

# KHFT Research Department Annual Report 2021/2022

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## 1. FOREWORD

This report has been written to reflect the overall activity and delivery of Research at Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (KHFT) for the financial year 2021/22. In total, 27 research studies opened and 1337 patient and staff were recruited into National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) adopted portfolio studies during this year.

### *1.1 Opportunities*

With the height of the COVID19 pandemic seemingly reducing across the Nation, the focus for Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (KHFT) for 2021/2022 has moved from solely focusing on delivering COVID19 related Urgent Public Health (UPH) studies to re-opening the paused the studies that the NIHR paused in response to the pandemic and providing new research opportunities for the patients that we serve in our local community. The contribution made to the GenoMICC study, a trial to identify markers of severe disease, led to a publication in the prestigious journal Nature, 3 times and Kingston Hospital is the overall top 11<sup>th</sup> recruiting site across the UK for this international study.

Unfortunately, we have seen a decrease in staff who are able support the Research that the Trust offers. The number of staff trained and actively involved in research, has decreased from 200 in March 2021 to over 100 by the end of March 2022. We continue to encourage Nurse and Midwife-led research- with 3 Nurse, and 1 Midwife Principle Investigators. Dr Simon Pearse, Consultant Cardiologist and the Trust's first ever Chief Investigator, has successfully completed his cardiology study 'PERSEPOLIS' and was awarded top 'UK recruitment centre', coming in 5th overall globally, for recruitment. We did not have any 'Green shoots' Clinical Research Network applications this year. Seeing how beneficial this can be the R&I department will make this a focus the following financial year.

The Research Department had created their first staff award, 'Contribution to Research' award. Dr Siva Mahendran, Respiratory Consultant and Charlotte Morrison, Head of Research Governance and Delivery were nominated. The award went to Amelia Palmer, Stoma Care CNS, who has successful lead on Stoma Care studies independently, showcasing the true nature of embedding research within the Trust.

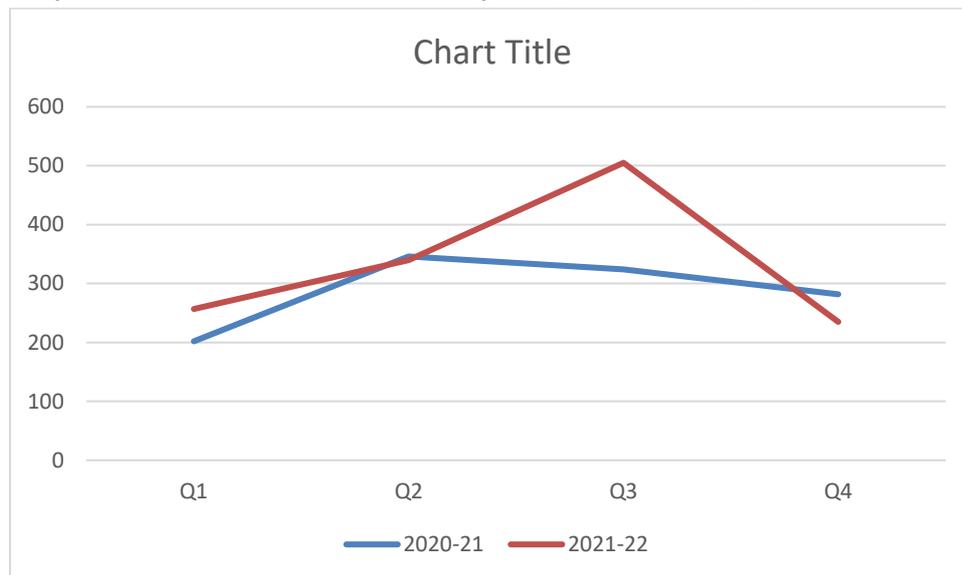
### *1.2 Challenges*

We had to adapt to remote working and new environments, and changes to patient pathways for trial recruitment and monitoring. Delays in restarting non-Covid research had the potential for long reaching impact on equality of access for our patients to good, innovative studies and clinical research. We have started a program of work locally in the research department to build back better by improving our support processes and infrastructure by adopting new technology, new working environments and new work patterns.

## 2. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACTIVITY

The Research team opened 27 studies this year: 3 Covid-related (1 of which are UPH studies) , and 24 non-Covid studies. One of these non-COVID studies are Academic-led partnerships with Kingston University. Currently, the Research Department supports 20 research-active specialities with a portfolio of 58 studies[open] (1 commercially sponsored, 3 academic). We are closing the financial year with 9 studies in set up, of which 2 are Commercial, 0 is academic and 7 are non-Commercial.

**Graph 1: Research Recruitment Activity FY21/22 versus FY20/21**



At the end of this financial year, we had a 16% increase in the overall number of patients recruited, compared to

**Table 1: New Study Set Up Key Performance Indicators**

KPI metric	Mean number of days for KHFT Study Setup		Median number of days for the KHFT Study Setup	
	2020/21	2021-22 and % Difference	2020/21	2021-22 and % Difference
<b>40 Day</b> Target from site invited to Site Initiated	55	125 78%	17	35 69%
<b>30 day</b> Target to recruit first patient	<b>68</b>	22 102%	23	18 24%
<b>70 day</b> total set up target	<b>122</b>	144 17%	78	51 42%

On average, there is not a vast improved in our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for study set up including the 40 days to open the study from site selection, 30 days to recruit our first patient and 70 day combined target during 20/21. This is due to the after affects of the Covid pressures from both the study sponsors and clinical specialities. We now have tighter processes in place to monitor the setup of all studies processed and time to target internally aim for further improvement on these metrics over the next financial year.

### **3. RECOVERY, RESILIENCE AND GROWTH**

It was clear that 2021 continued to be a challenging year across the entire Trust. Despite this, However, the Research and Innovation (R&I) Department has had another fruitful 12 months with the studies the department has opened and supported. Over the next year we are planning a programme of work to ensure Research recovery, resilience and growth. We aim to deliver the KHFT research strategy to embed clinical research into all aspects of clinical care to address the needs of our local community. We look forward to adopting new methods of research design, management and oversight to improve research access and delivery. We will continue to work with local & national partners in primary and secondary care, the community and academia to make research accessible, inclusive and collaborative over the whole patient pathway.

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