Industry Sponsored Research
Research and Development Department

Enhancing Understandings and Improving Practice
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is committed to developing research capacity and has invested in a Research and Development infrastructure
Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust provides specialist mental health, learning disability and substance misuse services in and across Sussex, serving a population of 1.5 million. Our area stretches 80 miles along the south coast from Chichester to Rye and north from Brighton and Hove to Gatwick.

Sussex Partnership is committed to developing research capacity and has invested in a Research and Development infrastructure. We are committed to and focused on developing partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry and expanding our portfolio of industry sponsored research. This brochure was designed to highlight the resources we have available to host high quality commercial research.

Our aim is to successfully facilitate collaborations between investigators and pharmaceutical partners to ensure successful delivery of a wide programme of clinical research trials within the Trust.
Industry sponsored research at Sussex Partnership

We work within many areas of clinical research from Phase II to IV.

Our portfolio includes a variety of clinical trials sponsored by numerous pharmaceutical and clinical research organisations. Commercial sponsors choosing to host clinical trials within Sussex Partnership benefit from our highly skilled workforce and centralised management processes.

Clinical specialties

Our industry supported research falls within the following clinical specialties:

- Dementia and Older People’s Mental Health
- Adult Psychiatry
- Neurobehavioural
- Substance Misuse
Our industry research team

Medical lead for research
The medical lead for research facilitates the development of relationships with researching colleagues in the medical workforce, pharmaceutical industries and clinical research organisations, as well as associated educational establishments.

Research and Development Manager
The Research and Development Manager provides support in the set up and smooth running of clinical trials. She provides a link between the pharmaceutical companies and principal investigators throughout the trial and is the lead contact for pharmaceutical representatives to contact for information regarding local research governance and management, contract negotiation, feasibility of site, financial arrangements and local set up of trials.

Coordinator of Service User and Carer Involvement
The Coordinator of Service User and Carer Involvement works with researchers, service users and carers to develop meaningful involvement within research activity in the Trust. People hold a wide range of views about what meaningful involvement is and this can vary in each study. Our aim is to develop involvement that is both meaningful and functional.
Research and Development Pharmacist
The Research and Development Pharmacist manages the organisation and education of pharmacy departments in respect of any clinical trials involving drug treatments.

The Pharmacist is responsible for ensuring that all pharmacy clinical trial procedures comply with government legislation and standards, especially the EU Clinical Trials Directive 2001, the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 and the requirements of the Code of Good Clinical Practice (GCP).

Research Nurses
We have a diverse team of research nurses spanning a wide range of specialisms, including DeNDRoN Nurses, MHRN Clinical Studies Officers, as well as nurses employed directly by Sussex Partnership. They are based across Sussex and work flexibly to ensure that all clinical trials have the full support needed. Our research nurses provide regular advice and updates to our industry partners on all aspects of trial conduct.

Our research nurses work as a liaison between investigators and our industry partners and are always easily accessible and work flexibly to support all of our commercial trials.

Tanya Telling,
Research and Development Manager
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Ruth Chandler,
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Gus Fernandez,
Research and Development Pharmacist
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Dementia and Older People’s Mental Health

Cognitive Treatment and Research Unit (CTRU)

Established in 2007 the CTRU is dedicated to treatment and understanding of Alzheimer’s disease, other dementias and the needs of older people.

The unit is led by Dr Naji Tabet in close collaboration with Dr Andrew Risbridger. It is fully equipped to meet the demands of Phase II to IV clinical trials with full time research nurses and facilities such as temperature controlled drug cabinets, centrifuges and freezers.

CTRU has strong links with local medical schools, universities and several local neuroimaging, neuropsychology and neurophysiology centres. The CTRU was created in partnership with South Coast DeNDRoN and has taken part in several DeNDRoN adopted trials. The CTRU has an excellent record for being selected by pharmaceutical companies and in achieving recruitment targets.

The CTRU has a Clinical Research Fellow dedicated solely to supporting the conduct of industry supported research trials. This ensures that all clinical trials hosted at the unit have full time medical cover. This enables regular doctor availability during routine monitoring visits by the pharmaceutical representatives.

Dr Naji Tabet,
Chief and Principal Investigator, Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry,

“I have over ten years experience in dementia research and several years experience in the conduct of phase II to IV clinical trials, both as Principal and Chief Investigator.

I lead the Cognitive Treatment and Research Unit and have close links to the South Coast Dementia and Neurodegenerative Disease Research Network.

We have completed a number of important clinical trials through the network, and have an ongoing programme of trials that we are host to”.

“An excellent record for being selected by pharmaceutical companies”
St Anne’s Centre - Mental Health Centre for Older People
Dr Stephen Vethanayagam is the principal investigator based at the St Anne’s Centre in Hastings within the Older People’s Mental Health Service. Dr Vethanayagam has extensive experience in the conduct of clinical trials of drug treatments for Alzheimer’s Disease, Vascular Dementia, Parkinson’s Disease Dementia, Major Depressive Disorder, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder and other neurological and psychiatric conditions.

The service at St Anne’s serves a large population of over 65’s and has access to patients in 40 general practice surgeries. It is based on site with the Conquest General Hospital which supports all clinical trial activity hosted at St Anne’s. The centre has experience and facilities to conduct phase II to phase IV, as well as post market surveillance trials. Dr Vethanayagam is supported by experienced nurses and administration staff. The team is committed to the provision of high quality research in an environment that benefits both patients and carers.

Dr Stephen Vethanayagam,
Principal Investigator, Acting Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry.

“I have over 19 years of experience in the conduct of phase II to IV clinical trials. I am an active researcher in the fields of dementia, bipolar, schizophrenia and mood disorders both within Old Age Psychiatry and Adult Psychiatry. I am a member of the R&D Forum and member of the Clinical Trials Management Committee within Sussex Partnership”.

“Committed to the provision of high quality research”
Adult Psychiatry

Linwood Community Mental Health Centre

Dr Pablo Jeczmien is the Principal Investigator based at Linwood Community Mental Health Centre in Haywards Heath within the Working Age Mental Health Service. He is supported by a multidisciplinary team in the conduct of all research activity hosted at the Linwood site.

Linwood provides services for working age adults with panic disorders, generalised anxiety disorders, social phobia, obsessional compulsive disorders, and mood disorders Schizophrenia and Bi-polar Disorders. The service covers the whole of Haywards Heath and neighbouring Burgess Hill, with a population of approximately 100,000, of which 60 percent are adults between 18 - 65 years.

The service has direct access to patients from 14 general practice surgeries.

“I have 20 years experience in the conduct of Phase III and IV clinical trials in the field of Anxiety Disorders and Psychosis, and work as an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

I am a member of the Clinical Research Management Committee, Research and Development Forum and the Drug and Therapeutics Committee. My main areas of interest include anxiety and mood disorders as well as brain function and neuroimaging”.

“Supported by a multidisciplinary team in the conduct of all research activity”
Dr Akram Wilson,
Principal Investigator,
Consultant in Adult Psychiatry.

“I have an established academic background and I am a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. I have been involved in many industry phase II - III clinical trials, which have involved patients with bipolar disorders & schizophrenia.

I currently chair the Medical Research Group for West Sussex, I am a member of the Sussex Partnership Research and Development Forum and the Clinical Trial Management Committee. I also co-chair the Family Studies & Interventions Section of the World Psychiatric Association”.

Bedale Centre
Dr Wilson is the Principal Investigator based at the Bedale Centre in Bognor Regis. The Community Mental Health Team based at the Bedale Centre serves a community of about 60,000 people within the 18-65 years age group. The area surrounding the Bedale Centre covers one of the largest numbers of care homes in the country for people with severe mental illness. In addition, there is direct access to patients from 10 general practice surgeries, thereby facilitating recruitment of patients in primary as well as secondary health services.

The research team is led by Dr Wilson, a qualified staff grade doctor, an experienced research nurse and two community psychiatric nurses. The team is committed to delivering high quality clinical research in collaboration with industry partners.

“Covers one of the largest numbers of care homes in the country for people with severe mental illness”
Storrington Mental Health Centre

Horsham Community Mental Health Team based in Storrington, West Sussex serves a working age population of 80,000, and covers the entire Horsham district. The clinical team manages mood disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, bipolar disorders, and psychosis, and covers 14 general practice surgeries, both in urban and rural areas.

Outpatient clinics are delivered from both the Storrington Centre as well as general practice surgeries. This helps patients engage with the services, improves communications, helps with patient recruitment and reduces the ‘drop out’ rates.

The research team, which is led by Dr Jain, is supported by staff grade doctors as well as a team of experienced research nurses and a clinical studies officer.

“Serves a working age population of 80,000, and covers the entire Horsham district”
Neurobehavioural Service

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Service - Storrington, West Sussex

Dr Jain is the lead clinician for the Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Service covering the West Sussex region. The service takes the form of multidisciplinary clinics providing a diagnostic assessment service and functional evaluation of non-learning disabled individuals with ADHD, aged 18 years plus, towards identifying medium and long-term care plan needs.

The service is unique and has access to a large population of patients with ADHD from across West Sussex. It has hosted clinical trials testing efficacy of new ADHD treatments and has an excellent reputation for recruiting patients.

“I have 11 years experience of delivering and supporting clinical trials in mood & anxiety disorders, psychosis and adult ADHD.

I have a Diploma in Advanced Professional Development in Clinical and Health Sciences, and attained distinction in Accessing and Appraising Research Evidence, and Research, Design and Methodology.

I am a member of the Clinical Trial Management Committee, Trust Research and Development Forum and a panel member of the Drug and Therapeutics Committee. I have also been actively involved in drafting the Trust’s Drugs Guidelines.

My main area of interest is Mood and Anxiety Disorders, Adult ADHD and Neuroimaging”.

“An excellent reputation for recruiting patients”
Neurobehavioural Clinic,  
- Brighton, East Sussex

The Neurobehavioral Clinic, based in Brighton, provides a specialist diagnostic assessment service and functional evaluation of working-age individuals without learning disability who continue to express, as adults, neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism spectrum disorders, tourette syndrome and adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Limited follow-up arrangements are offered which, for ADHD, allow initiation and monitoring of medication.

This role of the clinic in Brighton parallels the ADHD service offered by Dr Jain. The Neurobehavioural Clinic staff includes academic psychiatrists led by Professor Hugo Critchley, a speech and language therapist and a psychologist.

Together this range of expertise enables comprehensive evaluation of clients and permits identification of neuropsychiatric, cognitive and communicative conditions that may present similarly to primary neurodevelopment disorders. The Clinic has a strong research ethos and evidence-based practice and has become a platform for a number of university (funding body) and industry sponsored research projects.
Prof Critchley is Deputy Director of Research at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS). Clinical research facilities run by BSMS include the Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre (CISC) at the University of Sussex Campus Falmer; this is a state of the art medical imaging unit incorporating positron emission tomography (PET) and structural and (functional/structural) magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); the BSMS Clinical Investigations Research Unit (CIRU) (based in the acute trust, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton) is a staffed clinical and laboratory space for inpatient and outpatient research. The unit provides specialised technical support to help those involved in clinical investigations, patient-centred research and research training.

Prof. H. Critchley, Principal Investigator

“I trained as a neuropsychiatrist and have a clinical interest in social and emotional behaviours associated with the adult expression of neurodevelopmental disorders such as ADHD, autism and tourette syndrome.

As a researcher, I am based in Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) and I have an active research programme examining brain basis to emotion, using brain scanning to examine how emotions are controlled in the brain and interact with states of bodily arousal and physical health”.

www.bsms.ac.uk/research/neuroscience/psychiatry

“A specialist diagnostic assessment service and functional evaluation of working-age individuals”
**Substance Misuse Services**

The East Sussex Substance Misuse Service treats approximately 1000 adult problematic drug users resident in Hastings, Rother, Eastbourne and Weald.

The services provide specialist prescribing, tier 4 inpatient treatment, single and group counselling, needle exchange, blood borne viral screening, hepatitis A/B immunisation and overdose management training. There are two urban bases, one in Hastings and the other in Eastbourne, and a constellation of satellite and GP shared care clinics which serve the rural areas.

Dr Anthony Glasper has wide experience in the conduct of clinical trials such as investigating the acceptability and safety of opiate replacement therapies.

"A constellation of satellite and GP shared care clinics which serve the rural areas"

Dr Anthony Glasper,  
Principal Investigator,  
Consultant Psychiatrist  
- Substance Misuse Services

"I have eight years experience within Substance Misuse Services. In this time I have published a number of research papers on opiate detoxification, and have conducted a number of phased III and IV clinical trials.

Currently I am implementing two studies: one to develop a model of sexual healthcare delivery for substance misusing women and the other to quantify the impact of methadone induced hyperhydrosis on quality of life.

I am dedicated to supporting other disciplines in research to ensure that within our substance misuse services research is a multidisciplinary activity"."
National Institute for Health Research

Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (NIHR CCRN)

Sussex Partnership recommends that all industry sponsored research studies are adopted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network. It is anticipated that undertaking industry sponsored research through the CRN will add value and support our industry partners to conduct commercial clinical research.

This includes:

- Protocol feasibility from key opinion leaders and active commercial researchers, including the identification of sites that have the capability and capacity to conduct the study.
- Access to NIHR Coordinated System for gaining NHS Permission (NIHR CSP) and R&D approval.
- Support with study start-up process and costing, contract negotiations using standard templates.
- Dedicated and trained Research Network resources to support study delivery at a site level (staff and support services).
- Performance management of adopted studies in partnership with the company.
- Research Network badging of adopted studies to attract both patients and investigators.

The NIHR CRN industry team has developed a process specifically for the adoption of industry-contract studies.

The process takes into account the needs of industry, in particular, the time constraints faced by companies and is a highly streamlined process which aims to meet the tight timelines often required by industry.

You can contact the NIHR CRN for more information about getting a trial adopted, resources available and costing clinical trials on:

Tel: 0044 (0)113 343 0397

Email: ccrn.industry@nihr.ac.uk
Mental Health Research Network (MHRN)

The MHRN is part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is funded by the Department of Health. It is one of the topic specific networks. Through the ‘hubs’ based throughout England, the network has access to 60% of England’s Primary, Secondary and Social Care services.

More than 38 NHS Trusts, 40 Primary Care Trusts and 20 Universities are actively involved in the MHRN. The MHRN can organise contractual and financial arrangements, assist with research governance applications, arrange honorary contracts, and set up local site implementation. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is a part of the South London and South East Hub network.

MHRN
0044 (0)20 7848 5419
mhrnindustry@kcl.ac.uk

Dementias and Neurodegenerative Disease Research Network (DeNDRoN)

DeNDRoN is also funded and part of the NIHR. DeNDRoN exists to promote the active involvement of patients and public in research, support the set up of studies including site specific approvals, recruit patients to participate in specific research projects, promote the development of new research proposals and provide access to trained staff to deliver studies.

Neurodegenerative diseases include Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, motor neurone disease, and Huntington’s disease. Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is a part of DeNDRoN South Coast.

DeNDRoN
0044 (0)20 7676 2121
industry@dendron.org.uk