

Why do we need your help?

The Liver Trials Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham and the Centre for Liver Research at the University of Birmingham are into researching new ways to help prevent and treat various forms of liver disease.

We conduct laboratory research and clinical trials into why diseases occur, how they progress, and the use of potential new drugs or treatments.

We involve patients and public in our work as we know that their views and opinions can help us to develop a better research programme.

What is a Review Panel?

A small group of people who come together a few times a year to hear how the research and clinical trials are progressing. We greatly value their ideas, suggestions and opinions on what they feel is going well, what can be improved, and how we can best communicate our findings to the public.

Who can join a Review Panel?

The short answer is anyone, as long as they are 18 years old or over, and they do not have to be a patient with liver disease. Ex-patients, carers, relatives of patients and general members of the public are just some of the people who have been involved.

You do not need any specialist knowledge or training. However, you should have a genuine interest in medical research and be able to attend a few meetings a year.



What does the Panel do?

- Help design patient information sheets (for patients taking part in studies and clinical trials).
- Provide viewpoints and opinions.
- Help design surveys and feedback forms.
- Give their perspective on whether they feel patient interests have been fully met.
- Ensure that the research findings are presented to the public in an easy and understandable manner.
- Tell others about the good research that takes place!
- We may establish a patient newsletter, if so, suggestions on articles of interest would be useful.

Please be assured that you are not required to take part in any studies or clinical trials to be a member.

What are the benefits of being involved?

Being involved gives those with a genuine interest in medical research the opportunity to make a difference. You will develop your knowledge of medical research and clinical trials.

You will make a difference to the future of liver research.

How long do studies last?

Studies can last a few months or a few years and you would need to commit to the review panel for the full duration of the study.

How much of your time is required?

We anticipate you would need to attend meetings twice a year and occasionally communicate by email or phone.

Meetings will take place on weekdays and wherever possible in the afternoon.

Did you know that some employers actively encourage participation in these panels?

We can provide you with a letter to give to your employer explaining your involvement and the need to attend occasionally during working hours.

Will I be paid for my involvement?

Out of pocket travel expenses will be covered up to a maximum of £40 per visit. You will need to provide original receipts for public transport or mileage details for car journeys. An expense claim form will be given to you for completion.

How do I get involved?

For further information or to register your interest in becoming involved, please write to:

Diana Hull
Liver Research Senior Sister
Liver Trials Unit
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TH

Alternatively, please email:
Liverresearch@contacts.bham.ac.uk



When contacting us, please provide your full name, postal address, telephone number and email address.

Please also indicate your preferred method of communication.

By making an enquiry, you are **not committing** yourself to anything further at this stage.

Thank you for reading this leaflet, we hope to hear from you!

Why we do research:

Liver disease kills more people than diabetes and road deaths combined.

Liver disease is the fifth 'big killer' in England & Wales, after heart, cancer, stroke and respiratory disease.

Liver disease is the only major cause of death still increasing each year

Source: British Liver Trust
December 2010

The National Institute for Health Research funds work that is both patient and public focused, with the ultimate goal of helping improve the health of the nation.

University Hospital Birmingham **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
National Institute for
Health Research



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YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

Become a member of our new Liver Disease Research Review Panels

If you would like to become involved in review panels relating to medical research in liver disease, then we are keen to hear from you. This leaflet will provide you with more information about:

- What is a Review Panel?
- Who is eligible to join?
- Why do we need your help?
- What is involved?

***Working Together,
Achieving Together***

