

Guy's and St Thomas'



NHS Foundation Trust



Have your say about medical research

How patients and the
public can get involved

Have your say about medical research

Staff at Guy's and St Thomas' work closely with researchers from our university partner, King's College London, to carry out medical research that aims to improve patient care. We are a major centre for NHS-funded research through our comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre. This leaflet explains why we are keen for patients and local people to be involved.

What are the aims of medical research?

There are a number of aims of medical research:

- to improve understanding of the causes and development of diseases and medical conditions;
- to prevent illnesses and reduce the number of people who become ill;
- to find new ways to treat diseases and conditions and improve the quality of life for people living with them;
- to find new treatments and medicines.

All of our research aims to improve patient care.

What is patient and public involvement?

As well as being research subjects, people can also be involved in all the stages of the research process and work in partnership with the researchers to plan, carry out and share the results of research.

This is what is known as the 'active' involvement of people in the research process.

Why we want your help

- By involving patients and the public in developing research there is a greater chance that researchers will ask questions that are relevant to patients.
- Your own experiences can help researchers understand the patient's point of view.
- Through publicly-funded research we aim to improve patient care at the earliest opportunity.
- You can help us share research findings with other patients and members of the public.

What do we offer you?

- You will be able to be part of the research community working to find new treatments and medicines.
- We will provide training and support so you can understand research and learn new skills.
- You will get to meet new people.
- We will cover your travel expenses so you can take part in our activities.

What sort of activities can you get involved in?

We offer a variety of ways for you to get involved, including:

- participating in discussions and workshops;
- reading, writing and reviewing patient information such as leaflets;
- being an advisor on a specific project, such as the development of a new treatment for diabetes;
- helping to design research so it is better suited to patient's needs.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more information, including how to register your interest at www.biomedicalresearchcentre.org

Alternatively you can send your contact details to Sophie Auckland, User Involvement Manager, by calling 020 7188 6333 or emailing sophie.auckland@gstt.nhs.uk Please provide your name, address and telephone number so we can contact you to discuss your involvement further.

If you would like this leaflet in a different language please contact us on the number above.

About the Biomedical Research Centre

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London were named one of only five National Institute for Health Research comprehensive Biomedical Research Centres in 2006. These centres aim to find new ways to diagnose and treat diseases and medical conditions.

Our centre is in a strong position to make advances in the widest range of diseases and medical conditions, as we serve a diverse population in London and the South East.

Further Information

PALS – To make comments or raise concerns about the Trust's services, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

Ask a member of staff to direct you to PALS

or: **t:** 020 7188 8801 at St Thomas'

t: 020 7188 8803 at Guy's

e: pals@gstt.nhs.uk

Language Support Services – If you need an interpreter or information about the care you are receiving in the language or format of your choice, please get in touch using the following contact details:

t: 020 7188 8815 **f:** 020 7188 5953

e: languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

Knowledge & Information Centre (KIC) –

For more information about health

conditions, support groups and local services:

t: 020 7188 3416 **e:** kic@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS Direct – Offers health information and advice from specially trained nurses over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 0845 4647 **w:** www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Contact us

For more information about our services
visit the Trust website

www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk

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