

For up to date information on HSC R&D go to <https://research.hscni.net/> or click on the banner below

HSC R&D Division
Northern Ireland
improving health and social care through research

 **Public Health Agency**
Research and Development

The work of HSC R&D is based on the principle that the best health and social care must be underpinned by knowledge, based on well conducted research, which can then be applied in the delivery of care.

HSC R&D does not 'do' research, but we work to support research that provides high quality evidence to improve care for patients, clients and the general population, and adds to our understanding of health, disease, treatment and care. This involves supporting researchers based in Northern Ireland as well as those in Health and Social Care Trusts or other bodies who use the outputs from research findings.

While the effectiveness of research performance and application depends ultimately on the skill and ability of individual researchers and users of research, the HSC R&D Division ensures that researchers can work within an environment that supports, encourages and facilitates them.

For example HSC R&D Division:

- **funds** essential infrastructure for research such as information databanks, tissue banks, clinical research facilities clinical trials units and research networks
- **builds** research capacity in Northern Ireland through research training opportunities
- **enables** research governance processes to be as efficient as possible
- **creates** opportunities for researchers to compete for research funding on a wider UK or international basis
- **supports** innovation as a means of transferring HSC R&D findings into practice
- **ensures** personal and public involvement (PPI) in HSC R&D

We work closely with:

- clinical and academic researchers based in Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs) and universities;
- policy-makers in the DHSSPS;
- practitioners throughout HSCTs;
- staff in other HSC bodies;
- members of the public, including patients and clients.

HSC R&D Division has a local focus and works in partnership with other public sector organisations, charities and businesses that are involved in health and social care research across Northern Ireland. Yet HSC R&D acknowledges that health and social care research is a global endeavour, and so, also forms effective partnerships and close working relationships with our counterparts in the other UK administrations and internationally, in particular in Ireland, the rest of the European Union and the United States of America. These partnerships are vital to the funding and delivery of our programmes and initiatives.

HSC R&D Division is currently headed up by Dr Janice Bailie, Assistant Director HSC R&D. It is part of the Public Health Directorate led by Dr Carolyn Harper, Director of Public Health (DPH). The DPH and HSC R&D Division are also supported by Professor Ian Young in the joint role of Director of R&D for the HSC and Chief Scientific Advisor to the DHSSPS. An R&D Strategic Advisory Group is in place to advise the Director of R&D. To view more information on the group click [HSC R&D Strategic Advisory Group.pdf](#)

For further information on HSC R&D Division please visit: www.research.hscni.net

HSC R&D Division works in a number of areas including:

Funding opportunities

HSC R&D Division provides a number of funding opportunities for researchers based in Northern Ireland to undertake research that provides high quality evidence to improve care for patients, clients and the general population, and adds to our understanding of health, disease, treatment and care.

HSC R&D provides funding in areas such as:

- Research Fellowships and other research training opportunities

- Knowledge Exchange to support innovation as a means of transferring HSC R&D findings into practice and thus improve the impact of research
- Needs-Led Commissioned Research derived from an on-going systematic process to identify and prioritise research needs
- Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research derived from ad-hoc opportunities to exploit partnership funding
- Enabling Research to create opportunities for researchers to compete for research funding on a wider UK or international basis
- Workshops and Conferences to support the dissemination of research
- US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme

For all the latest opportunities please see: www.research.hscni.net

Research infrastructure

HSC R&D Division provides funding for essential infrastructure needed for research such as information databanks, tissue banks, clinical research facilities, clinical trials units and research networks. These are vital for the successful delivery of local research.

For example the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network (NICRN) provides skilled health professionals who can help researchers to set up and run clinical studies quickly and effectively and work with patients and the public to ensure their needs are at the centre of research activity. This enables people in Northern Ireland to participate in well conducted clinical trials, thereby enabling them to access potentially superior new treatments before they are available through routine services.

For the more information on the entire research infrastructure please see: www.research.hscni.net

Enabling researchers and users of research

HSC R&D Division promotes, coordinates and facilitates the conduct of R&D by both HSC and non-HSC organisations across the academic, voluntary and commercial sectors. We are committed to ensuring that the research governance process within the HSC is as efficient as possible.

We are also committed to ensuring that researchers and users of research have access to the latest and most relevant information relating to research in health and social care in Northern Ireland including an understanding of the research landscape.

For further information, please contact HSC R&D Division at:

HSC Research & Development Division
Public Health Agency
12-22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST BT2 8BS
Tel: (028) 9536 3490
Email: enquiry.rdpha@hscni.net

HSC R&D is also involved in running events related to research, as well as promoting relevant events run by others. For information on relevant event please see:

<http://www.research.hscni.net/events>

Personal and Public Involvement (PPI)

HSC R&D is committed to ensuring that there is personal and public involvement (PPI) in HSC R&D.

If you are a service user, carer or member of the public who would like to be involved in research, the following links provide more information about our Personal and Public Involvement (PPI) strategy and ways in which you could become involved in the work of HSC R&D Division.

For further information please see <http://www.research.hscni.net/personal-and-public-involvement-research> or contact Dr Gail Johnston at gail.johnston@hscni.net

A study, Public Involvement in Research applications to the National research Ethics Service (October 2011) by Maryrose Tarpey published by the National Research Ethics Service (NRES) and INVOLVE, looked at the extent and nature of reported public involvement in health and social care research using information routinely collected by NRES as part of the applications process for ethical approval of research projects. The report:

- provides a 'snapshot' of public involvement in research and identifies practical actions for funders, sponsors and regulators in ensuring and facilitating further patient and public involvement;
- provides some key insights into the extent to which patients and the public are involved in research, and the understanding of researchers and funders of effective involvement.

A copy of the report is available by following this link:

<http://www.invo.org.uk/posttypepublication/public-involvement-in-research-applications-to-the-national-research-ethics-service-nres/>

For further information on HSC R&D Division please see our main website:

www.research.hscni.net

Useful links

Funders

- [Department of Health](#)
- [Economic and Social Research Council](#)
- [Health Research Board](#)
- [Medical Research Council](#)
- [National Institute for Social Care and Health Research \(NISCHR\)](#)
- [Scottish Scientist Office - Chief Scientist Office](#)
- [Wellcome Trust](#)

HSC Bodies (health/research related)

- [Belfast Health and Social Care Trust](#)
- [Clinical Research Network](#)
- [Clinical Research Support Centre](#)
- [Department of Health](#)
- [Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety](#)
- [HSC Innovations](#)
- [National Institute for Health Research](#)
- [Northern Health and Social Care Trust](#)

- [Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network](#)
- [Office for Research Ethics Committees Northern Ireland](#)
- [Patient and Client Council](#)
- [South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust](#)
- [Southern Health and Social Care Trust](#)
- [UK Clinical Research Collaboration](#)
- [Western Health and Social Care Trust](#)

Information

- [HONNI QUB Medical Library](#)
- [Integrated Research Application System](#)
- [INVOLVE](#)
- [National Institute for Health Research](#)
- [National Library of Public Health](#)
- [Northern Ireland Cancer Registry](#)
- [Patient and Client Council](#)
- [RD Info](#)
- [The Cochrane Collaboration](#)
- [The Cochrane Library](#)

Research Governance

- [Clinical Research Network](#)
- [Clinical Research Support Centre](#)
- [HSC Innovations](#)
- [Integrated Research Application System](#)
- [Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network](#)
- [Office for Research Ethics Committees Northern Ireland](#)
- [RD Info](#)

Universities

- [Queen's University Belfast](#)
- [Ulster University](#)

Voluntary Sector/Charities

- [Alzheimer's Society](#)
- [Atlantic Philanthropies](#)
- [Cancer Research UK](#)
- [Diabetes UK](#)
- [Macmillan Cancer Support](#)
- [Marie Curie Cancer Care](#)
- [Multiple Sclerosis Society](#)
- [Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health \(NIAMH\)](#)
- [Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke](#)
- [Prostate Cancer Charity](#)

Specialist Centres/Institutes/Societies

- [All-Ireland National Cancer Institute](#)
- [Centre of Excellence for Public Health Northern Ireland](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [National Cancer Institute](#)
- [Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study](#)
- [Royal College of Nursing Research & Innovation Team](#)
- [Society for Social Medicine](#)

Ok to ask about clinical research campaign

It's 'ok to ask' about clinical research!

On International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD) 2016 on 20 May, the Public Health Agency's HSC R&D Division, and HSC partners, will be highlighting that it's 'OK to ask' about clinical research. This message supports the National Institute of Health Research's national campaign which aims to encourage patients, health and social care professionals and the public to support the campaign today so that more people might benefit from research in the future.

ICTD is celebrated around the world on 20 May each year to commemorate the day in 1747 that James Lind started his famous trial on the deadly disease scurvy. While serving as a surgeon on HMS Salisbury he began his trial which consisted of just 12 men, grouped into pairs and given a variety of dietary supplements ranging from

cider to oranges and lemons. The trial only lasted six days but, within that time, there was a noticeable improvement in the group eating the fruit, providing Lind with evidence of the link between citrus fruits and scurvy.

Lind's trial provides a focal point to raise awareness of the importance of research to healthcare and highlights how partnerships between patients and healthcare practitioners are vital to ensure high-quality, relevant research is undertaken. Lind's experiments were conducted under very different conditions than today's. Clinical trials have developed a great deal since Lind's discovery, and on 20 May we remember his influential work and the importance of research in healthcare.

We want as many people as possible to get involved, make their voices heard and help us remind HSC professionals that research matters to patients. Support the 'OK to ask' campaign by:

Contacting us by email at ok2ask@hscni.net and telling us:

- that you asked for information;
- what response you received;
- about your experience of taking part in research;
- any additional comments you have;

The A3 poster and leaflet are both available to download below:

[Clinical Trials Day A3 Poster 05_15.pdf](#)

[Clinical Trials Day Leaflet final 05_16.pdf](#)

[Print](#)