

# H4RT

## Newsletter 6, September 2020

### Message from Chief Investigator

Welcome back! I hope you and your families managed to stay safe in COVID, and indeed continue to stay well. I know its been a very stressful and uncertain time for many of us.

One of the positives from COVID, however, has been the way the UK research community has responded, generating some of the first robust COVID-related evidence in the world. Has the need for randomised controlled trials ever been so clearly demonstrated?! Fortunately we don't have Donald Trump or Jair Bolsonaro advocating for HD or HDF!

So it is great to be restarting H4RT and improving the evidence base in haemodialysis care. Thank you all for your continuing support! Fergus

**Dr Fergus Caskey**

Chief Investigator of H4RT  
Consultant Nephrologist  
North Bristol NHS Trust

### Trial Manager - Sunita Procter

We would like to acknowledge and give a huge thanks to all colleagues working tirelessly on the frontline to care for people in need and also support staff working behind the scenes in the fight against coronavirus.

The study paused recruitment on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and restarted recruitment on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. We have recruited 1041 (67%) of our target 1550 patients across 28 sites with 509 patients to reach our target. We made changes to the protocol to take into account the COVID-19 pandemic where research staff can adopt a flexible approach to recruitment using telephone/video to minimise contact with the patient.



Thank you to all research staff for keeping in touch and letting us know how things have been at your individual site and of any staff changes. We will be offering training to all new staff and those who need a refresher course. We are planning an online video investigator meeting in 2021 - more details to follow. I hope you keep well and stay safe.

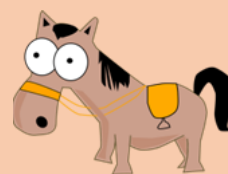
## Patient recruitment poster

Our patient advisory group met in March 2020 and provided input on a patient recruitment poster for waiting areas of dialysis units to signpost patients who are interested in taking part in the trial to a local



contact who can provide more information. This has had ethical approval and hope it will be helpful as sites restart recruitment.

## Lead Research Nurse – Karen Alloway



It's good to be back in the H4RT saddle (so to speak)! Like many of you, I was re-deployed, initially to work on a respiratory ward and then to support several COVID studies, including the Oxford vaccine trial.

We hope you have all remained well and managed to look after yourselves during the past few months. I am very much looking forward to getting back out to the Renal units in NBT and meeting with staff and patients again.

Things will be different and we will all be exploring how to make H4RT recruitment work, but support will be available to you, so please get in touch.



## Research Administrator at North Bristol Trust - Lucy Hanson

I want to say a HUGE thank you to all the sites that have kept up with their compliance records over the last six months. We know the spreadsheets can be very time consuming and we truly appreciate all the hard work involved in sending them in. Also a huge thank you to the sites that are working their way through the backlog of missing compliance months, I know this is not a very fun task but it makes us so happy to have all the data!

Compliance has remained at an impressively high standard - I'm running out of adjectives to say how great you all are!



## Trial Administrator - Nicola Giles



A massive thank-you to you all for keeping in touch during lockdown whether you have stayed at work, been re-deployed, or you've been working from home. As each site gets re-started, I will be in touch to let you know what data we need to bring together from this time. Please do contact us if you have any questions at all. Thanks as always for all your hard work!

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Documents and information are available on our website  
<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/population-health-sciences/projects/h4rt-trial>  
And as always, please feel free to contact us if you have any queries, we are here to help.



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