

Celebrating health and care research success and impact across the South West Peninsula in 2022/23



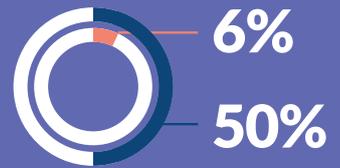
Performance highlights:



participants took part in research across **Cornwall, Devon and Somerset**. The figure for 2019/20, the last full year **before COVID-19** struck, was **24,318**



586 recruiting studies
all 9 South West NHS trusts



In the South West, all **nine NHS trusts** recruited to NIHR CRN Portfolio studies in **every quarter** in 2022/23. The number of **recruiting studies** was **6% higher** than in 2021/22 and **50% higher** than in 2020/21.

Commercial success:

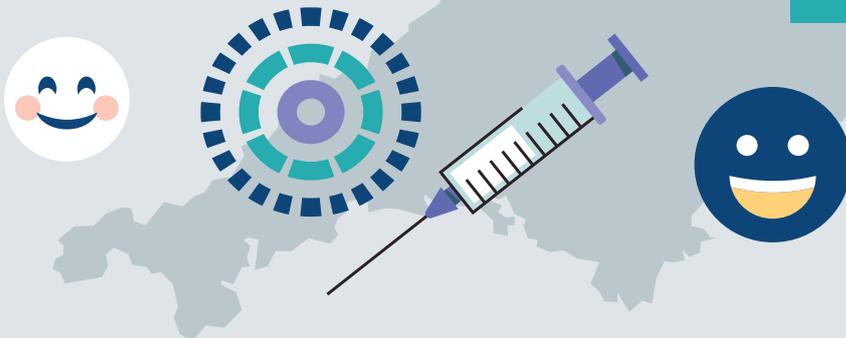
1,807

Commercial research **flourished** in the South West during 2022/23 - with organisations recruiting **1,807** participants to **119** commercial studies.

88%

The Recruitment to Time and Target (RTT) performance for **commercial studies** was **88%** for open studies compared to **67%** nationally.

Health professionals at hospitals and GP practices across the South West, as well as the NIHR Patient Recruitment Centre: Exeter (PRC), played a vital role in recruiting to and delivering a ground-breaking respiratory virus study looking into the leading cause of infant hospitalisation. The **HARMONIE study**, a collaboration between Sanofi, its partner AstraZeneca, and the NIHR saw **9 sites** in the region recruit **337 participants** to time and target and the Plymouth Mobile Research Unit, a converted van, was used to support delivery and widen participation by taking research out into the community.



138 patients

GP practices in the region recruited **138 patients** to commercial trials including working collaboratively with the **NIHR Patient Recruitment Centre: Exeter** and other secondary care organisations to support recruitment to **5 commercial studies**.



The first commercial oral and dental study opened in the region. The PROGRESS study - **PRevalence of Oral hpv infection, a Global aSSessment** - recruited to target and one site in the CRN SWP region, the Peninsula Dental School, was the study's **joint-fourth highest recruiting site** in the UK.

Commercial success:



Desmond Hosking, 78, from Plymouth in Devon shared his story of taking part in a research study. Desmond, who has diabetes, **lost more than four stone** after enrolling in a clinical trial of a drug which he said left him feeling “on top of the world”. Desmond previously enjoyed an active life, doing a physical job and spending much of his free time working on boats and vehicles. But since being diagnosed with **type 2 diabetes** around 25 years ago, Desmond put on weight and was **struggling to control** the condition. That is until he was offered the chance to take part in a research trial by clinicians at **Derriford Hospital**, part of University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust. The **cardiovascular outcome trial** was investigating whether a drug used to treat diabetes also has a positive effect on **heart disease**.



Within cancer research, Torbay hospital was the **second highest recruiter** to commercial trials in England. The following two commercial cancer studies were also **highly successful** in the region:

- **EVALUATION OF MCM5 IN POSTMENOPAUSAL BLEEDING PATIENTS:** Utilising an innovative **MCM5 Urine TEst foR the dIagnosis of eNdometrial canCEr** (MCM5-UTERINE study). This study opened at Torbay Hospital who recruited **244 patients** in 22/23.
- **ORI-EGI-03:** A feasibility study to investigate the **Genomic and Epigenetic Changes** within **Rectal Mucus in Non-colorectal Cancers** of the Aero-digestive Tract (ORI-EGI-03). This is a local Chief Investigator study being run at **Royal Devon Hospital** in Exeter but with some referrals in from **Derriford Hospital** in Plymouth. Between them they recruited **55 participants** into the study in 22/23.

Both studies are still open and continue to recruit well.



To support a future pipeline of commercial studies a successful decentralised trials event was hosted in collaboration with **IQVIA** which saw nearly **80 people** attend and provided actions to take forward.



Successes in delivering research in primary care:

 **7,805**

We recruited **7,805 participants** into primary care studies.



48% 116/243

The region continued to **perform strongly** in primary care, with almost half (**48%, or 116/243**) of GP practices in the South West recruiting participants to **NIHR CRN Portfolio** study research.

 **325**

The results of a clinical trial which saw **325 people** from across the South West volunteer to take part were published and showed a **gout drug** did not improve **coronary heart disease**.



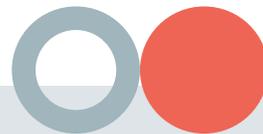
Colin Wells from Exmouth shared his story of getting involved in two clinical research studies thanks to doctors at the town's **Claremont Medical Practice**, one of which **markedly improved** his health.



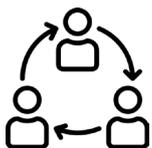
The **ALL-HEART study**, published in the **Lancet journal**, found the drug allopurinol failed to prevent adverse **cardiovascular outcomes** in patients with heart disease without gout.

325 patients

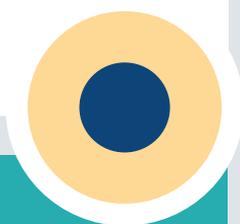
325 patients from **15 GP practices** across Devon and Somerset volunteered to take part in the study regionally. The 15 GP practices which recruited patients into the study regionally were: **Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh Practice: Claremont Medical Practice**, Exmouth; **Rolle Medical Partnership**, Exmouth; **Honiton Surgery: Cricketfield Surgery**, Newton Abbot; **Axbridge Surgery**, Somerset; **Chaddlewood Medical Practice**, Plymouth; **Ashburton Surgery; Cranleigh Gardens Medical Centre**, Somerset; **Yealm Medical Centre; Kingskerswell and Ipplepen Medical Practice; Glastonbury Surgery; Coleridge Medical Centre**, Devon; **Brunel Medical Practice**, Torquay; **Vine Surgery Partnership**, Somerset.



The NIHR-funded **MucAct COPD** study is testing whether breathing in **sodium chloride** through a nebuliser can help patients with the disease cough up phlegm, make them feel better and **cut down the number of chest infections** they get. It is also investigating whether this is better than taking a drug known as **carbocisteine** (either as tablets or an oral solution), which is also thought to help patients clear phlegm from the chest.

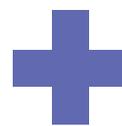


More people in **Devon** were able to take part in research **investigating the best treatment** for **COPD** (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), thanks to an **innovative collaboration** between primary and secondary care.



Although **MucAct** was designed to recruit and be delivered in secondary care, in the South West the **NIHR Clinical Research Network South West Peninsula** (CRN SWP) and the **Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust** (RDUH) were able to improve the experience for volunteers, and **recruit more people**, by involving GP practices.

Creating research opportunities in out-of-hospital settings:



6 schools across the region were supported to recruit participants into **2 studies**.

156 

156 participants were recruited into care home research across **5 studies** and **36 care homes**.

Support from CRN SWP's **Agile Research Delivery Team** (ARDT) increased the number of **out of hospital sites** delivering research, with the team supporting **33 recruiting studies** across a number of different settings. Recruitment of participants from out of hospital settings **increased by 16%**.



The South West saw **year-on-year increases** in recruitment in **care homes, hospices, schools, universities** and **local authorities** - reward for the work by the CRN SWP to support research in a **wider range of settings** outside the NHS.



The **Afri-C study** was one such research opportunity in care homes which aimed to test if having an **air filtration system** helped to **reduce respiratory infections** (including COVID) for the residents and staff. In Devon we successfully **recruited 8 care homes** to the study; 2 in Cornwall and 1 in Somerset. Data was also collected anonymously on **staff sickness** to see if there was a reduction in respiratory infections for the staff also. The **Agile Research Delivery Team (ARDT)** have been integral in engaging and supporting research naïve care homes to take part in this essential study.

The agile workforce supported **Devon County Council** to recruit participants to the **MapMe study** which aimed to see if embedding the MapMe intervention, a tool to improve **parental acknowledgement** and **understanding** of childhood overweight and obesity, in the **National Child Measurement Programme** lead to improved child weight outcomes at one year.



The **Peninsula Adult Social Care Research Collaborative (PARC) Study**, led by Professors at the University of Plymouth, opened in **3 local authorities** and aims to look at whether embedding research into practice improved **social care outcomes**.



The CRN SWP supported the **NIHR palliative care network** and delivered a **regional**, then **supra-regional** supportive and palliative care meeting to support hospice research, which included the commissioning of a **powerful patient case study**. Two hospice sites have since opened and are recruiting to the **CHELSEA II study**, including one site which is **new** to research.

Jan, a **passionate advocate** for research in the palliative care setting, jumped at the chance to volunteer for a study at her local hospice when she realised she was eligible. She shared her story with the CRN SWP in which she said: "Taking part in research gave me control and dignity in the face of cancer treatment."



Oral and dental research increased in the region through our collaborations with the **Plymouth Dental school**. The extra support from the CRN SWP's Agile Research Delivery Team and Industry team led to **2 studies successfully being delivered**. The Plymouth Dental school and study team said the support they had from the CRN SWP had been "*absolutely outstanding, and a great pleasure to work with such knowledgeable, supportive, caring colleagues.*" They continued: "*We cannot thank you and the whole team enough for initiating the research and then supporting us so amazingly well. We look forward to working with you all in the future and benefitting our patients through the research.*"



Our commitment to Research Inclusion:



Collaboration with the **cancer alliance** has targeted investment in cancers that disproportionately affect **under-served groups**, leading to a number of studies being opened.

A **Research Inclusion** working group was established, with representatives from **all CRN SWP Partner organisations (POs)**, to develop a regional **action plan**.

The CRN SWP also supports a regional **ICB research and innovation strategy** in collaboration with other regional stakeholders to **embed research** in the health and care system.



Join dementia research

The CRN SWP worked with GP practices in **underserved areas** to send text messages out to patients encouraging them to sign up to **Join Dementia Research**. The Network saw an **increase of 122%** in sign-ups year on year and were the **highest recruiting LCRN** to the service in 22/23.

122%
increase



University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust (UHPNT) launched a new initiative – using **mobile research units (MRUs)** to bring health research into the community.

The **first of their kind** in the region, the MRUs were the result of a **successful bid** for

nearly £33,000 from the National Institute for Health and Care Research Clinical Research Network South West Peninsula (NIHR CRN SWP) via the **COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce**.

The concept for the MRU **came from a survey** undertaken by the Research and Development team prior to the pandemic. **97% of respondents** said that they would be **more likely** to take part in a research study if it were in their locality and they **did not have to travel** to the hospital site to take part.



The IMPACT:

- The MRU team at UHPNT recruited **81 babies** into the **HARMONIE study** using the MRU **ensuring parents and their babies** could be seen at home/via GP surgeries and children's centres rather than travelling to Derriford Hospital. One parent in inner city Plymouth who had **no funds to travel** to the hospital was subsequently able to **enrol her baby** in the study as a result of the MRU going out to her community.
- **Community Champions** from the NIHR CRN SWP's Research Ready Communities project also supported the Agile Team and the **Mobile Research Unit team** from UHPNT to offer this study to **Whiteleigh residents** though their community engagement event which took these teams and their Mobile Research Unit out to a community with **multiple complex indices of deprivation**, where Mental Health has been identified as a **predominant** issue.
- Many participants who were **2+ years** into a trial researching a drug for **cardiovascular outcomes in diabetes** had requested to withdraw due to the demands of attending the hospital site. Their reasons included **mobility, time, cost, capacity, risk of infection, anxiety, a decline in health** and many more. The MRU was able to ensure the retention of these participants to these commercial trials and has **contributed to individual participant** health and wellbeing. The successful provision of vital data for the trial was also continued.
- The MRU team developed **professional working relationships** with the local university to support academic researchers in delivering **national trials**. These relationships with academic peers are **key to delivering research** pertinent to the local community. The MRU is now facilitating sample retrieval from participants for a single visit as well as providing a safe and warm space for participants to **complete trial activities** such as questionnaires.





The CRN SWP successfully launched its first **Research Ready Communities Project** working with the local community in **Whiteleigh, Plymouth**, an area of multiple and complex deprivation and **urban isolation**. During 2022/23 the CRN SWP:

- **Trained 6x community champions** - all with a mix of backgrounds and ages. Lived experience with substance misuse, alcoholism, homelessness
- **Held 2x community events** in collaboration with University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust's Mobile Research Unit
- **Held 6x focus group** with community members and many 1-2-1s
- **Engaged 120+ community members** who fed into the consultation phase of the project
- Carried out **community mapping** to identify assets and barriers to research
- **Helped the local GP practice** to become research-active through the support of the Agile Research Delivery Team



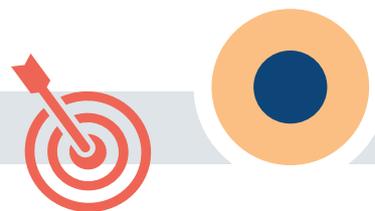
The CRN SWP funded a project called '**Don't Leave Us Behind**' which was delivered by **Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**. The project had several aims including exploring the evidence base relating to conducting research in social care environments for people with **Intellectual Disabilities (ID)** through a literature review, identifying challenges and barriers to **engaging social care in research**, carrying out a survey within Cornwall Council to seek the views of social care teams on research, and to hold a **workshop event** to identify practical issues around research. The results of the literature review showed that most studies followed **small scale methodologies**, limiting findings to **single organisations** and specific participant pools only. Therefore, findings of past research have not been generalizable to the wider public, or the **wider healthcare organisations** supporting those with ID.

69%

The survey of staff within the **Care and Wellbeing Directorate** at Cornwall Council revealed that most of them felt research was relevant to their practice, with **69%** of staff saying they were at least **moderately interested** in conducting their own research.



Supporting researchers:



101 eligible grant applications

The CRN SWP Study Support service supported **101 new eligible grant applications** in 22/23



Support consisted of:

- Signposting and/or **bringing together relevant support teams** e.g. Research Design Services, Sponsor teams, Communications, academics and clinical specialists
- Advising about the **deliverability of research** in the NHS and Social care
- **Supporting site level research** costing in the NHS and Social care
- **Applying for treatment costs** from the relevant commissioning groups and advising about the optimum payment model
- Using tools to ensure that we are **targeting research** to **areas of need**, or to **communities that are underserved** in research. This ensures that results are representative and that the benefits of research for patients and organisations are **equitably spread**
- Advising about **Patient and Public Involvement** in research
- Using our **study support networks** across the UK to identify sites at pace
- Supporting **sponsor organisations** with applications to HRA and REC

The **Self-management and HeAlth Promotion** in early-stage **dementia** with E-learning for carers – **SHAPE study** – is a multicentre randomised controlled trial funded by the **Alzheimer's Society** and NIHR Dementia speciality. The study is testing an **e-learning programme** combining **self-management** and health promotion to improve self-efficacy and other key health and mental health outcomes for people with **mild to moderate dementia**. Following COVID-19, the SHAPE Study was **struggling to recruit** but with significant support from the **CRN SWP Study Support Service** and **Research Delivery Managers** the team were able to open another site at pace to provide PIC activity to support recruitment. The CRN SWP also provided **contingency funding** for administration support to **release nurses for delivery**. By January 2023 the study was **back on track** and by April 2023 the study had met its target.

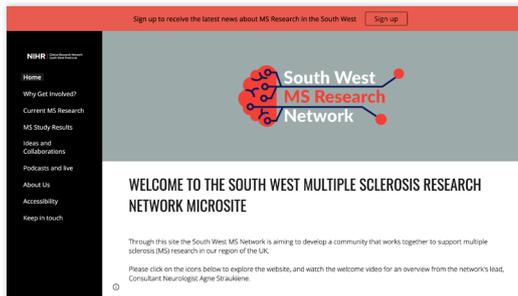


Digital innovations:



A group of clinicians and researchers led an initiative to make the South West a go-to region for **multiple sclerosis (MS) research**, and increase opportunities for those with the disease to trial new treatments.

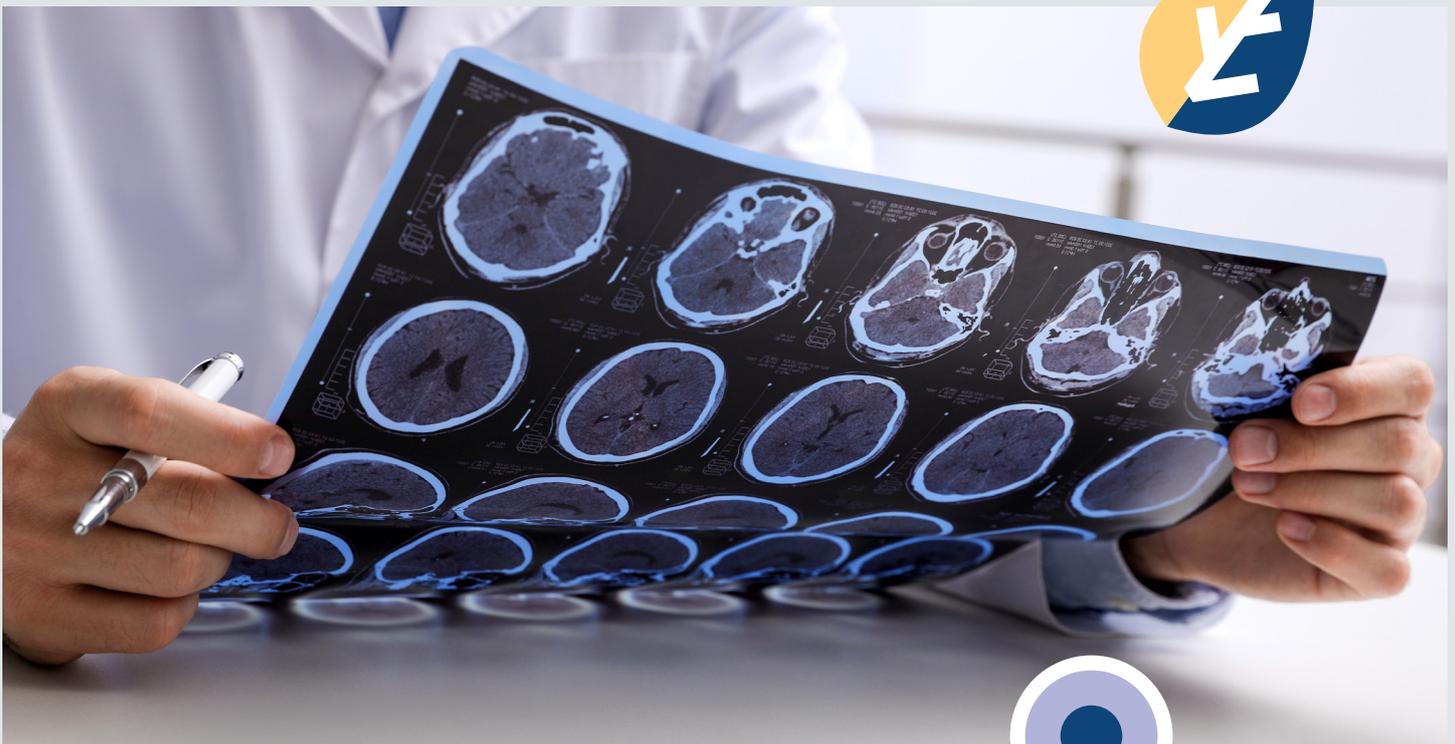
The South West MS Research Network is part of the wider South West MS Network, which was established to address challenges and realise opportunities in care identified by **specialist consultants** across Devon and Cornwall.



Supported by the **CRN SWP**, an **MS research-focused website** was developed. The site provides resources of interest to the whole MS community: **people with MS**, active and potential MS researchers, **drug companies** and other **organisations that fund research**, and anyone interested in getting involved in MS research.



The CRN SWP were selected in collaboration with the **CRN West Midlands** to form the **national PRIDES Hub** - a Health Informatics (digital assistance tools) service offered by LCRNs to **aid patient identification** and recruitment into primary care delivered studies. The aim is to **help all LCRN's** to develop their own **PRIDES offer**.



Raising awareness of research:



The CRN SWP was the **only LCRN** commissioned by NHS England to conduct a pilot evaluation to develop the evidence base for community pharmacies to promote the **Be Part of Research (BPoR) Volunteer Service** – a database where people can register their interest in being contacted about potential research studies they may wish to participate in.



Six regional community pharmacies, two urban, two suburban and two rural, were chosen as test bed sites. Feedback comments from the **public** and **pharmacy teams** were collected throughout the evaluation and **interviews were conducted** with pharmacists at the end of the six-week period. The **evaluation report** on the principal findings showed **all pharmacies would support future BPoR campaigns** and five out of six pharmacies would be interested in engaging with future research opportunities. The report also included **recommendations for maximising registration** to BPoR through public and pharmacy interactions.

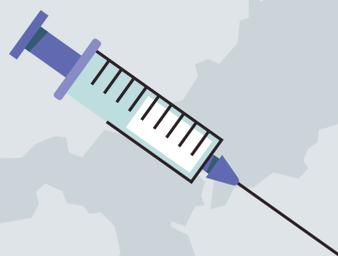


A **photographic exhibition** which opened on **International Clinical Trials Day 2022** aimed to shine a light on the people from across the South West who have chosen to take part in **health and social care research**.

The exhibition, which started at **Yeovil Library** on Friday 20 May, was the culmination of a project by **Janine Valentine**, Nurse Research Leader at Yeovil Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and part of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) 70@70 Senior Nurse Research Leader programme.

Doing her best to hear from as **diverse a range of people** as possible, Janine carried out a **series of recorded interviews** with people who have volunteered for research, and each time **professional photographer Len Copland** captured portraits of the volunteers. The result was a powerful series of images and stories Janine hopes will **inspire others** to get involved.

Launched for **International Clinical Trials Day 2022**, the CRN SWP unveiled a new **Research Roadshow website**, co-produced by members of the public and partner organisations across the South West aimed at **increasing awareness of research** with the general public. Paid social media adverts were used to target promotion in **underserved areas** across the region.





The CRN SWP launched its **re-branded magazine** for members of the public and anyone interested in learning about or getting involved in health and care research, **Research+Me**. The bi-annual magazine contains **fascinating and inspiring stories** about research from across the South West and can be read online, or via hard copies distributed across the region in **GP surgeries**, hospital waiting areas, **libraries** and many other settings.



7 people - made up of **patients, Research Champions** and **Lay Executives** - recorded videos for the CRN SWP for the national **NIHR Trialblazer campaign** which were shared widely across social media.



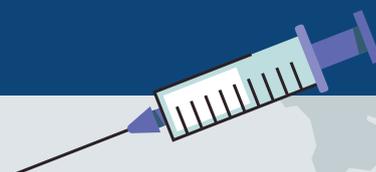
The CRN SWP collaborated with AgeUK Devon to bring more health and care research **opportunities to older people**. As the main sponsor of AgeUK Devon's **Women's Walking Football Tournament** for 2022, the collaboration provided an opportunity for the CRN SWP to encourage more people **over the age of 50** to find out about research opportunities available to them, their carers and families. On **Sunday 19 June**, a small but committed team of intrepid '**walking football naïve**' CRN SWP staff called the **Research Rovers** arrived to take part in the CRN SWP-sponsored event at **Exeter City FC's training ground** in Clyst St Mary. Banner stands helped us the team challenge some of the **common myths** about research and to **generate conversation**, and all of the copies they took of the newly published **Research+Me magazine** were taken away after lots of discussions with tournament participants and their supporters over the course of the afternoon.

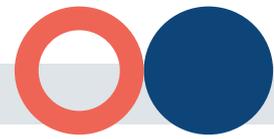
The team worked hard in **talking to as many people** there as possible, and many also took specific information away about the **Protect study**, as well as **Join Dementia Research** registration packs.

In collaboration with **Devon Partnership NHS Trust**, the CRN SWP published two new videos ([here](#) and [here](#)) on **World Mental Health Day** aimed at raising awareness of the importance of **mental health research** amongst service users, members of the public and health and care staff.



The CRN SWP published the story of **Hannah**, during **Baby Loss Awareness Week**, who shared her story of taking part in a miscarriage research study.





As part of the annual **NIHR Your Path in Research** campaign, which aims to encourage more health and care staff to consider a career in research, the CRN SWP worked with all of its **partnering organisations** across Cornwall,

Devon and Somerset to **develop jointly branded assets** featuring staff from each organisation that could be used on social media as well as printed and promoted around each individual Trust.



RESEARCH CHAMPIONS

4 Research Champions across the region worked on strategic projects with Trusts and in **targeted communities** to increase research awareness and **increase the profile** of research. Of particular note are two Research Champions in Somerset - one who sits across **21 PPGs** in the **Symphony Primary Care Group**, and who has enabled research activity and awareness to be a regular agenda item and workshop activity in those practices (many of which are in underserved communities); the other Research Champion sits on a **Trust PPIE Steering Group** and is ensuring research activity and focus has a high status in that group's work.



A research ready workforce:

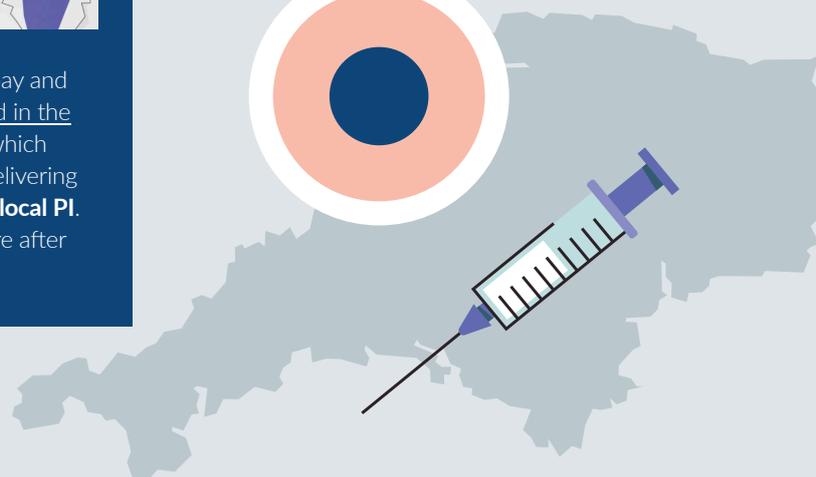
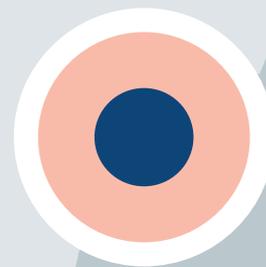
Underrepresented research professions (**Nursing, Pharmacists, Allied Health Professionals**) were supported to gain skills through the **70 legacy project**, Research Associate Scheme and the joint CRN/ARC internship scheme.

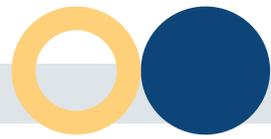


Martin Fancutt, Lead Spinal Orthopaedic Physiotherapist at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust (TSDFT), successfully enrolled in the NIHR's six month **Associate Principal Investigator (API) Scheme** which enables healthcare professionals to **gain practical experience** in delivering an NIHR research study, under the mentorship of an **experienced local PI**. Martin is now working towards becoming a researcher of the future after being selected to take part in the **national training programme**.



The **NIHR CRN SWP Research Associates scheme** gave protected time for research: **8 associates** were funded with a diversity of professions represented including **pharmacists, physiologists, nurses, occupational therapists and surgeons**.

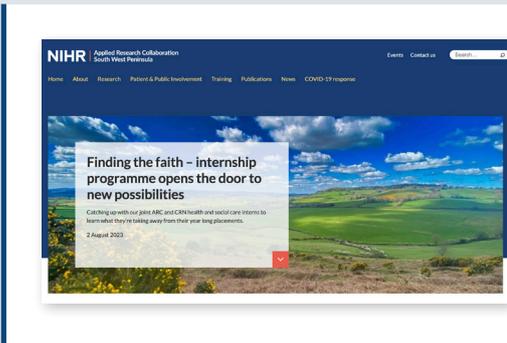




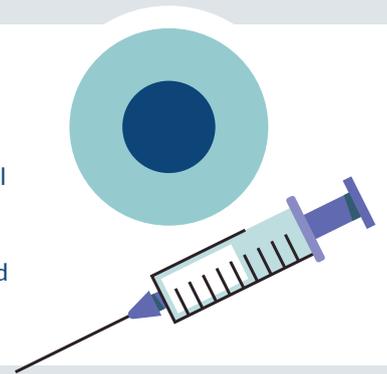
Sophie Whiteley, a Registered Clinical Research Practitioner, and **Cystic Fibrosis Trials Coordinator** at the **Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Trust** spoke of the benefits of being part of the **Academy for Healthcare Science's (AHCS) Accredited Register**. She worked clinically in research for several years, before signing up to the **CRP Directory** as a way of **connecting with colleagues** throughout the UK. When the CRP register opened, she decided to apply in consultation with her line manager, whose support she needed to complete the application process. She said she thinks registration could **boost her career opportunities**.

The **PI Essentials Roadshow** was completed across the region, successfully targeting a **broader range of professionals** to take part in the programme. After attending a PI Essentials training course run by the CRN SWP in Cornwall, one GP has developed a **research naïve practice** into a GP site with an active non-commercial portfolio.

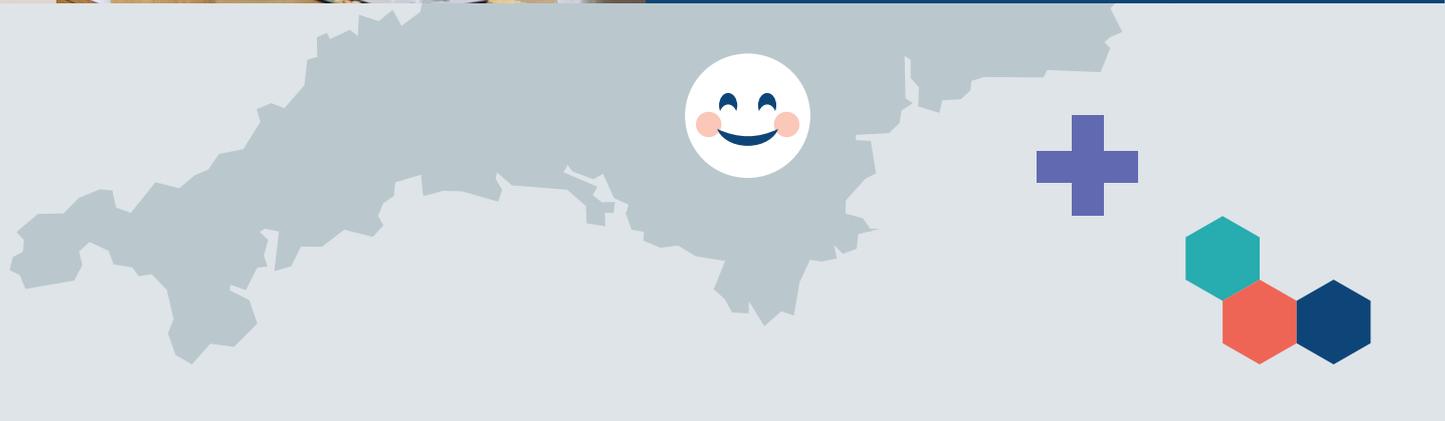
A new **standardised regional induction programme** and processes were agreed and launched for **all new recruits** to research roles across the South West Peninsula, alongside the launch of a new **Induction Handbook** as well as mandatory and recommended **NIHR Learn pathways** and modules for **different professional roles**.



The NIHR CRN SWP, together with the **NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South West Peninsula**, launched a **new internship programme** designed to help health and social care professionals take time out of their **demanding day-to-day work life** to see how research could support them in their work and develop their careers.



Four internships were awarded to candidates with a range of interests **spanning stroke prevention, End of Life care, children's dental health and children's mental health**. With access to the skills, knowledge and experience of colleagues across the ARC and CRN and with support from an academic mentor, four interns have **developed their research** knowledge and skills through a combination of **formal training and hands on learning** – one of them has now gone on to be accepted onto an **NIHR pre-doctoral** fellowship.



Participant in Research Experience Survey (PRES):

1,600

people responded to the annual Participant in Research Experience Survey (PRES) against a target of 931

✓ 95%

The results of the annual **Participant in Research Experience Survey (PRES)** for 2021/22 were published and showed **95%** of people in the **South West** who took part in a research study **would consider** taking part in health and care research again.



Other successes across the region:

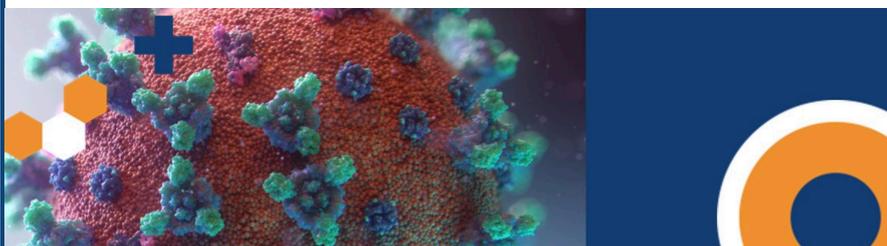


Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (FT) recruited the first patient to a **£2million** research study looking at the best way to prevent **MRSA infection** in hospitals.

The **TIDE** (Trial of Decolonisation) study aims to discover if alternative treatments work as well as the current standard of care for patients found to have MRSA - **methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus** - on their bodies when they are admitted to hospital.

Working with the research team at **Royal Devon Hospital**, the **NIHR PRC: Exeter** played a **key role** in the delivery of the Moderna Omicron COVID-19 vaccine trial exceeding the recruitment **target of 150** with **157 participants** within the agreed recruitment window and were the 6th highest recruiter in the UK. The **patient retention rate was 97.5%** supported by scheduling appointments to suit the patient, sending appointment reminders, providing home visits for those **struggling to come in** due to mobility or transport issues and allowing participants to bring their carer or partner with them to follow up visits.

The screening visits for this trial also **highlighted the other benefits** for patients who are not included in the trial, one participant's medical review showed an **elevated HbA1C** compared to a previous result indicating diabetes or pre-diabetes they were referred to their GP for review and treatment having had an explanation of the potential impact of the diagnosis and another participant had an undiagnosed heart murmur and were referred for further review. Whilst neither of these participants were able to enter the trial, **identification of these incidental findings** will impact on their on-going health and potentially prevent it from deteriorating further.



The results of a **landmark NIHR-funded study**, which saw women in North Devon volunteer, were published and showed a **single-stranded suture thread** could prevent pregnancy infection complications.

The results of the **C-STICH trial** showed that women at risk of pregnancy loss, who need a specialist surgical procedure, could benefit from a single-stranded suture thread to **reduce the risk of infection**.

The study was the largest of its type and is published in the **Lancet**. It involved more than **2,000 expectant mothers** who needed a procedure called a **cerclage**, where a purse string suture is placed around the **neck of the womb** (the cervix) during their pregnancy. Women were **randomly allocated** to have the surgical procedure performed, using either a single stranded thread, or a braided thread.

North Devon District Hospital was the only hospital in the South West to run the study.



The **radiography team** at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust undertook their **first clinical trial**, supported by their Trust Research and development Department, and had **great success** recruiting to the **MIDI study**. The study, sponsored by **King's College Hospital NHS** aims to develop machine learning to help distinguish between normal and abnormal findings on **head MRI scans**, ultimately ensuring that those with abnormal findings get **quicker access** to expert radiologist review.



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The Network appointed a Screening, Prevention and Early Detection Lead, **Professor Umesh Kadam**, who helped open and oversee recruitment of **364 participants** to 11 early detection and prevention studies at primary and **secondary care sites** across the region.

Livewell South West increased the number of **Principal Investigators (PI)** in the organisation from one to seven, as well as increasing the range of disciplines represented – **mental health, physiotherapy, health improvement and counselling**. They also enrolled one mental health doctor in the **Associate PI scheme** who was mentored by an experienced consultant PI.

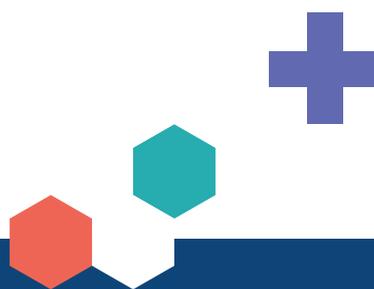


Livewell South West also launched a new **Community Research Clinic** which has **enabled integration** of research into routine practice and raised awareness of research within the organisation.



Led by **Orthopaedic Consultant Mr Al-Amin Kassam**; the Royal Devon University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, in partnership with the University of Exeter, were successful in being **awarded over £900,000** from the NIHR to carry out **ground-breaking research** in 'Hipster' a trial which will explore the use of **pioneering robotic surgical methods** to improve outcomes for hip replacement patients. Nearly **31,000 people** had hip replacements in 2022 with nearly half over **70 years old** and whilst this is a very successful operation for most people **more than 10 per cent** of patients continue to experience pain one year after their operation. Hip replacements are important for mobility and with an **ageing population** and an **increasing demand** for hip replacement surgery, any steps to improve patient outcome could make a **huge difference**.





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