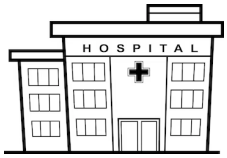
The Major Trauma Academic Group: How to Increase Research Activity in a Leading Major Trauma Centre

NHS
Manchester University
NHS Foundation Trust

Rhiannon Cole, Joseph Alsousou, Simon Carley, Justine Theaker, Stella Smith
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Background

Annually, in England and Wales, approximately 16,000 people die following injury, with many severely disabled. Major Trauma (MT) care requires many disciplines and specialties from roadside to discharge, making research essential, but challenging. Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) Major Trauma Centre (MTC) is well placed to take on this challenge. We believe that high-quality research will optimise clinical excellence and provide the best evidence-based care for current and future patients.



Aim

To set up a Major Trauma Academic Group (MTAG) within a leading MTC, to overcome barriers to research and increase research exposure, education, capability and activity.

Method

MFT MTAG is a multi-specialty group, formed in 2022, that meets monthly. MTAG consists of MT Consultants from 8 trauma specialties, AHPs, Pharmacists, Junior Doctors, Nurses, Psychologists and is integrated with the MFT R&I department.

Results

Over the past 12 months, MTAG have:

- Increased the education and awareness of research within the team and have received positive feedback from stakeholders
- Increased the number of trials in recruitment within the MT service. We are recruiting MT patients to; CRASH-4, ORiF, ESPEAR, CoMiTED, ACTIVE and PROPERLY. We are in set-up for HUSH, FRUITI and SWIFT and are in communication with CTUs regarding our role in future studies.
- Increased MDT enrolment to the NIHR API scheme.
- Increased the identification and recruitment of participants to studies.
- Successfully obtained NIHR CRN funding to support with the progression of MTAG
- Identified and distributed conferencing and networking opportunities
- Reviewed and discussed national Major Trauma Research Priorities. We are currently developing a primary research proposal based on these findings.
- Collaborated with individuals from other MTCs in Greater Manchester. We have received interest from two other MTCs in the North West, and are reviewing collaboration opportunities in pre-hospital care.
- Discussed the role of multi-professional research students across three institutions in the North West
- Supported the utilisation of HIVE EPR and other digital platforms.

	April 2022	April 2023
Studies discussed	11	16
Studies in recruitment	2	6
Patients recruited by MT team	0	12
Group attendance	7	14
GCP trained	2	11
Associate PIs	1	4
Successful grants	0	1

Conclusion

MTAG has increased the research education, exposure, capability and activity of the multi-disciplinary team and continues to overcome barriers associated with research in Major Trauma.

Future Aims

An NIHR CRN grant has been successfully obtained to fund a one-year secondment for a Research Physiotherapist to further develop the group, collaborate with other MTCs across Greater Manchester and support with developing a primary research proposal.

For further information about MTAG, please contact *rhiannon.cole@mft.nhs.uk* or follow us on Twitter *@MajorTraumaMRI*