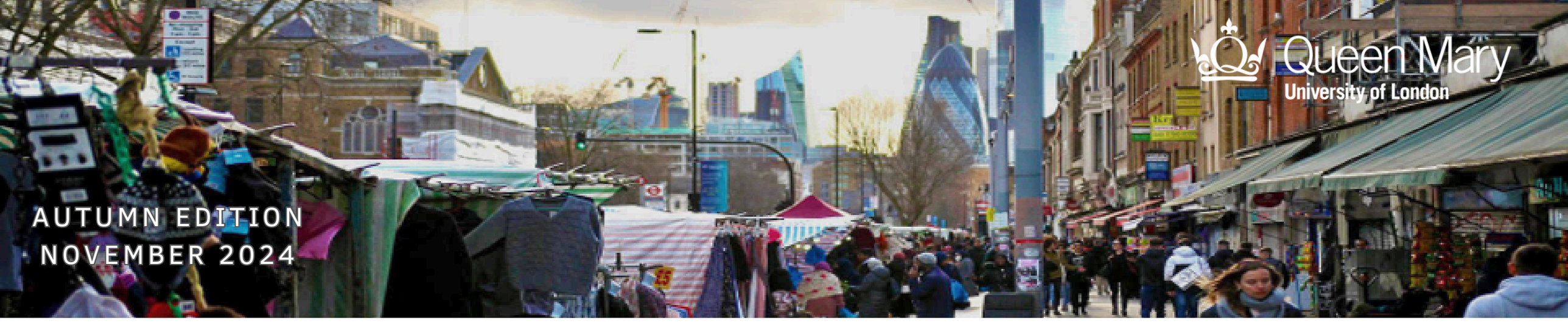


Barts CTU
Barts Clinical Trials Unit

Newsletter

BARTS CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT

Renewing Barts CTU's UKCRC registration in 2022 demonstrated our expertise and ability to conduct high quality clinical trials. Our portfolio has grown and here, we spotlight research successes and new staff.

We collaborate internationally, nationally and locally within QMUL and Barts Health Hospital Trust using a range of methodologies to achieve research excellence and reliable evidence for innovations aiming to have a beneficial impact on health. Our speciality areas include:

- Cancer Screening, Prevention and Early Diagnosis
- Inflammatory and Degenerative Joint Diseases
- Cardiovascular Diseases

Tackling health inequalities is a priority in all our research and more recently we have extended support to the field of Infectious Disease Control.

Barts CTU sits within the Centre for Evaluation and Methods (CEM) alongside the Pragmatic CTU, the Methodology Research Unit and the Health Economic and Policy Research Unit. CEM provides a rich and diverse setting with a shared vision to improve evidence and methods for a healthier, better world.
CEM forms part of the wider Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH), at QMUL.

For Collaboration requests with Barts CTU and other CEM units CLICK HERE

Or scan the QR code



Barts CTU Team

TRIAL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

New £42 million trial of prostate cancer screening
Our Director, Professor Rhian Gabe, is co-leading the new £42million TRANSFORM trial of prostate cancer screening. Adam Brentnall (Barts CTU Senior Lecturer in Biostatistics), Fiona Walter (Professor of Primary Care Research) and Sammy Quaife (Reader in Behavioural Science) lend their expertise in our top QMUL team of investigators.

This major investment by Prostate Cancer UK and NIHR will trial new technologies and inform national policy with evidence on acceptability, clinical and cost-effectiveness, barriers and facilitators to ensure equitable engagement of people from different backgrounds and create an important biobank for translational research.

THE FOCUS: PUBLICATIONS



Congratulations to Francesca Pesola, Barts CTU Senior Lecturer in Medical Statistics who is first author of a key publication on the safety of e-cigarettes and nicotine patches when used to help pregnant smokers quit.
Read the full text article here.

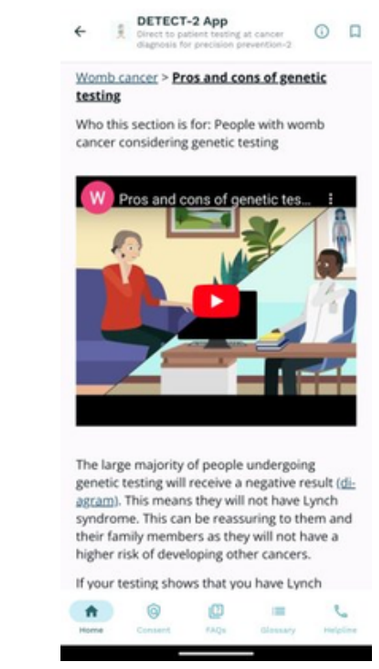
MILESTONES

DETECT-2, led by Chief Investigator Professor Ranjit Manchanda, is a research study designed to assess the feasibility of offering genetic testing to patients diagnosed with bowel, womb and ovarian cancer, in a home setting and via a simple saliva test (called 'Direct-to-patient' (DTP) testing).

The study opened earlier this year and recruitment has commenced at hospital sites across the UK .

PPIE activities have included co-development of a digital app with patient/public representatives, which provides advice to cancer patients about genetic testing. This study could provide a new scalable solution for genetic testing of cancer patients and will evaluate participants' acceptability and satisfaction of this 'DTP' approach.

Find out more about the DETECT-2 study here



Highlights

Meet the Barts CTU Team

Trial in the Spotlight: TRANSFORM

THE FOCUS: Publications

Milestones: DETECT- 2

Good News Stories: Licensing of Anastrozole

TEAM TALKS: Kate and Raj

PPIE: Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement:

DISTINCT

EVENTS: NIHR BRC Musculoskeletal Patients and Family Day

TEAM TALKS

Meet Kate and Raj, our new Barts Charity funded Senior Statisticians, who will be helping collaborators develop projects and grant applications through design of new trials.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...



Kate Bennett
Senior Clinical Trials Statistician

'As a clinical trials statistician, my day always starts with tea, preferably Yorkshire tea. By choice, I would be in the office, as I find being around other people energises me.

I enjoy the variety of my work. A typical day can include statistical analysis (writing code, manipulating data, running models, checking and interpreting results), attending trial meetings, collaborating on new research ideas, writing analysis plans and reading around a disease area or methodological approach.

As a child, I wanted to be a detective, and now I am one, in a way; I seek to find the truth in the world of health.

Though competing deadlines and poor-quality data can be challenging, the collaborative aspect of working toward global health improvements is highly rewarding.

Balancing deep statistical knowledge with exposure to diverse studies, I genuinely love my job and feel very privileged to be able to say that.'

LOOKING BACK...



Rajnikant Mehta
Senior Clinical Trials Statistician

' I have over 25 years of experience in medical statistics, clinical trial design and epidemiology.

My career began as a Medical Statistician at the MRC Clinical Research Centre in London, supporting clinical trial design and analysis. After earning an MSc in Medical Statistics from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, I worked at GlaxoSmithKline and several universities, including London (St. Georges), Southampton, Nottingham/ Leicester and Birmingham. My roles involved supporting clinical studies, NIHR grant applications and teaching in MSc programs.

I was inspired by Sir Austin Bradford Hill with Sir Richard Doll, medical statisticians who pioneered the study which demonstrated the association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Medical statistics is essential for quantifying uncertainty and guiding decisions in medical research.

If you are considering research proposals for submission to NIHR or other funding streams, I offer statistical advice/analysis on study design, with expertise in Cluster Randomised Trials, Stepped Wedge, Factorial, Adaptive, and Bayesian designs, helping researchers secure funding for their projects.'

UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Units

barts CHARITY

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GOOD NEWS STORIES



Anastrozole: Thousands to be offered drug to prevent breast cancer in England - BBC News

Barts CTU is proud to have contributed to the extensive impact of the IBIS-II Prevention trial in which a 49% reduction in breast cancer was observed for Anastrozole. The results of this pioneering study led by Professor Jack Cuzick provided the main evidence for a successful application to the MHRA for a license variation of Anastrozole for use in the preventive setting in women at high risk of breast cancer. We worked with the NHS England Medicines Repurposing Program to achieve this and bring about a new choice for thousands of women at high risk of the disease to take steps to prevent breast cancer.

Barts CTU continues to provide support to the long-term follow up of the IBIS studies.

PPIE: PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

The DISTINCT question set, developed with input from patients and the public, was designed to collect demographic data from participants in UK cancer trials.

The project, co-led and co-developed by the Cancer Prevention Trials Unit (CPTU) at Queen Mary and the Institute of Cancer Research, was launched to ensure research participation accurately reflects the population affected by the studied diseases.

Barts CTU PPIE Coordinator, Cherrelle Salmon and Barts CTU Head of Clinical Trial Management, Laura White were co-applicants on the DISTINCT funding application and contributed to the project design, development and PPIE support.

Trial teams and researchers are invited to use the question set in their studies and provide feedback about their experience.

Find more information on the webpage or contact the project team to request the question set: DISTINCT@icr.ac.uk

EVENTS

Patients and their families joined the NIHR Barts Biomedical Research Centre Musculoskeletal day in September; an informal event to meet students, scientists, and clinicians working on treatments for joint conditions. The day featured short talks, plenty of tea, coffee, pizza and also included a research poster competition providing an opportunity for PhD and research staff to present their studies.





The winning poster, presented by Inthushaa Indrakumar, Clinical Trial Coordinator at the Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology (EMR) was **3TR Precis-The-RA.** Further information about the study can be found here

"Participants showed huge interest in our event and asked for more events (in person and virtually) to discuss topics such as managing pain and prevention, exercise and diet, disease progression, and long-term effects of biologic treatments. Thanks to the great feedback from this event, we aim to plan other activities such as virtual or local community meetings in the next year."
- Alessia Baseggio Conrado, Research Manager

A Message from our Director, Professor Rhian Gabe



Thank you to our Barts CTU newsletter contributors and readers. It is a pleasure to highlight our successes made possible by excellent staff, collaborators, trial participants, PPIE representatives and funders. With your help we continue our efforts to improve health and address inequalities.