

Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 13 May 2020

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<b>Title</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer's Report</b>
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<b>Status</b>	For Information
<b>History</b>	Regular report to Board

<b>Board Lead(s)</b>	<b>Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive Officer</b>			
<b>Key purpose</b>	Strategy	Assurance	Policy	<b>Performance</b>

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## Chief Executive's Report

### 1. #OneTeamOneOUH – our response to the COVID-19 pandemic

On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to thank all staff who have worked so hard to keep our patients and staff colleagues safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am proud to be the Chief Executive Officer of Oxford University Hospitals during this time of unprecedented challenges for the NHS locally and nationally.

Our staff have risen to this challenge in an extraordinary way with a common purpose and a sense of teamwork and togetherness which has enabled us to provide high quality care for not only COVID-19 patients but also other patients who rely on our services.

There have undoubtedly been tough times, not least when very sadly staff colleagues have lost their lives during the pandemic. Our thoughts are with their family, friends and close work colleagues and we will do everything possible to support them and the rest of the OUH team.

We are all grateful for the amazing support which we have had from our local communities at this time and I would like to thank everyone who continues to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

### 2. COVID-19 survivors thank OUH staff

We are grateful to patients who have shared their stories after being successfully treated for COVID-19 in our hospitals and discharged home to continue their recovery.

#### Emma-Jayne's story

A woman who is back home recovering from COVID-19 has described the "most amazing" OUH staff who cared for her in hospital as her "extended family".

Emma-Jayne Rose, 38, from Abingdon, says: "The ICU team was the most amazing group of people I have ever met in my life. Staff became my family during my stay and that made the whole thing much easier.

"They are true heroes to me. They spent time with me and made me feel safe and loved. When they are going through so much themselves and putting their lives at risk you wouldn't know it from how they acted. They were truly fantastic."

[You can read Emma-Jayne's story in full on the OUH website.](#)

#### Malcolm's story

Malcolm Airs, 79, from Dorchester-upon-Thames, also praised the staff who treated him.

He says: "I cannot fault the care that I received both from the doctors and the nursing staff. The personal care and attention of the staff – both doctors and nurses – made all the difference.

"I was tremendously impressed with the treatment that I had. I would like to express my profound gratitude for their personal attention and their efforts to make me feel like an individual human being not just another patient."

[You can read Malcolm's story in full on the OUH website.](#)

### **3. Oxford Hospitals Charity leads support for our staff during COVID-19**

On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to thank our colleagues from Oxford Hospitals Charity who have co-ordinated a huge amount of support for our staff and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Charity has established 'hubs' on all four main hospital sites in Oxford and Banbury as central points for this support including the provision of hundreds of meals every day for frontline staff.

They have also worked with the hundreds of local businesses, groups and individuals who have offered to help – and ensured they do not come in to the hospitals unnecessarily.

I am particularly grateful to the volunteers who are helping to deliver this support and to all those in the local community who have donated or fundraised for the Charity's public appeal [www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/staffsupport](http://www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/staffsupport) (for the Horton General in Banbury there is a specific appeal [www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/horton](http://www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/horton)).

The Trust is incredibly grateful for the work of Oxford Hospitals Charity and to all those businesses, groups and individuals involved in supporting our staff and patients.

### **4. Digital technology transforms patient care in the COVID-19 pandemic**

Digital technology has supported new and different ways of working at OUH during the response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic – to improve the experience of our patients and staff – which we will embed as we transition to the recovery phase.

#### **Video consultations transform patient care**

Attend Anywhere® is a web-based platform being piloted across 40 NHS trusts in England, including OUH, which enables clinicians to hold a video consultation with a patient rather than a traditional outpatient appointment in a hospital clinic.

Patients and staff can access Attend Anywhere® on any internet-enabled device and there is no need to download and install any special software – the patient is simply sent a weblink.

Using Attend Anywhere® reduces travel time and costs for patients, enables staff to work remotely, and reduces traffic congestion and car parking issues on our hospital sites.

The use of Attend Anywhere® has increased markedly during the COVID-19 pandemic when many face-to-face appointments have not been possible, not least to keep our patients safe by reducing the risks of a hospital visit.

OUH is now in the top 10 trusts nationally for the use of video consultations and a key part of our recovery plans is how to maintain and build on this digital innovation.

### **Tablets help patients in hospital stay in touch with friends and family**

Visiting restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic mean that patients in our hospitals in Oxford and Banbury are not allowed visitors – with a few exceptions including patients nearing the end of life, children in hospital, and women in labour.

However, we are helping our patients to stay connected with friends and family and friends by providing them with tablet devices free of charge so that they can video call their loved ones. This 'virtual visiting' has been made possible thanks to a partnership between the Trust and our suppliers. [More information is available on our website.](#)

### **New wearable technology monitors COVID-19 patients**

Wearable technology that monitors patients' vital signs is being used with COVID-19 patients on the isolation ward at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The system, developed by biomedical engineers and medical researchers supported by the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), went live on 23 March.

The BRC's Technology and Digital Health theme, led by Professor Peter Watkinson and Professor Lionel Tarassenko, has been developing and testing the concept of a [virtual High-Dependency Unit](#) (vHDU) for the past 18 months.

A vHDU is a general hospital ward in which high-risk patients are monitored using a new generation of wearable sensors that measure pulse rate, respiratory rate and blood oxygen saturation, combined with Bluetooth-linked tablet computers and smart alerting algorithms.

Professor Watkinson, a consultant in intensive care and acute medicine at OUH, says: "It became clear at the end of February 2020 that the technology and software developed for the vHDU research project could be adapted for the isolation ward for COVID-19 patients at the JR. For those COVID-19 patients who do not need to be ventilated, it is important for their recovery that they remain mobile, so the wearable technology is ideal."

This new wearable technology not only reduces the burden on our nursing staff, by allowing them to perform vital-sign observations for high risk patients at the same rate as for lower risk patients, but also improves early detection when a patient's vital signs become abnormal. [More information is available on our website.](#)

## **5. Public encouraged to 'Help Us Help You' by using NHS and care services**

We are working closely within the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System (ICS) and with our partners in the Oxfordshire health and

care system – including Oxfordshire CCG, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Oxfordshire County Council – as we continue our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and plan for the next phase of recovery.

This includes working together on a local and regional campaign ‘Help Us Help You’ aimed at people whose health may be at risk if they do not use NHS and care services when they need them.

### **Urgent and emergency care**

We are encouraging patients to continue to come to our Emergency Departments at the John Radcliffe and Horton General hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendances have been significantly lower than previous years since the pandemic started and we are concerned that people may be putting their health at risk by not accessing life-saving services.

Dr Sachin Mandalia, Clinical Lead for the Emergency Department at the John Radcliffe, says: "We're worried that really sick or injured people may be avoiding coming to hospital for fear of being a burden on our services during the COVID-19 pandemic, but this really isn't the case.

"Our staff are here for you, and will treat any serious conditions or ailments you may have. We have systems in place to triage patients with suspected COVID-19, so everyone who comes to our hospitals will be treated in a safe manner."

[More information is available on the OUH website.](#)

### **Maternity care**

Pregnant women in Oxfordshire are being reminded that medical help is still at hand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have made a number of changes to how we provide care during pregnancy, to keep both women and staff safe. This has included carrying out some appointments by telephone or video. However, we are still open 24/7 for births, urgent care, and clinical advice. Some face-to-face appointments with a midwife or doctor are essential, and it is important for women to attend.

Miss Catherine Greenwood, Consultant Obstetrician and our Clinical Director for Maternity, says: "As we can all understand, many people have anxieties around their health during this very unusual time - especially pregnant women.

"Some women may feel afraid to leave their homes to attend appointments or to come to hospital as they have concerns around getting COVID-19. Similarly, we have heard reports of some women not attending appointments because they don't want to overburden the NHS.

"We want to remind women not only that care is still available, but that it is actually really important that they stay in contact with their maternity team and attend their scheduled appointments.

"We will use the appropriate measures to keep you safe from infection every time we see you. In addition, wherever we can we will do these appointments remotely. We're here for you, day or night, if you have concerns about your health or your unborn baby's wellbeing."

[More information is available on the OUH website.](#)

### **Cancer care**

Doctors in Oxfordshire are urging people to get medical advice if they are worried about symptoms of cancer.

Dr Kiren Collison, GP and Clinical Chair of Oxfordshire CCG, says: "We strongly encourage anyone with concerns or worries about their health to contact their GP for advice. If you are worried about any new symptoms, then please get in touch with your surgery.

"We will be able to reassure you or if necessary get you to see a specialist quickly and safely. It is important to remember that the sooner cancer symptoms are picked up and treated, the better."

Oxfordshire's cancer diagnostics and treatment centres are based at the Churchill Hospital, which is a regional centre of excellence, as well as other specialist services in the John Radcliffe and Horton General hospitals.

Mr Nick Maynard, Trustwide Cancer Lead at OUH, adds: "We have been working incredibly hard to make sure that we can still provide urgent cancer care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Patient safety is at the heart of everything we do, and we have made every effort to make sure that cancer treatment at our Trust is supported by robust shielding and screening procedures to protect our patients against COVID-19."

Cancers are detected earlier and lives are saved if more people are referred for investigation and checks.

[More information is available on the OUH website.](#)

## **6. Oxford at heart of global COVID-19 research efforts**

There is a wide range of COVID-19 related research activity taking place in Oxford which demonstrates not only the University of Oxford's status as a global centre for research but also the benefits to our patients and staff of OUH's relationship with the University.

See section 9 ('Oxford Biomedical Research Centre news') to read more about this COVID-19 research.

## **7. New stroke research centre opens**

Research into strokes and vascular dementia took a major step forward on 5 March with the official opening of the Wolfson Centre for the Prevention of Stroke and Dementia CPSD, based in the new Wolfson Building on our John Radcliffe Hospital site.

The new centre is the only purpose-built clinical research centre looking specifically at stroke and dementia in the UK, and will house an estimated 25% of all the UK's active stroke researchers.

This is good news for stroke patients in Oxfordshire because the new centre brings together clinicians and researchers from the Trust and the University to improve diagnosis and treatment for patients.

Our clinicians' work will be informed by this research and we aim to offer all our stroke patients the opportunity to take part in a research study, as this could be crucial for preventing strokes and improving treatment in future."

[More information is available on our website.](#)

## **8. National recognition for Our Fabulous Staff**

### **OUH staff and teams shortlisted for Royal College of Physicians awards**

I would like to congratulate OUH staff and teams who have earned well-deserved external recognition by being shortlisted for the [Royal College of Physicians' Excellence in Patient Care Awards 2020](#).

These prestigious annual awards promote and reward the impressive work that physicians are doing around the world to improve patient care through education, innovation, research and clinical practice.

The shortlist includes:

- Professor Raashid Luqmani (Consultant Rheumatologist) – shortlisted in the Digital award category for Rheumatology assessment database innovation in Oxford
- OUH staff who are working in partnership with the Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine and others on the [Moving Medicine](#) project to support healthcare professionals to integrate physical activity into clinical care, including through the [Active Hospitals](#) programme – they are shortlisted in the Person-centred Care award category
- Our team who are working on the [Active Hospitals](#) programme pilot here at OUH – they are shortlisted in the Quality Improvement award category

### **Haemophilia Service praised by national peer review programme**

Well done to the multi-disciplinary team in our Oxford Haemophilia Service who have been rightly praised for the high quality of the clinical care which they provide to patients.

Our services for adults and children with haemophilia and other blood disorders were visited by the national peer review programme in October 2019.



When they published their report on 30 April, they said the Oxford Haemophilia Service was a “well-established and high-functioning team... offering an excellent service. Staff were highly committed professionals, working very well together and taking personal responsibility for the care they provided”.

Our adult haemophilia service is based at the [Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre \(OHTC\)](#) on the Churchill Hospital site, while the [children's haemophilia service](#) is located in the Oxford Children's Hospital on the John Radcliffe site.

The peer review report is available via the [Quality Review Service website](#) and more information about our team and the report is available on [our website](#).

## 9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre news

### COVID-19 treatment trial

Oxfordshire patients with COVID-19 were among the first to be recruited to a major [new clinical trial](#) to test the effects of potential drug treatments for those with the virus.

The [Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy \(RECOVERY\) trial](#), which is being led by researchers from the University of Oxford with support from the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), is the largest of its kind in the world.

It will provide doctors and the health service with information they need to determine which treatments should be used. Thousands of patients have been recruited to the trial in 165 NHS hospitals.

Data from the trial will be regularly reviewed so that any effective treatment can be identified quickly and made available to all patients. The RECOVERY trial team will constantly review information on new drugs and include promising ones in the trial.

### COVID-19 vaccine development

Researchers at the University of Oxford's Jenner Institute and the Oxford Vaccine Group [began testing a COVID-19 vaccine](#) in human volunteers in Oxford on 23 April.

Around 1,110 people will take part in the trial, half receiving the vaccine and the other half, the control group, receiving a widely available meningitis vaccine. The researchers, who are supported by the Oxford BRC, [started screening](#) healthy volunteers aged between 18 and 55 in March.

The clinical trials team – led by Professor Andrew Pollard of the Oxford Vaccine Group working with Professor Sarah Gilbert and Professor Adrian Hill of the University of Oxford's Jenner Institute – initiated trials in Oxford at the end of April, and opened sites in Bristol, Southampton and London.

At the end of May, the COVID-19 vaccine team will start large-scale Phase III trials which will include trial sites across the UK. If the vaccine prevents the disease, the team hope that millions of doses could be produced by the Autumn.

### Study to track COVID-19 in the general population

The Oxford BRC's Co-theme Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance and Modernising Microbiology, Professor Sarah Walker, is the Chief Investigator for a [major new government study](#) to track COVID-19 in the general population.

Some 20,000 households across England are being contacted to take part in the first wave of the study, which aims to help improve understanding around the current rate of infection and how many people are likely to have developed antibodies to the virus.

Participants in the study will form a representative sample of the entire UK population by age and geography. The results will help scientists and the government in the ongoing response to the coronavirus outbreak, with initial findings expected to be available in May.

### **COVID-19 antibody research**

National research led from Oxford [has found that](#) an immunological assay commonly used to measure antibodies, antigens and proteins in biological samples can be specifically adapted to detect and quantify COVID-19 antibodies.

The research by the National COVID Testing Scientific Advisory Panel was co-ordinated by Professor Derrick Crook, the BRC's Theme Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance and Modernising Microbiology.

### **COVID-19 research in primary care**

The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, which is headed by the BRC's Theme Lead for Multi-morbidity, Professor Richard Hobbs, has joined forces with the Royal College of GPs and the clinical system supplier EMIS Health to urgently recruit as many GP practices as possible to track the spread of COVID-19, develop understanding of the pandemic, and inform government strategy around measures such as social distancing and lockdown.

The PRINCIPLE trial, whose researchers are supported by the Oxford BRC, is the [first national COVID-19 trial outside hospital](#).

### **Oxford BRC funding for COVID-19 research projects**

The Oxford BRC has allocated funding to six new research projects to address different aspects of COVID-19.

- A team led by Dr Tim Hinks from the BRC's Respiratory Theme is looking at whether the commonly used antibiotic Azithromycin can prevent progression from moderate disease to severe respiratory failure
- Professor Peter Watkinson of the BRC's Technology Theme and Professor Julia Hippisley-Cox of the Department of Primary Care Health Sciences will match national patient databases to understand whether drugs commonly taken for chronic conditions exacerbate or reduce the severity of COVID-19
- Dr Betty Raman, who works in the Imaging Theme, will use Oxford's state-of-the-art facilities to assess the long-term effects of COVID-19 infection on internal organs – not just lungs, but also the heart, liver, kidney and brain

[Read about these three studies.](#)

- Professor Andrew Pollard, Co-theme Lead for Vaccines, is leading a comprehensive analysis of the various responses to the new COVID-19 vaccine (see above) to assess how safe the vaccine is, especially for those at higher risk of infection, ahead of further clinical trials
- Several leading haematology and immunology researchers, led by Dr Nikki Curry and Professor Paresch Vyas, are evaluating the blood cell-related biomarkers that predict adverse outcome in COVID-19 infection
- Professor Paul Klenerman, of the BRC's Gastroenterology and Mucosal Immunity Theme, is leading a high-throughput assay to detect neutralising antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 as a measure of immune protection and efficacy for convalescent plasma therapy

[Read about these three studies.](#)

### Other Oxford BRC news

The Oxford BRC and local NIHR partners have announced the appointment of seven [new Senior Research Fellows](#), the second cohort of emerging research leaders to receive the accolade. They will receive £10,000 per year for a period of two years to facilitate their translational research programme and career development. Those named from the Oxford BRC were Sarosh Irani, Graham Collins, Bethan Psaila and Helen Dakin.

Professor Alison Simmons, from the Oxford BRC's Gastroenterology and Mucosal Immunity Theme, has been named as one of this year's [NIHR Senior Investigators](#), while Professor Robert MacLaren has been reappointed to this role. The BRC's former Director, Professor Keith Channon, has received the prestigious title of Emeritus Senior Investigator.

Research supported by the Oxford BRC has led to the development of a new way to [test for Parkinson's](#) disease before the main symptoms occur, potentially allowing clinicians to identify patients who would benefit from precision therapies that are currently at clinical trial stage. The study was led by George Tofaris at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences.

A critical care research nurse based at the John Radcliffe Hospital has become the first OUH nurse to receive funding for a PhD from the NIHR. [Jody Ede](#) says she hopes her achievement will convince other nurses to pursue a career in research. A key step in Jody's progression was a Preparatory Fellowship from the Oxford BRC.

All of the Oxford BRC's face-to-face events have understandably been postponed for the foreseeable future in line with government, NIHR and OUH guidance. This includes a networking workshop with Oxford Health BRC on 4 May; the BRC directors' meeting in June; the BRC Open Day, which is being postponed to the autumn; and two public talks.

## 10. Oxford Academic Health Science Network and Oxford Academic Health Partners news

### Oxford Academic Health Science Network news

The Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) is supporting our partners in the NHS and social care in responding to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by refocusing our skills, experience and expertise where they are most needed.

For OUH as the AHSN's host trust that has already included some redeployment to administrative roles and additional communications support. Some clinicians have also taken on additional frontline responsibilities.

All AHSNs are working together to identify and spread innovations and technologies to support the NHS frontline and keep patients out of hospital when they don't need to be there.

Nationally, AHSNs are promoting [a new platform supporting coronavirus testing](#) and a [COVID-19 personal protective equipment \(PPE\) challenge](#). [We have opened a call for innovations to help support the NHS in managing Covid-19](#).

Julie Hart, our Director of Strategic and Industry Partnerships, is supporting diagnostics work nationally and regionally, for example around remote consultation and patient monitoring.

We are pleased to see two digital innovations that we helped to roll out being taken up nationally and offered free through the NHS – [Sleepio](#), the sleep improvement programme, and [GDM-health](#), the remote monitoring system for women who develop diabetes during pregnancy.

There has also been rapid progress in the spread of the [Brainomix image-sharing platform](#) across the South East region based on work by the Thrombectomy Innovation and Transformation (TITAN) quality improvement team chaired by Dr Guy Rooney, the Oxford AHSN's Medical Director.

Tracey Marriott, the AHSN's Director of Clinical Innovation, is leading on the Digital First collaboration, working with partners across the South East.

Our Patient Safety Collaborative headed by Katherine Edwards is refocusing primarily on deterioration and tracheostomy.

Our forthcoming face-to-face meetings, workshops and shared learning have been postponed or replaced by webinars. Full details of online events can be found [here](#).

### **Oxford Academic Health Partners news**

The Oxford Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) submitted its application to become a National Institute for Health Research – NHS England and NHS Improvement (NIHR – NHSE/I) Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) in December 2019.

Our application was shortlisted and I was one of six members of the Oxford AHSC Board who attended an interview with an International Panel on 26 February. I am delighted to confirm that our application was successful with effect from 1 April for five years.

The four organisations which make up the newly named Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) are OUH, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Oxford.

OAHP's vision is to respond to major challenges facing healthcare such as healthy ageing, multi-morbidity and mental health, and the best use of digital tools to improve care and patient self-management.

OAHP will build on its track record of discovery, translation, innovation and education to create an infrastructure that accelerates the testing of innovations from all healthcare stakeholders to deliver patient benefit.

We will create a dynamic research culture through promotion of multi-disciplinary working and collaboration, extending healthcare research and education into new disciplines. OAHP will draw on skills and resources across both universities and trusts, including expertise in social studies, sports science, geographical analysis and the built environment.

We will provide the platform to promote multi-disciplinary research involving clinical and allied health professionals, healthcare scientists, paramedics, and social workers, working together with patients.

Further information can be found at [www.oxfordahsc.org.uk](http://www.oxfordahsc.org.uk).

**Dr Bruno Holthof**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**May 2020**