



### Study Feasibility & Site Identification

- MSK Specialty group involvement
- CLRN accredited sites
- Capacity planning tools
- Investigator & site profile database with track record/CVs, interests & GCP evidence
- Hands on support from Lead Nurses within our trusts

### Study RM&G Approvals

- Named Facilitator coordinates approvals across 18 NHS trusts
- NIHR Coordinated System for gaining NHS permission (CSP) for R&D approvals
- Support with study start up, costing and contract negotiations using national industry approved templates
- Facilitation with ARSAC applications online

### Study Performance Management

- Individual site targets agreed
- Key Performance matters weekly & monthly reports
- Flagging system to identify poor performing sites & target support
- Local site coordinators

## PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY!

To enquire about how the MSK Local Specialty Group may help with specific clinical studies:

Prof Bhaskar Dasgupta  
 Chair MSK Local Specialty Group  
[bhaskar.dasgupta@southend.nhs.uk](mailto:bhaskar.dasgupta@southend.nhs.uk)  
 Tel: 01702 385 252  
 Mobile: 0771 078 1877

For general information about how our CLRN is supporting industry:

Dr Paul Roberts  
 Industry Manager  
 Tel: 01992 561666 ext. 1443  
 Mobile: 0782 486 4704

To contact our RM&G Study Delivery Team:

[researchsupport@btuh.nhs.uk](mailto:researchsupport@btuh.nhs.uk)  
 0845 155 3111 ext. 8872

To learn more about benefits of eligibility and benefits of NIHR portfolio adoption please contact NIHR CCRN Industry Team:

[Ccrn.industry@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:Ccrn.industry@nihr.ac.uk)

### WORLD CLASS FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

Postgraduate Medical Institute, Anglia Ruskin University Biomechanics laboratory hosts research equipment, including: a new motion capture system, force and plantar pressure platforms and a biomaterials testing machine for clinical research and teaching



[www.an.ac.uk/pmi](http://www.an.ac.uk/pmi)



# MUSCULOSKELETAL & RHEUMATOLOGY RESEARCH

Passionate about giving our patients the opportunity to take part in high quality clinical trials



“Our vision as a Local Specialty Research Group (LSG) is to become world class leaders in rheumatology research. We are a vibrant community of Investigators and multidisciplinary health professionals experienced in running clinical trials. Our group is the hub which offers one point of contact to rheumatology units in seven District General Hospitals (see map) serving a population of 2.8 million people. We promise reliable and cost effective patient recruitment to clinical trials. Our partnership with the new Biomechanics Laboratory at Anglia Ruskin University Postgraduate Medical Institute Chelmsford provides access to world leading technology and facilities to host training and investigator meetings.

**Professor Bhaskar Dasgupta**  
 Consultant Rheumatologist Southend  
 Chair Essex & Hertfordshire MSK Local Specialty Group

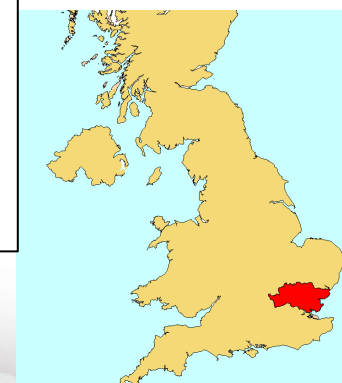
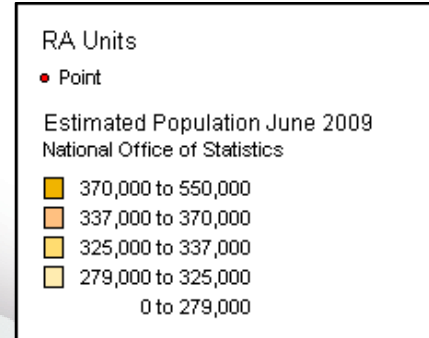
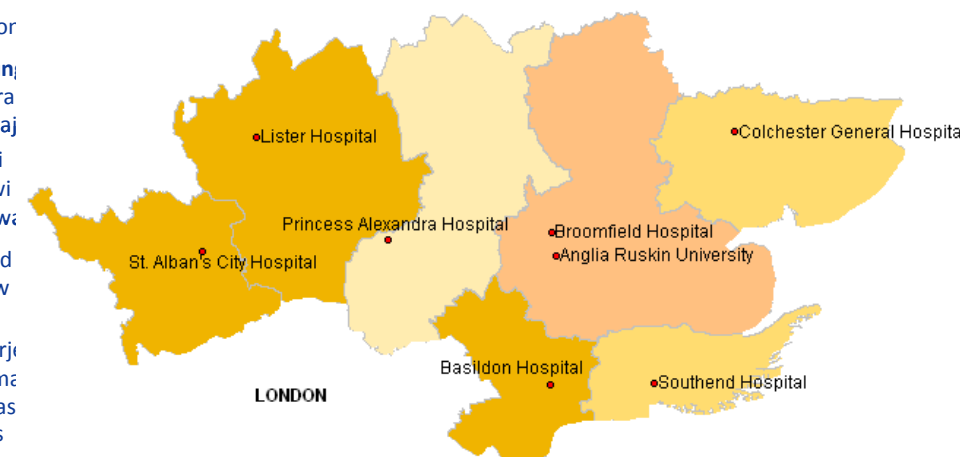
### Key NHS Trust

- 1 Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 2 West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- 3 Basildon & Thurrock University NHS Foundation Trust
- 4 The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust
- 5 Mid Essex Hospital NHS Trust
- 6 East & North Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
- 7 Colchester Hospital University NHS Trust

### Consultant Rheumatologists

- Prof B Dasgupta**  
 Dr T Gordon  
 Dr F Borg  
 Dr WM Wor
- Prof A Young**  
 Dr S Bhalara  
 Dr K Baburaj
- Dr N Gendi  
 Dr A Ginawi  
 Dr Bharadwaj
- Dr K Ahmed  
 Dr S Farrow
- Dr D Mukerji  
 Dr Subrahmanya  
 Dr A Srinivas  
 Dr P Davies  
 Dr S Ellis,  
 Dr A Blinder
- Dr S Walton  
 Dr P Byme  
 Dr Daunt

### ONE POINT OF CONTACT TO SEVEN RHEUMATOLOGY UNITS



## FOREWORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ESSEX & HERTFORDSHIRE CLRN

“Established three years ago we have come along way from a relatively low research base. We are on course to double patient recruitment to NIHR



portfolio clinical studies, a major target of the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR). This is as a result of major engagement and enthusiasm of clinicians, backed by the well organised CLRN team of research and data managers, and information technology and financial advisors. Our close proximity to London generates huge volumes of commuters, and the ongoing development of the Thames Gateway/M11 corridor contributes to growing population size. We have the capability to accommodate greater involvement in commercial trials, particularly in the field of rheumatology. We look forward to hearing from you soon to discuss how we may help with your research.”

Professor Adam Young (above),  
Clinical Director Essex & Hertfordshire CLRN

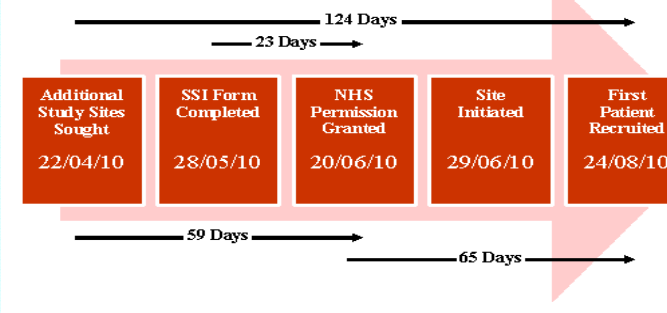
## WE KNOW OUR PATIENTS WELL AND ANSWER FEASIBILITY QUESTIONS QUICKLY

Local rheumatology databases enable powerful searches and pre-identification of eligible patients. Examples include:

- Demographics of disease specific groups include gender, age, disease duration, work status
- Use and duration of disease modifying drug therapies and biologics
- Number and type of non drug interventions (e.g. knee & hip replacements)

**Professor Young** is a Consultant Rheumatologist at West Hertfordshire Hospitals and Honorary Chair at University of Hertfordshire. He is Vice Chair of the ARC Clinical Studies Group for early RA and Chair of SIG for RA Outcomes. He is clinical Lead and Grant Holder for two national observational studies- the Early RA Study ERAS and the Early RA Network. Also a member of the International RA Database committee and has published and lectured across the globe on RA Outcomes

## Timeline for GOMORE study in Harlow



## EACH RHEUMATOLOGY RESEARCH SITE IS SUPPORTED BY AN EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF GP PRACTICES & COMMUNITY SERVICES PRIMED & READY TO ENGAGE IN RESEARCH

“We have long recognised the benefits of research to patients and staff ... the large numbers of patients we have in general practice, the breadth of conditions we treat, the excellent IT systems which we have to permit easy searches an identification of patients and the close rapport we have with our patients.”

**Dr Mike Walton, Research Lead, Harvey Group Practice, St. Albans, Hertfordshire**



### Primary Care Identification Sites

Partnership work with PCRN – East of England enables fast identification of primary care referral sites. Joint funded research nurses can share the work with practice staff, speedy recruitment and study procedures.

### CLRN Local Enhanced Clinical Research Scheme

- 40 plus membership GP practices across all Primary Care Trusts in Essex & Hertfordshire
- RCGP Research Ready Quality Site Accreditation
- ICH GCP Trained Staff
- Involved in research and actively seeking new studies
- Raising patient & public awareness to research

## Introducing a few key people in our local research specialty group



### Professor Bhaskar Dasgupta Consultant Rheumatologist & Principal Investigator.

Bhaskar heads one of the leading rheumatology departments in the UK at Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and is Honorary Professor at the University of Essex. He is recognised internationally in the field of polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR) and giant cell arthritis. He is Chief

Investigator in the UK for a commercial study assessing the addition of Golimumab to DMARDS. Member of the TACIT trial Steering Group. As Chair of the MSK LSG he hosts monthly teleconferences and quarterly meetings for members working in rheumatology units across the region. The meetings are often shared with Essex Rheumatology Association (ERA).

### Dr Nada Hassan Rheumatology Research Fellow

Nada is a Specialist Registrar who assists in the identification and support of patients eligible for Clinical Trials. She is responsible for patient assessments, treatments and follow ups. She describes her role below:

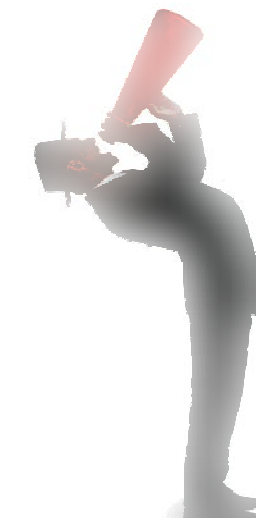
“I have responsibility to deliver direct and indirect care in accordance with ICH-GCP. I have excellent support from research nurses and consultants. I also have a superb team at the R&D department with continuous support and input regarding progression and recruitment figures and also support with REC forms etc”

### Pam Long Specialist Rheumatology Research Nurse

Pam has specialised in rheumatology research during the last year. She actively participates in the patients’ assessment and treatment within the trial setting. She describes what she enjoys about her role:

“I have responsibility for the patient’s assessment and treatment within the trial setting. My experience has taught me the importance of good coordination and communication particularly with commercial trials as they tend to be quite intense and the timescales demanding. It gives me great satisfaction when I see the improvement in my patient’s condition and quality of life which can sometimes follow their inclusion in a study.”

## Our patients would like greater access to clinical trials & patient groups are committed to raising public awareness of studies recruiting locally



## RANGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY SERVICES

- International Centre for Ultrasonography
- Polymyalgia rheumatica & giant cell (temporal) arthritis
- Lupus clinic for Connective Tissue Diseases
- Paediatric Rheumatology
- Combined pain clinic with the pain team
- Combined Foot/hand clinics
- Electrodiagnosis (EMG) clinics
- Osteoporosis clinics
- Sports medicine and Soft tissue Rheumatism clinic
- Musculoskeletal triage with physiotherapy
- Rheumatology day unit

## WORD OF MOUTH...

“Once again, I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all of you for your help and support with recruitment. The last few months would have been 100 times harder and more stressful without your help, so it was really appreciated!”

**Zoë Carter, Medical Liaison Specialist  
Server Laboratories Ltd.**

“Essex & Hertfordshire CLRN have been great supporters of our study and have made major contributions to recruitment for this trial. The rheumatology units are very well organised, they are highly professional and it is a great pleasure to work with them. We are delighted that Professor Dasgupta and his colleagues are continuing to recruit patients in the CLRN. We are very grateful for all the help we have received from Southend, Basildon and Harlow.”

**Professor David Scott, Chief Investigator  
TACIT trial, King’s College Hospital London**

“By placing this new ultrasound equipment in the consultation rooms the doctors can diagnose the problem accurately in real time without the need for the patient to visit different parts of the hospital or come back on a different day. This has been a major breakthrough and the scanner is so advanced that it scans in colour with an amazing resolution of 7 million pixels.”

**Mr John Gibson MBE, Patient Representative, Chair Advanced Surgical Equipment Trust (ASET)**

“More good news from Basildon Hospital: Dr Bharadwaj has done really well on TACIT study and already met 80% of his recruitment target and is due to screen another 4 patients.”

**Information Manager, CLRN Weekly News**

“Fantastic, thank you so much! I really appreciated all your help and it has been a pleasure working with you in getting this site set up. I am really impressed with how efficient your R&D has been. If only they were all like that!”

**ICON PLC**

“I would like to express my gratitude for the efficiency and speed in which you dealt with the Clinical Trial Agreement and R&D approval for the above study... thanks to you, the site will be one of the first to be ready for the first patient visit next week as planned. Your assistance has been very much appreciated and I look forward to the opportunity of working with you in the future.”

**Tonia Graham, Clinical Trial Approvals Officer, Novo Nordisk Ltd**