**MRC Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) in Trials Methodology**

**Public Research Partner Role Description**

**What is Trials Methodology Research?**

Trials methodology research considers how clinical trials are designed, conducted, analysed and reported. Improving how we do trials has the potential to improve health. It is also about improving how we tell patients and the public about clinical trials and their findings. For example, researchers in this area might be interested in answering the following:

* What is the best way to recruit patients?
* Which research tool is the best at measuring pain?
* What is the best way to tell children and young people about our research findings?

You can learn more by watching this video [What is Trials Methodology?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sd7pV8XTRY&feature=emb_imp_woyt&ab_channel=HRB-TMRNHRB-TMRN)



**What is the Trials Methodology Research Partnership (TMRP)?**

The TMRP brings together organisations from the UK and Ireland working in trials and trials methodology research. The Partnership is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

**What is the MRC Doctoral Training Programme in Trials Methodology?**

The MRC has recently awarded funding to a group of 12 Universities to run a Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) to further improve and develop trials methodology research. The programme will recruit around 12 students each year, for each of the three years, to undertake a PhD in the field of trials methodology. The DTP Leadership Team oversees the programme, and its members will include:

* Representatives from each of the 12 universities
* Doctoral student representatives from the programme from each year of study, and
* A public research partner

**What is the role of the DTP Leadership Team and how will the group meet?**

The role of the Leadership team is to oversee the programme. This includes making sure that:

* The student recruitment process is fair
* Students have access to career development and enrichment opportunities
* We listen and respond to our students regarding their training needs and feedback

The Leadership Team meets in person approximately every three months, and also meets with an independent Advisory Group annually. The location of the meetings varies, but if you cannot attend in person, it will be possible to join the meeting using a video call. The Doctoral Training Programme will take place over the next six years.

**What will be the role of our public research partner?**

We are looking to find a public research partner to serve as a member of the Leadership Team. The role of the public research partner will be:

* To help us ensure our training programme takes account of the public perspective in clinical trials
* To advise on public engagement activities that students may become involved with
* To identify areas in our programme which may benefit from greater consideration of the public perspective

**What experience do I need to have?**

Because we’re looking at the methods used in clinical trials, it is important that you have had previous involvement with health research. For example, you will have been a public research partner on at least one clinical trial or clinical study group. Whilst this background will facilitate your involvement, we recognise that there will be new concepts that you might not be familiar with, and support will be provided as necessary.



**What is involved?**

The meetings will either be in person (preferred) or by video/teleconference. There will be four meetings per year, every three months.

You will need to:

* Prepare for meetings by reading and considering papers circulated before the meeting
* Attend the meetings (either in person or online) and make an active contribution by providing a patient/public perspective to meetings
* Contribute to email discussions between meetings
* Suggest how we can communicate about our work to relevant patient groups and interested members of the public to enhance the reach and impact of the work
* Maintain the confidentiality of sensitive items discussed in paperwork or meetings
* Be respectful of the viewpoints of others in the group
* Be confident to take part in discussions and be a ‘critical friend’

**Support**

Induction and ongoing support for this role will be provided by Kerrie McGiveron (our DTP manager), and the DTP Lead, Professor Paula Williamson. We will encourage feedback on how the role holder is enjoying their involvement, which aspects they are they particularly enjoying and why, and importantly what could be done to improve anything.

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**Payment and Expenses**

A payment of £75 per meeting will be offered, to cover the public research partner’s time at the meeting (typically 2 hours), meeting preparation time (typically 1 hour), and any other associated costs e.g. printing. If the partner attends in person, payment for reasonable travel time will also be given at a rate of £20 per hour. If there are any activities outside attendance at meetings (e.g. review of documentation for things other than the meetings, or responding to any emails between meetings), payment will be given at a rate of £20 per hour. Payment will be made following submission of the claim form we will provide. Payment can also be in the form of shopping vouchers if preferred.

If the partner attends a meeting in person, all reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred through the patient research partner’s involvement in MRC DTP related activities will be covered, e.g. travelling by second class rail, etc. Refreshments will be provided at all meetings.

(Note: It is the individual’s responsibility to enquire into their own personal tax/benefits office about the impact of any such claims on their personal financial circumstances such as sickness and unemployment benefits etc. and to report the income to relevant authorities in a timely fashion).

**I’m interested – what shall I do next?**

****Please complete the form below and return to Kerrie McGiveron, hskmcgiv@liverpool.ac.uk by 9am Monday 23rd May. We will use the information supplied in this expression of interest form to select our public research partner. We will contact people who have expressed an interest by email with the outcome of their expression of interest and to further discuss the role with shortlisted individuals.

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If you would like to discuss the role more before applying, please contact Kerrie McGiveron, hskmcgiv@liverpool.ac.uk for an informal discussion.

**Expression of Interest: DTP Public Research Partner Role**

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| --- | --- |
| Forename |  |
| Surname |  |
| Email address |  |
| Address & Postcode |  |
| Telephone number |  |

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| Can you tell us a little about your experience of involvement in clinical trials or health research, in particular your role as a public contributor (e.g. have you been involved in helping a research team develop and oversee their study)? (maximum 200 words) |
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| Do you have any other experience relevant to this opportunity (e.g. interactions with postgraduate research students or other higher education activities)? Note: this experience is not essential for the role but if you have any relevant experience, please can you tell us about it here. (maximum 200 words) |
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| From your perspective, why is how we design and conduct clinical trials important? (maximum 200 words) |
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