



Clinical research in

# Heart disease

How to be involved

# Research in heart disease in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN) undertakes research in heart disease throughout Northern Ireland. The NICRN is part of a UK-wide initiative to provide opportunities for patients and clinicians to participate in high-quality clinical research.

The NICRN aims to:

- promote research in heart disease within Northern Ireland;
- attract clinical trials in heart disease to Northern Ireland;
- conduct clinical trials across Northern Ireland to the highest standards of quality and safety;
- provide infrastructure to facilitate the start-up of new trials in heart disease;
- improve access for heart disease patients to new cutting-edge treatments.

## **What can the NICRN offer me?**

As a patient or carer:

- Information on current and planned research in heart disease across Northern Ireland.
- Access to the highest standards of clinical care within well-controlled trials of new developments in the diagnosis, treatment and management of heart disease.
- Opportunities to help define the direction of research in heart disease across Northern Ireland.

As a clinical researcher:

- A regionally inclusive approach to clinical trials and other high-quality research in heart disease.
- Support from a regional coordinating centre.
- Access to skilled, multidisciplinary research staff dedicated specifically to NICRN activity.
- Provision of HSC service support costs from HSC Research and Development division funds.
- Access to national training and education programmes.
- Collaboration opportunities with researchers across nine NICRN clinical interest groups and national networks.
- Liaison with pharma or biotech industry partners.

The NICRN comprises a number of regional interest groups, all headed by prominent specialist clinicians with a proven track record in clinical research.

# NICRN (Heart disease)

Areas of interest to NICRN (Heart disease) include the following:

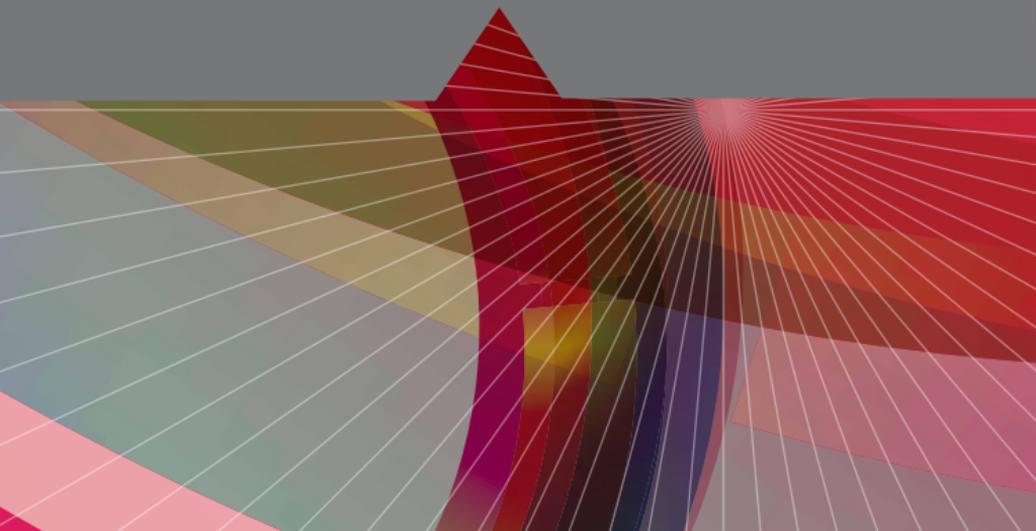
- Providing access to novel therapies through partnership with the commercial sector.
- Evaluation of novel diagnostic imaging tools in cardiac medicine.
- Use of biomarkers in the rapid diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome.

## The NICRN

High-quality clinical research is vital if we are to improve the evidence base that underpins the delivery of Health and Social Care. Well-managed and controlled clinical trials make an important contribution to that evidence base and improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of illness and disease.

Successful clinical research depends on the willingness of patients to participate in clinical trials. Patients participating in clinical research can be assured they will receive the best possible standard of clinical care and their safety and wellbeing will be protected at all times.

Clinical trials may be instigated by industry, such as pharmaceutical companies or manufacturers of medical devices. Similarly, trials may be developed and led by hospital or university-based health professionals. In all cases, the aim is to find ways to deliver better treatments for patients. In line with this, the NICRN portfolio consists of both industry-led and investigator-led trials.



# Contact us

Patients or clinical researchers wishing to find out more about the work of the NICRN should contact the NICRN coordinating centre (CC). We will try to respond to any enquiries quickly and efficiently and, if appropriate, refer you on to other network staff.

**Please feel free to contact us by any of the following means:**

NICRN coordinating centre  
Room 2007  
King Edward Building  
Royal Victoria Hospital  
BHSCT  
Grosvenor Road  
Belfast BT12 6BA  
Tel: 028 9063 6367 / 6365 / 6360

Dr Paul Biagioni, NICRN CC manager  
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## **Interest group coordinators**

For further information or to contact us, please email:

[info.nicrn@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:info.nicrn@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

Alternatively you can visit:

[www.nicrn.hscni.net](http://www.nicrn.hscni.net)



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