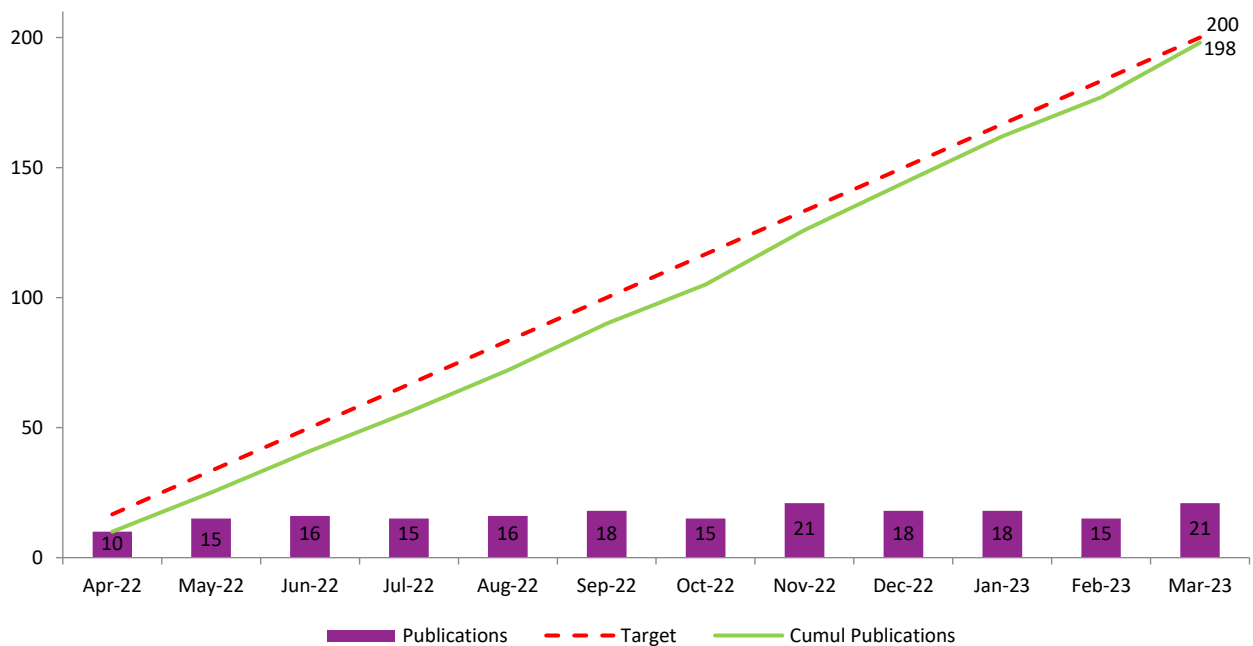
The R&I Directorate had a successful year for recruiting participants on to research trials and studies, see Graph 1. Retaining our ECMC status was key this year and a clinically-led, strategic decision was taken to increase the opening of ECMC studies as renewal approached. Although ECMC studies are scientifically relevant they are low recruiters which impacted on our overall result. Despite that we successfully recruited 1,166 patients, which is 90% of our original target.



Graph 1. Recruitment against Time: Cumulative recruitment against internal target (n=1300). Month on month split between Cancer (total Int&Obs), BioBank, COVID-19 (total UPH&Non-UPH) Cumulative stacked.

6.2 Publications

There were 198 publications recorded between April 2022 and March 2023, achieving 99% of the original target set, see Graph 2.



Graph 2 – New publications registered by month.





Impact factors for each publication were sourced and the information is summarised below. The impact factor relates to the journal and not the article itself. High impact journals are defined as over 15.

As can be seen in Table 1, the impact factor range for all 198 journals is 0.15-102.6 with a median of 5. The impact factor range where we are first or last author is 0.15-69.5 with a median of 5. We were either first or last author for over 30% of our publications.

	Publication Number	Impact Factor Range	Impact Factor Median
Total	198	0.15-102.6	5
First or Last author	61	0.15-69.5	5

Table 1: Summary of Clatterbridge publications for 2022/23

Breaking down the impact factors further, it can be seen that the highest percentage of our publications have impact factors of between 0-4.9 at 51.5%. Publications with an impact factor of over 15 makes up 20.2% of our publications.

Grouped Impact Factor	Number of Articles	%
0 to 4.9	102	51.5
5 to 9.9	35	17.7
10 to 14.9	21	10.6
over 15	40	20.2

Table 2: Total Clatterbridge publications for 2022/23 broken down by grouped Impact Factors

7. Systems Changes

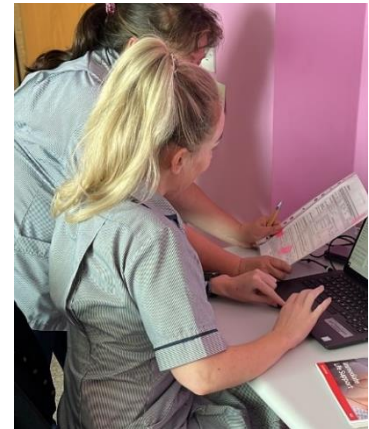
During 2022/23, there have been a number of system changes that have led to increased productivity. Examples of these are shown below:

- Recruited a new Research Quality Manager. This is a key appointment for R&I as this post facilitates a step change in the quality improvement workstream within R&I. A new Quality and Governance Committee has already been implemented providing increased assurance on clinical trials process and procedures.
- R&I recruited two new administrative assistants to support trials processes in particular around Investigator Site File set-up and amendments to trials.





- Revised the process for review and implementation of amendments to clinical trials. The process was mapped, streamlined and tightened to assure timely implementation and feedback to Sponsor.
- The CCC Edge system continues to be developed to adapt to changing research needs. This year, we focussed on widening access to the Edge system to our CCC Chief and Principal Investigators. This allows rapid access to the trial documentation, including the protocols and to see where the trial is up to in set-up and recruitment status.
- We developed new reporting processes through Edge for internal and external metrics reporting. The RM&G team is working with IM&T to develop at a glance dashboards for BI for all aspects of trial set-up and conduct.



8. CCC-led trials and studies

This has been a year of consolidation and analysis for our CCC-led research. We have 11 studies currently open, with 2 in set-up and 5 in the analysis stage.

We are delighted to report that the Uncover trial, led by Prof Andy Pettitt and funded by the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity, has been awarded a further grant from Blood Cancer UK of £278,968.87 to extend the current research.

This will centre CCC as the UK lead to understand how the treatment of blood cancer has changed during the pandemic. It will also look at the pros and cons of different blood cancer treatments to see which of them work best in different situations.

The research will involve a network of collaborators from across the UK, including not only senior blood cancer doctors but also patients and early career researchers.





We opened the MPN (Myeloproliferative Neoplasm) Registry, led by Dr Nauman Butt. This is the first national registry of its kind in this disease area and is expanding in the number of participating sites across the UK.



The TACE-3 trial, led by Prof Dan Palmer, opened to recruitment of patients in France. This is the first time CCC has led and recruited participants into an international trial.

Our nationally important COMICE trial in cervical cancer, led by Dr Rosie Lord, pictured, has closed to recruitment and entered analysis phase with an exciting linked translational research study underway.



Two of our COVID-19 trials are in analysis. These are The Burdett Study, led by Dr Lynda Appleton, looking at the COVID-19 pandemic on the psychological wellbeing of nurses working in cancer; and the CCP Cancer study: Clinical Characterisation Protocol for Severe Emerging Infections in the UK – a prospective companion study for patients with Cancer and COVID-19, led by Prof Carlo Palmieri, pictured.

Notably, the Safe Surgery study, led by Prof Christian Ottensmeier, has now been published in the British Journal of Surgery. The study confirms the absence of SARS-CoV2 in the peritoneal cavity of positive patients. It represents one of the largest studies of its kind and hopefully reassures the surgical community that open/minimally invasive surgery is safe.

A list of all current CCC-led trials that are open and in set-up can be found in Appendix 1.

9. Biobank

A total of 195 participants donated samples to the CCC Biobank this year, with huge support from CCC staff following a recruitment drive to collect age-matched samples from healthy volunteers.

We developed a collaboration to support the national Teenage and Young Adult cancer biobank and also a key collaboration to support novel research in drug induced cardiotoxicity, thus extending the nature and number of samples biobanked for novel research.





The Biobank, pictured, continues to prospectively collect samples from our patients to support high quality cancer research. This year we were supported by the brilliant CCC Trust staff in a sample recruitment drive to collect samples from healthy volunteers to provide crucial age matched control samples. This adds significant depth and range to our sample collection for researchers.



We also increased our collaborations this year, supporting sample collection in:

- Breast cancer prospective sample collection pre- and post-radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments led by Dr Sheena Khanduri.
- Uveal Melanoma sample collection study: Do inherent differences in circulating immune cell populations predict for outcome to tebentafusp in metastatic uveal melanoma? Led by Dr Joe Sacco.
- Translational insights into Anthracycline cardiotoxicity, led by Dr David Gent, this is an important inter-Trust collaboration with the Liverpool Heart and Chest NHS Foundation Trust.

The trials laboratory staff worked across a range of clinical trials supporting sample collection, processing, storage and shipping in internationally important research, including complex ECMC and early phase trials.

10. Patient and Public Involvement in Research

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre Research PPIE Forum was established in November 2020. Members range from former patients, carers of former patients, support group chairs and lay persons with an interest in cancer.

Since its inception, members have contributed to an audit of patients' awareness of research, as well as commenting on a range of issues, such as research proposals and the process around withdrawal of consent for research studies.



In December 2022, David Price, Research Governance and Quality Manager, took over as PPI Group Chair. The group discussed how they should look moving forward and how the group feel they can best be utilised.

In addition to influencing strategy and policies, monthly meetings also welcome researchers to present their work to the Forum. These presentations are well received and generate dynamic Q&A sessions. This year has seen presentations from:

- Dr Michelle Lawton, University of Liverpool, gave a presentation on her Head and Neck study asking the PPI group for their review.
- Jamie Young, CCC Biobank and Clinical Trials Manger outlined his background in research and the expansion of the biobank. He believes that every patient should have the opportunity to donate to the biobank and he has engaged with clinicians and academics to assess their need for samples.
- Charlotte Rawcliffe and Sara Martin, ECMC Operational Director and ECMC Manager, informed the group of re-accreditation process for ECMC status and highlighted the work of the Adult and Paediatric Centres and their collaboration with the University of Liverpool in early phase and translational studies. Their work at present centres around pancreatic, haematological, hepatic and head and neck cancers.
- Dr Heulwen Sheldrick, Principal Speech and Language Therapist, informed the group of the research being done by the speech and language therapists (SaLTs) at CCC. Her particular research interests centre on clinical decision-making and she has been doing some national work with Prof Jo Patterson regarding laryngeal tumours.
- Paul Ogden, CCC Communications Manager, gave a presentation to the group on a communications plan for a 'Be Research Ready' campaign to raise awareness of research across the Trust, seeking the Forum's feedback and comments.
- David Price gave the group a presentation on CCC sponsored research, informing the group of the sponsorship process including costing, legal requirements and the current sponsor portfolio of studies.

As well as hosting our own successful PPIE group, Emma Whitby, Head of Research Delivery, is leading on the CCC collaboration with the NIHR Liverpool CRF. The group is newly formed and is focused on developing the PPIE agenda with a special emphasis placed upon early phase research. To date the group has attended several meetings and have created a PPIE strategy.



11. External partners

11.1 Liverpool Health Partners

R&I continues to engage with Liverpool Health Partners (LHP) both strategically and operationally. Specifically, this results in:

- R&I having representatives from CCC at all LHP committees and works to drive the cancer agenda forward.
- The Research Management & Governance and Finance teams continue to be an active partner in the enablement and activity of SPARK.



11.2 Clinical Research Network, North West Coast

In 2022/23, the Clinical Research Network, North West Coast (CRN NWC) provided over £830,000 of direct funding to CCC to support National Institute of Health Research portfolio activities.



In June 2022, CRN NWC appointed CCC's Dr Shaveta Mehta as an Associate Research Lead for Cancer covering the Cheshire and Merseyside area to work closely with the CRN NWC leadership team.

12. Nurse-Led Research

The R&I Directorate continues to support nurse-led research initiatives, which are flourishing.

The R&I Directorate, through CCC's Research Strategy, is looking to engage other allied health professionals to do their own account research.

R&I nurses are leading on their own research and participating in national studies, such as the following examples.

12.1 Gynae Cancer Narratives Study

This project explores how patients experience radiotherapy for gynaecological cancer with the aim to increase understandings of how radiotherapy impacts on social, personal and sexual lives.





The Gynae Cancer Narratives Project was a collaboration between Lancaster University and CCC, running between 2019 and 2022 and funded by North West Cancer Research.

A dissemination event was held for CCC staff on 28th November 2022 in CCC-L, to launch a book for patients and staff, published from the results of the study findings. The book, entitled 'We Need to Talk... about radiotherapy for gynaecological cancer', is intended to support professional-patient conversations about women's experiences of radiotherapy and its impact on their everyday life.



CI: Dr Lynda Appleton

12.2 CCC Staff Wellbeing Study

A CCC-sponsored study, with funding secured from the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity, exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the psychological wellbeing of CCC oncology healthcare professionals.

The aim of the study is to understand how oncology healthcare professionals working at CCC managed their wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the coping strategies and support systems they used, and what, if anything, can be done to better support them. This year the study has been published in the Journal of Advanced Nursing.

CI: Dr Lynda Appleton

12.3 Nurse Wellbeing across Cheshire and Mersey during COVID-19

CCC-sponsored study, funding secured from The Burdett Trust For Nursing, exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the psychological wellbeing of nurses working in the cancer setting across Cheshire and Merseyside.

This study is exploring nurses' experiences of the psychological impact of COVID-19 on their day-to-day care and support of patients with a diagnosis of cancer.

Recruitment has been completed: 69 nurses recruited from 18 NHS Trusts in Cheshire and Merseyside. 69 completed the survey, 7 attended focus groups, including 5 providers of wellbeing services.

A final report was completed January 2023 with positive feedback from the Burdett Trust. Study findings will be presented at two international conferences: the Royal College of



Nursing International Research Conference, in Manchester, and the International Conference on Cancer Nursing, in Glasgow.

CI: Dr Lynda Appleton

12.4 REAP-CCC

A CCC-sponsored study, Reducing Emergency Admissions for Patients with Cancer Complications and/or Co-morbidities, with funding secured from CCC Research Fund.

The study aims to explore the reasons for the emergency department attendance and admission by patients with cancer (type 3 presentation), and the potential wider contextual influences, such as demographic, social and environmental factors leading to such occurrences. The study has received green light to begin recruitment of patients and their informal carers.

CI: Dr Lynda Appleton

12.5 Finding My Way

A University of Chester-sponsored study, funded by North West Cancer Research. An online, self-help, coping programme.

This study offers information, suggestions, and support for people who have been diagnosed with cancer in the past six months.

This work has been published in BMC Cancer and presented at two national conferences.

PI Emma Whitby, pictured.



12.6 Mancan2 Study

University of Chester-sponsored study, funded by North West Cancer Research, into virtual self-help cognitive behavioural therapy.

This study is a multicentre, randomised controlled trial of virtual self-help cognitive behavioural therapy to MANage the impact of hot flush and night sweat symptoms in patients with prostate CANcer undergoing androgen deprivation therapy (MANCAN2). A total of 23 patients are currently recruited.

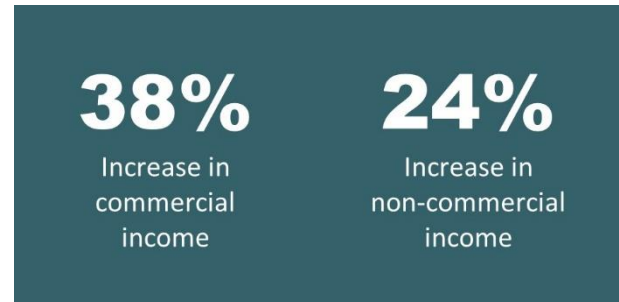
PI: Emma Whitby



13. Finance

During 2022/23, financial recovery was on going with commercial income being below planned expenditure. However, commercial income grew by 38%, which was due to an increase in commercial studies opening in year.

Non-commercial income increased by 24% from the previous year. This is due to more non-commercial studies opening which have funding attached to them.



The R&I Directorate was successful in achieving a number of external funding awards:

- RCF (Research and Capability Funding) – for recruiting 500+ participants to non-commercial portfolio adopted trials
- NIHR CRF joint bid with LUHFT and LHCH
- Royal Marsden BRC collaboration
- Renewal of ECMC status
- National Blood Cancer Grant awarded to CCC.

14. Communications

Over the past year, R&I has had high-profile promotion in the national, regional and local press and national and regional TV and radio, as well as being given regular exposure on the Trust's own channels: website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Communications are carried out by Communications Manager (0.4 WTE), Paul Ogden pictured, who is a member of the Trust's communications team.



This media exposure has included widespread coverage of the Transgene trial, including filming by Sky News, pictured overleaf. *Please see Appendix 2 for other key examples.*

A communications campaign to promote the work of the biobank internally, with a request that staff donate samples, was a success, with over 60 patients coming forward to support this work.



There has also been internal communications involving R&I with the aim of increasing exposure of research and innovation activities to the wider CCC workforce – including celebrating International Clinical Trials Day, pictured below – and highlighting R&I’s successes and the good work of individuals within the Directorate.

In addition to media coverage, R&I received positive feedback from sponsors, patients and investigators, as shown in Appendix 3.



Happy International Clinical Trials Day!



Many thanks to everyone involved in clinical trials at CCC – you are leading the way in cancer research!





15. Innovation

15.1 Innovation Strategy

The Innovation Strategy was launched February 2023, with focus in three key areas:

- **Cultivating the Culture of Innovation:** Identifying, developing and implementing initiatives aimed at encouraging and empowering staff across the organisation to seek opportunities for innovation whether these are new ideas or key challenges that if overcome would have a significant positive impact.
- **Nurturing New Innovations:** Collating ideas from across the organisation, providing support to fully realise concepts with potential. This support includes appropriate advice, funding, sourcing appropriate grants and identifying partners with whom to collaborate or co-create.
- **Supporting Adoption of Innovation:** Horizon scanning for the latest developments in technology, healthcare and beyond with the aim of accelerating access to these advancements to our patients.



15.2 Bright Ideas Scheme



The Bright Ideas Scheme progresses innovations and ideas originated by staff and patients. The number of submissions the scheme received during 2022/23 increased to 98 from the previous year's 65. Notable examples of the projects supported by the scheme are:

- **Pilot of Novel Bone Marrow Biopsy Technique** – this is using the battery-powered OnControl system aiming to provide faster and better quality sampling and expected to cause less pain than existing manual techniques
- **Pilot of Biozoon Seneopro**, a flavoured foam which will enhance the patient experience for those that are aphagic or nil by mouth.





- Virtual tours of CCC-L have been explored and multiple suppliers considered. This is expected to form part of upcoming work, which seeks to address issues around wayfinding in the Trust.
- A patient-led innovation to develop clothing that can be easily added or removed without dislodging IV lines during chemotherapy (pictured left).

- Support has been provided to procure the e-Forms module for Healthcare Communications so that e-PROMS (electronic patient reported outcomes measures) can be trialled at CCC. This is aimed at facilitating personalised stratified follow-up so that there is less disruption to our patients' lives whilst providing enhanced care and support to those patients that require it.
- Collaboration with industry and University of Liverpool to enhance the patient experience for those diagnosed with metastatic spinal cord compression (MSCC) through change to a screen reader stand. This has been through an initial pilot with the original company (Serious Brands) developing adaptations to their product as a result, (pictured right).



15.3 Big Ideas Scheme

In an effort to promote larger scale project ideas, the Big Ideas Scheme was developed. The inaugural funding call launched in January 2023 and decisions were finalised March 2023. Two projects have been supported in this round, with a second call planned for later in the year:

- Dr Ernie Marshall is developing a risk stratification tool by analysing the data across the region of our patients' unplanned attendances and admissions to emergency departments.



- Digital Home-Based Physical Activity – Dr Jess Hale, pictured, will be launching an 8-month pilot for our immunotherapy patients, using the MOTIVATE platform developed by Liverpool John Moores University.



16. Summary

Research and Innovation has remained nationally competitive in recruitment to trials and remains committed to offering CCC patients the best in novel agents and therapies within the research portfolio, in our ultimate goal in securing better outcomes for our patients and also making a significant contribution to the worldwide growth in knowledge and understanding of cancer.

In terms of innovation, we have started to build the infrastructure within the organisation to grow our culture of enterprise, with the establishment of the Innovation Team and developing a Trust-wide Innovation Strategy. This will allow us to build on existing work to drive innovation forward in a systematic and targeted approach which best aligns with our overall strategic objectives.





Appendix 1: CCC-led Research Where CCC Acts As Sponsor

Acronym	Title	Type	CCC Chief Investigator	Status
TACE 3	A two-arm multi-stage (TAMS) seamless phase II/III randomised trial of nivolumab in combination with TACE/TAE for patients with intermediate stage HCC	CTIMP	Prof Daniel Palmer	Open
MRI Lung	MRI for lung radiotherapy; a prospective study	Radiotherapy	Dr Neeraj Bhalla	Open
TARGET Head and Neck	Tissue analysis for stratifying therapy in head and neck diseases	Translational	Prof Christian Ottensmeier	Open
Cox-2 expression	Cox-2 expression and Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy	Translational	Dr Olusola Faluyi	Open
MRI Imaging H&N	Assessing early response to Immunotherapy in Head & Neck Cancer	Translational	Mr Andrew Schache/ Dr Rachel Brooker	Open
UNCOVER	Understanding the impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with blood cancer	COVID-19	Prof Andrew Pettitt	Open
MPN Registry	The UK Myeloproliferative Neoplasm Registry	Registry	Dr Nauman Butt	Open
IMPULSE	IMMune-checkPoint inhibitors (ICI) in non-small cell lung carcinoma	Translational	Dr Carles Escriu	Open
Target Vaccination	Evaluation of response to routine vaccination to assess immunocompetence in patients with cancer	Translational	Prof Christian Ottensmeier	In set-up
REAP	Reducing Emergency Admissions for Patients with Cancer Complications and/or Co-morbidities	Real World/ Observational	Dr Lynda Appleton	In set-up
Apollo +	A Prospective 'Real World Data' registry and sample collection study for patients with Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma	Real World	Prof Nagesh Kalakonda	In set-up under re-design
COMICE	A randomized double blind placebo controlled Phase II clinical trial of Cediranib and	CTIMP	Dr Rosie Lord	Closed in analysis





	Olaparib maintenance in advanced recurrent Cervical Cancer			
CCP CANCER	Clinical Characterisation Protocol for Severe Emerging Infections in the UK– a prospective companion study for patients with Cancer and COVID-19	COVID-19	Prof Carlo Palmieri	Closed in analysis
Burdett	Exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the psychological well-being of nurses working in the cancer setting across Cheshire and Mersey	COVID-19	Dr Lynda Appleton	Closed in analysis
Safe Surgery	Establishing the presence of SARS-CoV2 virus in the peritoneal cavity of patients undergoing abdominal surgery	COVID-19	Prof Christian Ottensmeier	Published
COVID Staff	Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on the psychological well-being of oncology healthcare professionals	COVID-19	Dr Lynda Appleton	Closed in write up phase
ACE	Analysis of an abdominal compression device to reduce respiratory motion of lower thorax and abdominal tumours	Radiotherapy	Dr Anoop Haridass	Closed in analysis
NICO	Neoadjuvant and adjuvant nivolumab as Immune Checkpoint inhibition in Oral cavity cancer	CTIMP	Dr Joe Sacco	Closed in analysis
CHROME	Phase II study of the use of neoadjuvant cabazitaxel with hormonal treatment in patients with high risk operable prostate cancer, to assess the efficacy and toxicity of cabazitaxel, and, to explore potential predictive and prognostic markers of clinical outcome	CTIMP	Dr Zaf Malik	Closed



Appendix 2: Key Communications

- Transgene vaccine clinical trial
<https://news.sky.com/story/personalised-cancer-vaccine-trials-produce-really-hopeful-results-12645491>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KO94fomo5Q>
- Bowel cancer patient interviewed on TV about being part of a clinical research trial
[Clatterbridge bowel cancer patient talks on TV about being part of a clinical research trial \(clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Prostate cancer patient promotes the Ironman study (pictured)
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/dad-handed-silent-killer-diagnosis-27902206>
<https://www.chesterstandard.co.uk/news/22385822.chester-ironman-grandad-jim-pleased-join-prostate-cancer-research-trial/>
- Leukaemia patient talks about taking part in research
<https://www.liverpoolworld.uk/news/wirral-cancer-survivor-urges-people-to-consider-clinical-trials-3873476>
- Clinical trial team tops league table for recruits
<https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/20212765.clatterbridge-research-team-tops-table-study-recruits/>
- Launch of Innovation Strategy
[Major cancer centre launches new Innovation Strategy | UK Healthcare News \(nationalhealthexecutive.com\)](#)
- ECMC funding is approved for Clatterbridge
<https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2023/01/20/funding-boost-for-liverpool-experimental-cancer-medicine-centre/>
- Skin Cancer research patient – Viral oncology clinical trial
<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/health/john-lewis-worker-injected-herpes-25563829>
<https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/23140622.mum-given-ground-breaking-cancer-treatment-clatterbridge/>
- Clatterbridge in leukaemia research breakthrough
<https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/23107309.clatterbridge-cancer-research-breakthrough-leukaemia/>
- Prof Carlo Palmieri's breast cancer prevalence research
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-11566693/More-women-living-secondary-breast-cancer-new-research-reveals.html>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/england-breast-cancer-now-university-of-liverpool-nhs-australia-b2250108.html>
- Nurse's innovation goes national
<https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/cancer/liverpool-cancer-nurses-innovation-goes-global-03-11-2022/>





- TV and press coverage of MOAT clinical trial (pictured)
<https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-01-27/mum-amongst-first-in-the-world-to-receive-pioneering-cancer-therapy>
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/mum-floored-given-5050-chance-29081064>
<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/healthy-mum-given-5050-chance-26103331>
<https://theguideliverpool.com/merseyside-mum-has-world-first-cancer-treatment-at-clatterbridge-cancer-centre/>



- RAPID PROTECTION clinical trial
<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/health/new-treatment-people-risk-covid-26150916>
<https://theguideliverpool.com/liverpool-kidney-transplant-patient-joins-research-into-covid-19-treatment-for-people-with-poor-immune-systems/>
- Dr Seamus Coyle's Biology of Dying research
<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/health/liverpool-doctor-who-can-predict-26164721>
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/meet-doctor-who-can-predict-29203720>
<https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/weird-news/doctor-predicts-death-new-invention-29205901>
- New hi-tech fitness project to help cancer patients
<https://theguideliverpool.com/a-new-hi-tech-fitness-project-to-help-clatterbridge-cancer-patients/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqjVj7JHNNI&t>
<https://www.nationalhealthexecutive.com/articles/digital-pilot-helping-cancer-patients-through-immunotherapy>
- Patient raises awareness of clinical research trials
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvloo8pYaBg>
- Retired nurse given lifeline with new MODIfy research study
<https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/health/mum-news-never-expected-after-26852352>
<https://theguideliverpool.com/clatterbridge-cancer-centre-clinical-research-trial-offers-a-lifeline/>
- Grant success for blood cancer research
<https://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/23420731.boost-clatterbridge-cancer-centre-study-covid-19/>



Appendix 3: Positive Feedback from Sponsors and Patients

Patient feedback from the daughter of a patient:

“To Justine, and the whole team for Dad’s care, Thank you will never be enough, because of yourselves Dad was simply not scared of the cancer he had and he trusted you all without doubt. He talked about you all like you had been with him for years and he strived to have positive results with the treatment so the trial would be a success.

Every meeting, phone call or appointment he had with you he would retell me word for word, particularly when his blood work showed positive signs. Despite all this, I still feared he wasn’t completely truthful of the pain he was in but he always said his team of Drs had everything in hand and were looking after him.

You did wonders for him and I’m only sorry he’s not here to tell you himself. I really appreciate how you all made him feel – even when he was trying to get rid of Covid.

He said you had been in touch. I know he was just one patient in the NHS but to me he was my whole world and you’re all never far from my thoughts and prayers for the care, confidence and positivity you gave Dad, so thank you.

Dad thought so highly of you all & I only hope you knew that from him. Thanks again x”

Sponsor positive feedback – for Atlanta Team, pictured (PI: Dr Azman Ibrahim, Urology):

Atlanta is a study for men with cancer which has spread from the prostate and is hoping to target the cancer with hormone therapy and other treatments. Highest recruiter in the UK during July 2022.

“Dear Azman, Lucy, Linda, and Sharon, I just wanted to personally thank you for your fantastic efforts in recruiting to IP2-ATLANTA. The team and myself are immensely grateful for everything you do in this study and this confidence has really helped when it came to convincing the funder and sponsor to continue to support it with an unprecedented 4-5 year extension so we can complete it.

Please do pass on my thanks to other colleagues involved in the local success of this study.”





Sponsor positive feedback – for the R&I team:

“Dear RAGNAR team, I just wanted to say a big thank you for your hospitality and cooperation over the past couple of days for the RAGNAR audit, especially for all of the hard work that went into the preparation.

... overall Sarah had nothing but praise for the team at your site, particularly for all of the opportunities that you have given patients to participate in the study during the pandemic which is quite remarkable.

- *Nic and Katie had done a great job with the files and there were no findings there*
- *Praise for the level of study training compliance (again thanks Nic and Katie!)*
- *No findings at Pharmacy*
- *Praise for the Nursing Team in terms of their documentation of study visits*
- *No issues with patient safety*
- *No major issues with protocol compliance (other than the minor P(rotocol) D(eviations)s that have been documented)*
- *No issues with SDV (fix for documentation of AEs seems to have done the trick)”*

Patient feedback from a Lower GI patient on the ATICCA trial (PI: Prof Dan Palmer, HPB):

“I can never thank you enough for your parts in giving me precious time I would otherwise probably never have had xx”.

Sponsor positive feedback – for Ironman team (PI: Prof Isabel Syndikus, Urology). The Ironman study (Prostate Cancer Outcomes: An International Registry to Improve Outcomes in Men with Advanced Prostate Cancer) has reached target. Positive feedback received from sponsor.

“Thank you for confirming you are continuing recruitment – as one the UKs fastest recruiters - we are really keen for you to keep going!”

Positive feedback from MANCAN2 sponsor, (PI: Emma Whitby, Urology):

“Thank you to all sites for identifying, inviting, and consenting your men for COHORT 1/ 2. A special thanks to Clatterbridge Cancer Centre for sharing their Top Tips for workshop delivery. Well done for leading the way and being our first site to deliver workshop 1 and 2, to your first group of men with plenty more recruits coming through for cohort 2!”

Positive feedback from MOAT sponsor, (PI: Prof Christian Ottensmeier, Head & Neck). MOAT is A multicentre, open-label, non-randomized, phase Ib, neoadjuvant study in patients with surgically resectable squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck.

“You and your team are absolutely amazing! Thank you ever so much for being so proactive.”





Positive feedback from Prof Chester who covered Prof Ottensmeier's clinic w/c 24th October 2022 working on the Modi-1 clinical trial to the ECMC team:

'I've always been a believer in the all-conquering powers of team-work, and Christian clearly has a marvelous trials team. It's a real pleasure to work with you all.'

Positive feedback from the Validation/Cancer Immunotherapies sponsor (PI: Dr Anna Olsson-Brown, SRG – basket study across all tumour groups). Validation/Cancer Immunotherapies looks at patient perceptions of outcomes and burdens of receiving immunotherapies for cancer. This study is looking at side effects of Immunotherapy treatment via QOLs.

'You have been absolutely incredible with getting these (questionnaires) out, I am so grateful but also so impressed with your efficiency. When I've finished my PhD I'm picking up the CRUK centre nurse role and I'm going to persuade them (if you'll have me) to let me come up and learn a bit more about how your teams operate. We have quite a lot of learning to do.'

Patient feedback from a Nebula patient:

'Hello Lauren, thanks again for a pleasant treatment experience today – as always everyone is so nice and that makes a difference when you're spending so much of your time in hospital!'

Feedback for Dr Lynda Appleton from Senior Grants Manager, Burdett Trust for Nursing:

'Congratulations for driving this work forward through such challenging times. It is clearly evident that getting nurses to be able to have time to participate in research like this has been an enormous challenge for everyone. It is great that by going through this process you were able to identify such specific recommendations and that you have noted wide-ranging dissemination plans. We look forward to hearing how they go''

