

Oxford Health Clinical Research Facility Newsletter

Exciting news

Study portfolio

What's next?

"This is the first quarterly update of the research activity taking place within Oxford Health at the Clinical Research Facility. Thank you for taking the time to read the first newsletter of 2024!"

EXCITING NEWS



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In the current financial year, the OH CRF has so far welcomed approximately 178 participants and completed a total of 534 research visits!

The CRF is based at the Warneford Hospital in Oxford. It is the only NIHR supported CRF dedicated to mental health and deliver non-commercial and commercial early phase experimental clinical research in partnership with the University of Oxford. We have eight clinic rooms, two of which are adapted for sleep studies, a pharmacy, lab and office space.

The OH CRF has started a **long-awaited Laboratory refit and expansion**. It has been two years in planning and design stages, mostly due to the listed building status of the CRF. The new CRF Lab will have additional centrifuge capacity, as well as several micro safety cabinets including one for cytotoxic safety, and a cell counter.

We also have many **new studies** opening and close to opening. You can read more about some of these studies overleaf. Many of these studies have allowed us to form **exciting new partnerships and collaborations**. Without these partnerships, it would not be possible to keep up with the latest science and offer the latest research trials to our patients. We are thrilled to now be working with local Oxford providers such as, GenesisCare (a provider of MRI and PET imaging services), and the Experimental Medicine CRF at the Churchill hospital to deliver the CELIA trial!



NEW STUDY

We are now open for recruitment to Part II of the ABATE Study, a study that explores the effect of a new vaccine called ACI-24.060 on people with Down's syndrome. People with Down's syndrome have an increased risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease. Alzheimer's disease is caused by an increased level of Amyloid Beta (A β) protein leading to slowing down the memory and thinking abilities. The new treatment aims to build immunity against A β , which helps to reduce the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

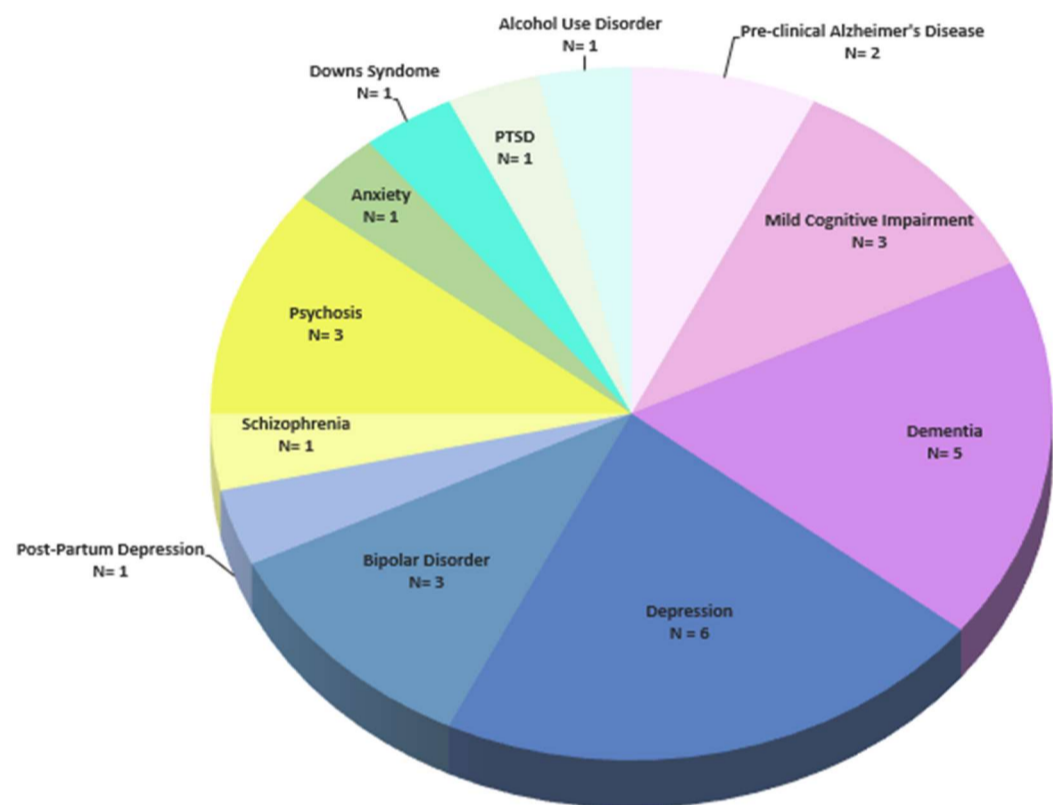
NEW STUDY

CELIA is a study that tests a new drug (injection) called BIIB080 on people with Mild Cognitive Impairment due to Alzheimer's Disease or Mild Alzheimer's Disease Dementia. Tau is a protein that helps to maintain healthy brain cells. Build ups of tau can affect learning and memory in older people. The study aims to find out if BIIB080 can help to minimise tau builds ups and reduce the progression of the disease symptoms.

STUDY PORTFOLIO

The CRF is entering 2024 with a growing portfolio of 28 mental health studies that are dedicated to a range of psychiatric and mental health research areas. These areas are demonstrated in the pie chart.

The chart does not include studies where a small level of support is required from the CRF or where the study recruits healthy volunteers only.



What's next?

- Continue to foster academic and commercial partnerships.
- Work to improve accessibility to research and increase the diversity of people taking part in research.
- Set-up new trials and increase our mental health study portfolio. Our new online CRF Application Form is released for anyone interested in delivering their research study at the CRF.
- Reflect on how lucky we are to have altruistic and dedicated volunteers willing to give their time to take part in our studies. We also are incredibly grateful for the work that our entire Research Department does to support CRF studies.



Lab trained CRF staff process samples for shipment to central laboratories. Vital information is gained from the samples processed at the CRF including what effect the study drug is having on antibody response, safety markers, absorption, and disease biomarkers.

[See the UK's CRF research network](#)

[Visit Oxford Health CRF webpage](#)



CRF Speciality Doctors meet participants at regular and scheduled timepoints. They continually review the safety and eligibility of the patient to take part. Activities include informed consent, review of test results (ECG, bloods etc), medical history, physical exams, clinical and cognitive ratings.



Study Nurses, Research Assistants and Research Nursing Assistants collect a variety of samples. The type of sample collected by CRF trained staff can include blood, cerebrospinal fluid, saliva and urine. The samples are then sent for testing either for safety or research purposes onsite the CRF, John Radcliffe Hospital or to a central lab.

Turn overleaf for a list of current staff vacancies!



If you would like to deliver your research study at the CRF, please scan the QR code to complete our CRF Application Form.



Study Coordinators include a team of staff in the role of Research Nurse, Research Assistant and Research Facilitator. They will plan and coordinate a trial and provide regular updates to the CRF team. They will often be the key CRF contact for an external study team. Each coordinator is allocated to a study portfolio area.

CURRENT VACANCIES

- [Secondment Research Midwife](#) (Band 7) (Contract Period: 3 months)
- [Speciality Doctor](#) (Contract: 12 months maternity cover)
- [Nurse Assistant Trainee or Nursing Assistant](#) (Contract: Permanent)



Ratings assess cognitive function and mental status in patients. These ratings are often vital outcomes in mental health clinical research. Depending on the condition being researched, a study protocol will select the ratings they'd like to be carried out. At the CRF, we have many staff who have a great level of experience to carry out many types of ratings.

We can deliver a variety of different procedures and interventions including:

- Lumbar punctures
- IV infusions
- Intramuscular injections
- Intrathecal injections
- Subcutaneous injections
- Inhalation/vaporisation
- Oral tablet

OTHER INFORMATION

- Interested to take part in clinical research? Sign up via your NHS App and via the [NIHR Be Part of Research webpage](#)
- If you know someone who is interested in being involved in delivering research as a member of the public, you can join our [CRF PPI group ENGAGE](#)
- For general enquiries, you can email or call us ohcrfdelivery@oxfordhealth.nhs.net (phone: 01865 902135).
- ABATE Part II: please visit ABATE study website [ABATE study](#) Or if you or someone else are interested in participating, contact the study team mentalhealthresearch@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
- Read more about ABATE on the [Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust website](#).
- CELIA Study: please visit the [CELIA study website](#). If you or someone else is interested in participating, please contact dementia.research@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

