

Introducing the TRN

Welcome to the TRN's first newsletter where we will share the latest news, successes & opportunities to get involved.

Who are we?

We are a small team that has been put together by the Transfusion 2024 programme to create a Transfusion Research Network. We are comprised of representatives from key staff groups to create a multidisciplinary group that can advise on all aspects of transfusion research.

What are we doing?

Our main objectives for this project include:

Increase the recruitment & delivery of large-scale clinical transfusion trials

Increase the number and diversity of staff types performing transfusion research

Increasing the number of hospitals that take part in transfusion research, especially those that serve underrepresented patient groups

Provide resources for patient and public involvement in all stages of transfusion research

Why?

There are inequalities with the way patients and hospitals get involved with transfusion research, including geographical limitations, certain populations not being well represented and smaller sites not being involved in research.

It is our aim that everyone, regardless of where they work and live, have equal opportunities to perform and be involved in transfusion research.

Please get in touch if you want to hear more, or if you would like to get involved!



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Survey

We sent a survey to transfusion staff (mainly Transfusion Practitioners and Transfusion Laboratory Managers) asking about the barriers they face in being involved in transfusion research. Here are some of the key results from this which we are using to shape the actions of the TRN moving forward:

Funding is a concern for 71% of respondents - operational departments often do not receive any monetary compensation for taking part in research

48% of respondents have not had the opportunity to take part in transfusion research

Staffing issues are a barrier to performing research for 55% of respondents

Other barriers include; existing commitments of the role, research not being a priority and lack of knowledge of research opportunities being ranked highly by respondents

Respondents were asked to rank the most impactful interventions to help them increase research activity in their hospital:

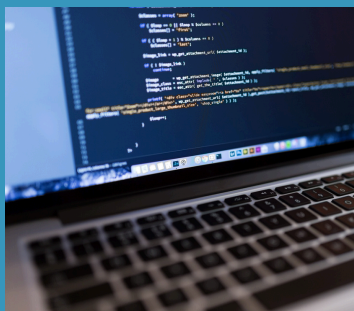
Protected time for study set-up ranked first

Better communication channels with internal research departments ranked second

More knowledge on research opportunities ranked third

Other Workstreams

We are working on various workstreams to achieve the objective of the network including:



Create website with a 'how to' on starting a research project and other resources:

Collate resources from the NIHR and other organisations

Create bespoke guidance for transfusion departments

Gather testimonials from operational staff about research involvement



Increase communication of research opportunities between:

NIHR

NHSBT

NHS Trusts

Universities



The TRN is dedicated to delivering meaningful and impactful patient and public involvement.

Create PPI resources for pre-grant application



Work with existing research projects and clinical trials to create specific guidance and best practice for transfusion departments