

Research News



Siren Study

The SIREN (SARS-CoV2- Immunity and Reinfection Evaluation) study was launched nearly three years ago at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The SIREN study monitors infections in a large group of healthcare workers who provide samples for regular PCR and antibody testing. Analysis of these samples helps the UK to evaluate the immune response to COVID-19, provides insight into COVID-19 reinfections and has helped us to build an understanding of the level of protection offered by natural infection and vaccines. It is the largest study of its kind with almost 145,000 participants from 135 NHS trusts across the UK. There were 461 participants locally from Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals. The study has helped answer questions about immunity and vaccination to help control the spread of covid and there have been several articles published to share the findings and it has helped inform the nation’s response to the COVID pandemic.

We participated in the study from the outset and will continue to follow up participants until March and would like to say a huge thank you to all the participants in this study for their valuable contribution to helping to understand how antibodies protect against COVID and the efficacy of our vaccines. Further information about the study and publications from it can be found on the website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/siren-study>.



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Special points of interest

- Maternity studies open to recruitment in 2023
- Southport Hospital national achievement in Parrot-2 study
- Southport and Ormskirk hospitals top-ranking for recruitment into the Genomicc study
- NIHR Funding opportunities available now

Study Updates



Our genes (or DNA) determine how vulnerable we are to sepsis and other forms of critical illness. The GenOMICC study aims to discover specific genes that control the processes that lead to life-threatening diseases. By gaining an understanding of these processes, the sponsors aim to be able to design effective treatments.

Some excellent news about this study - Southport and Formby District General Hospital was in the top recruiting sites across the UK at the end of 2022!

Achieving this requires continued cooperation and partnership between members of the multidisciplinary team. We wish to thank Anna Morris, Research Nurse, for her tireless efforts in recruiting suitable patients, Dr Arvind Nune (Principal Investigator) for his ongoing support, all wards at SDGH, especially Dr Jakkula, Dr Gledhill, and the ITU / HDU staff, who have and continue to collaborate with us in screening eligible patients for this study.

More Info

To find out more about the studies the team are conducting or how to take part in research then please contact us (details on the back page)

Studies now open to recruitment



A big well done to everyone involved in opening these studies!

All your hard work in study set up has paid off and all three studies have successfully recruited their first participants.

IMID BioResource

IBD BioResource
Translating today's science into tomorrow's treatments

New Maternity and Gynae Studies

Multiple pregnancy registry

This is a data collection registry, aimed at women that have had one of the following; complicated multiple pregnancies, triplet pregnancies, uncomplicated monochorionic twin pregnancies, or any multiple pregnancy twin or triplet) complicated by TTS

Premature Ovarian Insufficiency Study of Effectiveness of hormonal therapy (POISE)

In women with Premature Ovarian Insufficiency what is the relative effectiveness, in terms of bone mineral density, of HRT compared to the combined contraceptive pill?

Maternal Vaccination in the NHS—MAVIS

This is an anonymous online survey for healthcare professionals who discuss, recommend or deliver antenatal vaccines as part of their role, to investigate vaccination practices and attitudes, with an aim to improve vaccination provision in pregnancy and reduce inequity. The survey has now been circulated via email—if you wish to take part, please find the survey at: <https://redcap.link/mavis.hcp>

Tommy's National Rainbow Clinic Study

This study aims to explore antenatal, labour, postnatal and neonatal outcomes and experiences of women attending a Rainbow Clinic or equivalent at sites across the United Kingdom.

Giant Panda

This is a randomised study for women between 11 and 34+6 weeks with pregnancy hypertension suitable for labetalol or nifedipine. The aim is to evaluate the effect of different antihypertensive drugs in women with pregnancy hypertension on maternal and fetal/neonatal outcomes, and establish whether one is better for the woman and the infant.

GBS3

For this study, Southport and Ormskirk have been randomised to the data collection arm. Women will receive usual care as per our local policy. This is a nationwide study, which aims to determine whether testing pregnant women to see if they carry Group B Streptococcus reduces the risk of infection in newborn babies compared to the current strategy.

iGBS3

The overall aim of the study is to determine the levels of immunity a woman needs to pass to her baby to protect the baby from developing invasive GBS (iGBS) disease, the most common cause of early infection and meningitis in babies. This will allow us to predict what antibody level a vaccine must achieve to be effective and thus facilitate the licensure of suitable vaccines

Contact information

For more information on any of the upcoming maternity studies, please contact Linda Bishop (details on back page)

Study Updates

PARROT-2

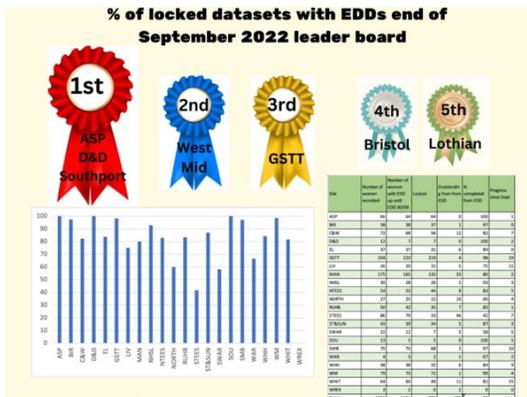


The PARROT 2 study was comparing what happens in women who have repeat PIGF-based testing (Placental growth factor) with those who don't, to see if this has any impact on complications for women or their babies (such as stillbirth, neonatal death, or the baby needing to be admitted to the neonatal unit).

The study finished recruitment in September, and certificates and cake were given to the amazing staff that helped on the study. Doctor Chados, PI, and Research Midwife Linda Bishop would like to give thanks to the staff working in the laboratory, the antenatal clinic and the maternity assessment unit for their invaluable support. Without help from these staff, studies such as this one wouldn't be possible. The team



were able to over-recruit to this study, and got a 1st for all data locked in the country. Well done for all your hard work!



Maternity Research Champions

Keep an eye out for the Maternity Research champions, who will be wearing a badge. They will be helping in the implementation and raising awareness of the new study, iGBS3 (see page 3). For more information about maternity research champions, please contact Linda Bishop (details on back page).



Other staff supporting research

I would just like to say how happy I am to see such an active research team in our trust. We have a very enthusiastic research midwife and she is always making sure that she is seen around the unit and is easily contactable.

Exciting studies and enthusiastic team members makes for a very successful Research department...well done team.

- Heidi, Midwife



“Exciting studies and enthusiastic team members makes for a very successful Research department...well done team.”

Pharmacy support for research

My name is Michelle O’Neill. I commenced a new role in the trust in September as Consultant Pharmacist for Older People. My role involves four pillars of professional and clinical practice, leadership, education and teaching and research. Southport is a locality with a significantly higher elderly population than the national average and it is recognised that older people often rely heavily on medicines as a way of managing their illnesses. These patients, often taking multiple and complex regimens are some of the most vulnerable with their medicines when they transfer care settings. Additionally, medicines have been shown to be the cause of 6.5% of hospital admissions, however this percentage may be as high as 20% in older people. Within the Trust Frailty team, my role will include providing education, support and have a particular focus on medicines optimisation, de-prescribing and improving medicines safety in older people through holistic, patient-centred, clinical medication review with outcomes that improve patient experience, medicines rationalisation, reduced A&E attendances and hospital re-admissions.

As part of the research element of my role, I will be working with the RD&I team in order to develop research links, establishing research partnerships within pharmacy and multi-professional groups, Higher Education Institutes, Academic Health Science Centres, research networks and communities of practice. I will be responsible for interpreting national guidance, research and audit and where it does not exist to formulate an expert opinion and/or contribute to the evidence. I will aim to establish and contribute to a pharmacy practice research strategy for the care of older people and seek funding to support research through sponsorship, research grant applications, identify gaps in the evidence base, and to undertake research.



The research department would like to wish everyone a happy new year ; here's to a great 2023. This should be an exciting year for the research department, with a number of studies opening and a new senior research nurse will be joining us soon, so keep your eyes peeled!

NIHR Funding opportunities

The following new funding opportunities are available:

Health and Social Care Delivery Research (HSDR) Programme

Policy Research Programme (PRP)

Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)

Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme: Competition 50

For more information visit: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities>

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