

Our Key Achievements 2024/25

Annual Report Summary – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025



Our Highlights 2024 - 2025

We help discover new treatments that improve healthcare for people of all ages.



With 6 sites across Greater Manchester hospitals, we are the largest Clinical Research Facility of our kind in the UK.



By working with industry partners, we support some of the most advanced research in the world.



Our work has a major impact locally, nationally and internationally.

From testing world-first therapies to working closely with patients, communities and partners, 2024-2025 was a year of real progress and achievement.

Thank you to everyone who took part in or supported our research.

A Record-Breaking Year

Between April 2024 and March 2025:

2,971

people took part
in our research
studies



we supported

890

research projects -
the largest number
we have ever
reported



we delivered

431

early-phase
studies

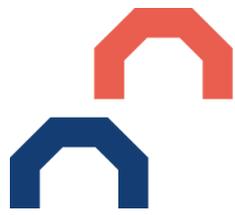


we attracted

£4.7m

of funding,
helping us to
continue to grow
and innovate

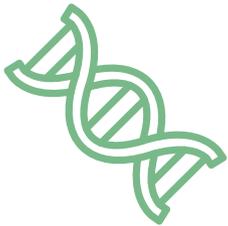




Ground-Breaking Research

We recruited the first person in the UK to have CAR-T therapy – usually used for cancer treatment – for a condition called lupus.

A once-daily treatment for Cystic Fibrosis (CF), trialled with us, was approved for use in the UK. For people with CF, this could make their treatment easier to manage.



We contributed to a major global study of a new therapy for a type of blood cancer.

We recruited the first two people in the UK into a gene-editing study for cardiovascular disease.

Working with Participants, Families and Communities

This year we:

- Co-produced a campaign, where local community members created films and workshops to explain how laboratory research works, called [Let's Talk Labs](#).
- Improved signage and information about our staff, based on patient feedback.
- Worked with young people, parents and carers to make research more inviting.
- Thought about ways to make sure more people could take part in research.
- Achieved Gold Standard in ward-accreditation schemes.
- Received funding from NIHR to support site enhancements which was matched by the MFT Charity.



Manchester Foundation
Trust **Charity**



Supporting Our Colleagues

We supported our teams to learn, develop and thrive.

Highlights included:



- Leadership training through national programmes such as Edward Jenner, Mary Seacole and Windrush.
- A new all-site induction so colleagues understand how our facilities work.
- A continued focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Sharing Our Stories



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Katherine, 39, from Manchester was first person in the UK to receive the CAR-T lupus therapy in this trial

“Even though I wasn’t expecting to feel this better so quickly, I do feel I have more energy and I have had no joint swelling. I’m feeling hopeful for the future.

I’d say to anyone given the chance to take part in this research, definitely take part because not only could you benefit yourself, but you could be helping to find a ground-breaking treatment for thousands of other people, not just with lupus, but with related conditions.”

NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility at Manchester Royal Infirmary

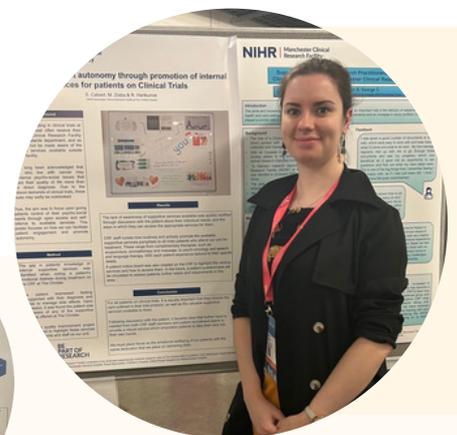


Some of the team members from the NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (CRF) at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) who helped deliver this study.

We shared our good news on social media, websites, TV and in newspapers.

We presented posters at national conferences highlighting how we care for children with complex needs and our workforce projects.

This helps people understand how our research changes lives.





Looking Ahead

Our focus remains clear:

- Putting patients and communities first.
- Delivering world-leading early-phase research.
- Making our research even more accessible and inclusive for everyone.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our record-breaking year.

Together, we are making sure research continues to change lives.



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“As a Clinical Research nurse, it gives me immense pleasure to be a part of a multi-disciplinary team aiming to create a better future for the world!

It's really rewarding and is a privilege when you know you are making a difference.”



Shilpa Pushpan
Senior Clinical Research Nurse
NIHR Manchester CRF at Wythenshawe Hospital



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“As a student nurse, we were taught about evidence-based practice but not about the role of a nurse in gathering the evidence. Joining the research team in 2018 was the start of me getting a glimpse into this area.

Over the years I have been fortunate to work on clinical research trials where the benefit experienced by patients was quite evident. So much so that these treatments have been approved for use clinically.

It gives me immense joy to have played a small role in supporting clinical trials which benefit hundreds of patients.”



Sujata Blane
Nurse Manager
NIHR Manchester CRF at North Manchester General Hospital

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“There are many reasons I feel honoured to say I work in research, including seeing first hand the impact some of our treatments have on transforming the lives of our children and their families, and being part of a team delivering pioneering treatments to change care for the better.”



Liz Worsley
Nurse Manager
NIHR Manchester CRF at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

#Red4Research 2024

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“Being part of the NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility at Salford Royal Hospital allows me to offer patients the opportunity to take part in ground-breaking experimental medicine.

We've recently been able to treat a patient with a rare and debilitating condition with a gene therapy and we hope this could make a real difference to their life.”



Louise Harrison
Operational Lead
NIHR Manchester CRF at Salford Royal Hospital

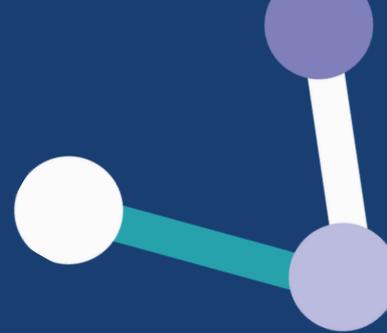
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“The Windrush Leadership Programme was truly insightful and provided me with valuable reflections on my strengths, weaknesses and the importance of continuous improvement.

I believe the programme will have a lasting impact on my approach to my work and I look forward to applying the knowledge and insights gained to my daily responsibilities.”



Oluwakemi (Stella) Normansell
Nurse Manager
NIHR Manchester CRF at Wythenshawe Hospital



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