

Mr Paul Mason BSc

Programming Team Leader

School of Cancer Sciences

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About

Paul Mason manages the Programming Team within the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU).

The programming team provides programming and informatics support to the CRCTU and to the School of Cancer Science. The scope of support includes activity from Translational studies through to Phase 4 Clinical Trials, management and operational infrastructure for the CRCTU, data collection and management tools and infrastructure (Freezer management and Health and safety tools) for the wider School. The team is expert in Electronic Data Capture tools, including provision of Blinding and Unblinding tools and provides commensurate expertise and experience to the trial management, design and statistical analysis aspects of the CRCTU which is a leading Clinical Trials Unit in the world of Clinical research (<http://www.cancerstudies.bham.ac.uk/crctu/>). Current developments include a proposed data sharing technology with the local NHS Trust (UHBFT), 3rd generation metadata repository and data standards tools and 3rd generation clinical trial management tools.

Qualifications

- BSc Chemistry and Computing (1991) from Nottingham Trent University

Biography

Paul Mason qualified with a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry and Computing from Nottingham Trent University 1991. He spent 10 years working in the private sector, primarily providing bespoke systems and consultancy to the Insurance and various Government Departments and Public Sector organisations. In 1999 he became Head of Development in a medium sized software house based in Nottingham.

In 2002 he joined the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit to head up the Programming Team with a remit to modernise the team and improve integration with the newly formed Division of Cancer Studies. Since 2002 Paul has overseen the successful modernisation of the team to provide advanced trial management and data collection (EDC) tools, the integration of changes relating to the 2004 Clinical Trials Directive and is now looking forward to the development of the 3rd generation of clinical research tools aimed at providing seamless support for translational research and highly managed trial management environments.

Research

Research themes

- Cancer (Clinical) Informatics, Data Standards

Research activity

- Cancer Informatics / Data Standards

The research area of Clinical Informatics is in its infancy. From 2004 to 2007 Paul was a key figure in the Cancer Grid project led by Prof Carlos Caldas at Cambridge University, which although largely unsuccessful, did provide a good framework for future development. Paul has overseen the recent introduction of a limited research resource within the Programming Team and is currently developing a number of proposals to drive forward key developments in data collection tools and methodology (direct use of NHS datasets), trial management methodology and data standards (including methodology development).

Other activities

- Member of the UKCRC Information Systems Working Group

