

# MFT NEWS



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**COVID-19**  
response

Excellence  
Awards

Critical Care Nurse  
photographed by Rankin

Miracle  
twins

Dear member

Welcome to the third issue of MFT News, our dedicated magazine for members of Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT).

I'd like to start my welcome by thanking all of you for your continuing support as MFT responds to the pandemic and embarks on the service recovery process. As Chairman of MFT, I couldn't be prouder of our dedicated staff and their robust response in continuing to provide the highest levels of patient care at this very challenging time. So many colleagues have been required to work in new and different ways and everyone has risen to the challenge magnificently. You can read more about the Trust's work to respond to COVID-19 on page 3.

Looking back over the past year, there have been a number of other positive achievements and developments across the Trust. From 1st April, we welcomed North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH) into MFT under a management contract as work continues for the formal acquisition on 1st April 2021. We are confident this will give us an opportunity to strengthen the healthcare services

we provide across Manchester and to continue the progress that we have made over the last few years. This will ensure that all patients receive high quality care. We are continuing to work with Manchester Health and Care Commissioning and Manchester City Council on

developing a Strategic Regeneration Framework for the future of the NMGH site.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel our MFT Excellence Awards ceremony. However, we wanted to ensure we still recognised this year's outstanding finalists and you can read more about our plans for this on pages 6 and 7.

Similarly, we look back at the success of last year's Annual Members Meeting (AMM) while sharing with you details of the different arrangements we are making for our forthcoming 2020 meeting scheduled for Tuesday 22nd September. The meeting will take a virtual format in light of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Pre-recorded messages related to our 2019/20 Annual Report and Accounts, alongside a Membership Report update and our plans for the future, will be published on our website, with the option for people to email their related questions on the content and later be responded to (where appropriate). Further information will be available on our 'Members' Meeting' webpage nearer the time – [www.mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/members-meetings](http://www.mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/members-meetings).

Finally, I encourage you to read about some of the ground-breaking work of colleagues across the Trust in the articles included in this edition. I never fail to be amazed at how we continue to deliver improved and advanced care for our patients year on year, especially during these extraordinary times.



**Kathy Cowell OBE DL**  
Chairman

# How we responded to COVID-19

**The COVID-19 pandemic is something none of us had experienced before and it has affected everyone in so many ways from our working lives to our home and family lives.**

Our staff, like all NHS staff across the country, responded to this unprecedented situation as they always do – by doing their very best for patients. Staff were required to work in new and different ways, as we needed to rapidly transform our services to expand critical care capacity and continue to provide safe care across services such as A&E and maternity. MFT has also been responsible for overseeing the temporary NHS Nightingale Hospital North West.

Throughout this time, we also continued to treat emergency patients although the numbers attending our A&Es were lower than normal during the peak of the pandemic.

It was a mammoth undertaking and the teamwork, flexibility and resourcefulness shown by staff in the face of challenging circumstances was remarkable. Everyone across MFT played their part from corporate teams to frontline staff who were wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE) for the first time. To support the demand, our procurement department ordered and distributed 50 million pieces of PPE across all our MFT hospitals.

Protecting our staff and patients while continuing to maintain the highest standards of care has required a massive collaborative effort. We have carried out risk assessments for all our staff which has enabled us to ensure



appropriate measures are in place to protect and look after everyone as safely as we can.

The recognition for staff through the 'clap for carers' events each Thursday was very much appreciated. On May 7th we held our very own 'clap for carers' event outside Trafford General Hospital, where members of our staff were joined by representatives from stakeholder organisations including Trafford CCG, Trafford Council and other emergency services.

In addition, so many businesses and community groups generously provided everything from hot meals and homemade cakes to skincare treats and hotel accommodation for our hard-working staff. Our Charity helped to distribute 25,000 staff wellbeing packs and 66,000 meals.

As we enter the stabilisation and recovery phase, we are busy starting up our outpatient and elective care work again safely. Patients will see a few changes that have been made to how our services operate:

- Patients and visitors are required to wear a face mask and alcohol gel their hands when entering the hospital
- Several social distancing

measures have been introduced in our atriums. These include a one-way system, screens around waiting areas and signs to show which seats can be used to keep a safe distance apart.

- Further screens have been installed on some of our reception desks.
- To reduce the need to come to hospital, patients are being clinically triaged to identify who can be seen digitally via the virtual clinic 'Attend Anywhere' or telephone appointments.
- All staff will be wearing a face mask whilst in a clinical setting and in some areas they are wearing more PPE than patients are used to seeing.
- For patients who need an operation, staff will take a COVID-19 swab from their nose and the back of the throat 72 hours prior to the surgery. Patients must self-isolate from the time of the test until the procedure is carried out.

The focus throughout all these changes is to keep patients, visitors and staff safe as we start to treat those in the most urgent need, using technology wherever possible.



# Your governors and members in action

**As an NHS Foundation Trust, we are accountable to our members, who include our patients, local residents, staff and stakeholders. Members are able to influence the Trust's decision-making processes through their elected representatives such as governors.**

At MFT, we have 32 governors, the majority (24) of which are elected directly from and by our members. Our governors are the link between our members, determining their

need or views on the delivery of services, and our directors who make the decisions about our services. You can find out more about our governors on our 'Meet our Governors' webpage on the Trust website [www.mft.nhs.uk](http://www.mft.nhs.uk).

This year has proved particularly challenging for us all as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This has necessitated our usual membership and governor engagement practices to be put on

hold, in keeping with our regulator's (NHS Improvement/England) associated guidance (released in March 2020 and subsequently updated in July 2020).

In order to keep our members and governors safe throughout these unprecedented times, we are closely following Government guidance and ensuring we adhere to social distancing and other safety measures on all of our sites. This required governors to suspend all

face-to-face meetings alongside recruitment and engagement practices for the foreseeable future and/or until it is deemed safe by Government and health officials to resume normal interactions.

The guidance also specified that the Trust's engagement with members (including the general public) is limited to 'COVID-19 purposes', with regular briefings being issued to staff and governors (via e-mail from the Trust's Communications Team) alongside key information being posted on the Trust's website [mft.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19](http://mft.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19). You can read more about the Trust's response to the pandemic on page 3.

However, in order to keep governors apprised of key developments, alongside regular COVID-19 briefings issued to governors, the Group Chairman has regularly held 'virtual' governor meetings. These new 'virtual' meeting arrangements have enabled governors to actively engage, have open and transparent discussions and seek appropriate assurances from the Group Chairman and participating Group Non-Executive Directors, alongside providing support to each other during these challenging times. Some of the key areas that governors have sought assurance around, on behalf of members, include:

- The number of dedicated COVID-19 patient beds in community services and care homes
- Progress on delivering MFT's Helipad construction project
- Information about staff PPE usage and other safety measures included in outpatient letters
- Current COVID-19 research projects
- Supporting homeless and other vulnerable COVID-19 patients
- BAME staff support measures during COVID-19
- Advice for diabetic patients during COVID-19



## 2020 Governor Elections

The Trust holds governor elections each year for those governor seats whose term of office is ending or are vacant on our Council of Governors. Eligible public and staff members are invited to stand for election in the relevant public constituencies and staff classes.

The 2020 election process began on 17th July 2020, with the formal 'Notice of Election' (which includes the list of seats that are open for election) being published on our Governor 'Elections' webpage [mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/elections](http://mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/elections)

As part of the ongoing governor election process, this year, there are eight public governor and four staff governor seats that are open for election namely:

The eight public governor seats that are open for election, are in the following areas (constituencies):

- Manchester x four seats
- Trafford x one seat
- Eastern Cheshire x one seat
- Greater Manchester x two seats

The four staff governor seats that are open for election, are in the following staff classes:

- Non-Clinical and Support x one seat
- Other Clinical x one seat
- Nursing and Midwifery x one seat
- Medical and Dental x one seat

There are also four nominated governor seats whose term of office is coming to an end. This includes; Manchester Health and Care Commissioning, Trafford Borough Council, Manchester BAME Network and MFT's Volunteer Service. Re-nominations or new nominations are currently also being sought from these associated stakeholder organisations.

Following the nomination deadline (3rd August 2020), we were delighted to have received over 80 valid nominations from our public and staff member candidates, with all 12 governor seats that are open for election being contested.

Currently our eligible public and staff members are voting for the candidate(s) that they feel will best represent them, with the formal voting process formally opening on Friday, 21st August 2020 and closing at 5pm on Friday, 11th September 2020. More information about our governor election process can be found on our Governor 'Election' webpage [mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/elections](http://mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/elections).

## Future Governor and Membership Meetings

**A decision around the format of forthcoming governor and membership meetings will be taken on a month by month basis to determine whether meetings will continue be held virtually, or if alternative channels of communication with governors/members will need to be introduced, in keeping with updated NHSI/E COVID-19 guidance.**

**As mentioned on page 2, our forthcoming 2020 Annual Members' Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 22nd September will take a virtual format (in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions). Further information will be available on our 'Members' Meeting' webpage nearer the time – [www.mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/members-meetings](http://www.mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/members-meetings).**

## Forward Plans

For 2020/21 the usual Forward Planning process has been replaced by COVID-19 Recovery Planning. This is so we can prepare for how we reinstate and run services while living with COVID-19. We are dovetailing the production of our MFT plan with the national planning timetable. The process is likely to be shorter and more focused than in previous years and governor engagement virtual. We will provide further details in early September – [mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/our-forward-plans](http://mft.nhs.uk/the-trust/governors-and-members/our-forward-plans).

## Benefits of being an NHS Foundation Trust Member

**Members are given a voice with their views and opinions being valued – their support and involvement is vital to our future success.**

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Foundation Trust Membership Office (details below) for an application form, or join via our on-line membership application form

[secure.membra.co.uk/MFTApplicationForm](http://secure.membra.co.uk/MFTApplicationForm)

**E-mail:** [ft.enquiries@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:ft.enquiries@mft.nhs.uk)

### Post:

Freepost Plus RRBR-AXBU-XTZT  
MFT NHS Trust  
Oxford Road  
Manchester M13 9WL

### Phone:

0161 276 8661  
(office hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday; answering machine outside these hours)

If you are already a member, via social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.), you can encourage your family, friends, colleagues and contacts to be part MFT's future by becoming a public member. Membership is completely free and is open to anyone who lives in England and Wales who is aged 11 years or over.

They can complete an application form online by visiting our website [www.mft.nhs.uk](http://www.mft.nhs.uk) and clicking the 'Become a Member of our Trust – Membership Form' button or going directly to [secure.membra.co.uk/MFTApplicationForm](http://secure.membra.co.uk/MFTApplicationForm).

As part of the NHS membership application process, you will be asked to supply your personal data; with any data that you supply being used only to contact you about the Trust's membership or other related issues and will be processed for these purposes only. All information collected is treated as being strictly confidential, in keeping with Data Protection Rules and is not released to third parties. A copy of MFT's privacy notice can be found on the Trust's website [mft.nhs.uk/privacy-policy](http://mft.nhs.uk/privacy-policy).

# MFT EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019/20

Our MFT Excellence Awards form a very special part of our organisation as they bring to life Our Values – Together Care Matters. Our third ever event was planned to take place earlier this year at a celebration evening at The Principal hotel in Manchester. Due to COVID-19 and the urgent response we needed to take, it just was not possible to hold the event and instead we will be launching our special edition e-book (pictured below) to recognise the great work that happens every day and our colleagues who continue to go the extra mile for our patients.

During the 12 months covered by these Awards, all our colleagues relentlessly strived to deliver safe, outstanding care for our patients across our nine hospitals and community services. This was an incredible achievement and one everyone should be very proud of. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and dedication.



## Patient Choice

**Winner:** **Steve Bellfield**, Healthcare Support Worker, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital MCS  
**Highly Commended:** **Gerry Byford**, Lead Specialist Nurse, Burns and Plastic Surgery, Wythenshawe Hospital

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award

**Winner:** **Irena Tucker**, Estates and Facilities Officer, Corporate and Support Services  
**Highly commended:** **Clare Wall**, Senior Dental Nurse, University Dental Hospital of Manchester MCS

## Collaboration Award

**Winner:** **Paediatric Tracheostomy Team**, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital MCS  
**Highly Commended:** **Cystic Fibrosis Transition Team**, Wythenshawe Hospital

## Brilliant Ideas Award

**Winner:** **Pharmacy Informatics and Clinical Pharmacy Team**, Clinical and Scientific Services  
**Highly Commended:** **Cath Applewhite**, Critical Care Patient Experience Lead, Clinical and Scientific Services

## Achievement in Developing and Learning Award

**Winner:** **Olivia Evans**, Trainee Healthcare Assistant, Wythenshawe Hospital  
**Highly Commended:** **Sheba John**, Acting Practice Based Educator, Clinical and Scientific Services

## Rising Star Award

**Winner:** **George Burghel**, Principal Clinical Scientist, Saint Mary's Hospital MCS  
**Highly Commended:** **Sarah Ramsey**, Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Trafford General Hospital

## Steve Mycio Apprentice of the Year Award

**Winner:** **Elizabeth Stephen**, Trainee Nursing Assistant, Manchester Royal Infirmary

## Inspirational Leader Award

**Winner:** **Natalia Mather**, Ward Manager, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital MCS  
**Highly Commended:** **Joanne Finnigan**, Clinical Services Manager Neurophysiology, Clinical and Scientific Services

## Volunteer of the Year Award

**Winner:** **Charlie Barnes**, Volunteer Chaplain, Patient Services, Corporate and Support Services  
**Highly Commended:** **Stephen Young**, Volunteer Guide, Patient Services, Corporate and Support Services

## Unsung Hero

**Winner:** **Tony Kabia**, Car Park Assistant, Diabetes Centre, Corporate and Support Services  
**Winner:** **Susan Wright**, Paediatric Urology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital MCS  
**Highly Commended:** **Sheila Self**, Service Assistant, Vulnerable Baby Service, Manchester Local Care Organisation  
**Highly Commended:** **Vera Johnson**, Health Care Support Worker, Saint Mary's Hospital MCS

## Non-Clinical Team of the Year Award

**Winner:** **International Recruitment Team**, Corporate and Support Services  
**Highly Commended:** **Manchester International Fellowship Programme Team**, Corporate and Support Services

## Clinical Team of the Year Award

**Winner:** **Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Team**, Wythenshawe Hospital  
**Highly Commended:** **Macular Treatment Centre Team**, Manchester Royal Eye Hospital

Here are a selection of photographs of our finalists (winners and highly commended) being presented their awards, keep your eye on our social media channels to see all the pictures in our special edition e-book.



George Burghel

Susan Wright (centre)

Olivia Evans



Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) Team



Vera Johnson (right)



Sarah Ramsey

Macular Treatment Centre Team

**Highly Commended:** **The Manchester Macmillan Supportive Palliative Services**, Manchester Local Care Organisation

**Group Chief Executive's Award**  
**Winner:** **International Recruitment Team**, Corporate and Support Services

## A Special Tribute

Tony Kabia was a remarkable individual and a valued and well-respected member of the security team at MFT, most recently working on the Diabetes Centre car park at Oxford Road Campus. Sadly, Tony died earlier this year from a COVID-19 related illness. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy have been shared with Tony's family, friends and colleagues. Tony was a finalist for the Unsung Hero award.

Tony's reputation for excellent customer services and teamwork prompted a number of colleagues to nominate him for this award and he was held in very high regard by many colleagues, patients and their families. Without a doubt, Tony deserves this recognition and he was selected by the panel as our winner of the Unsung Hero award.

Tony's special qualities had a positive impact on staff, patients, and members of the public, making MFT a happier place. His memory and contributions to the Trust will not be forgotten.



Tony Kabia

## First patient undergoes revolutionary new gene therapy procedure at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital

Earlier this year, a patient at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital (MREH) became one of the first patients in the UK to undergo a revolutionary new surgery for a rare genetic retinal condition, which has previously been untreatable.

The pioneering Ocular Gene Therapy treatment was performed in January by Mr Assad Jalil and

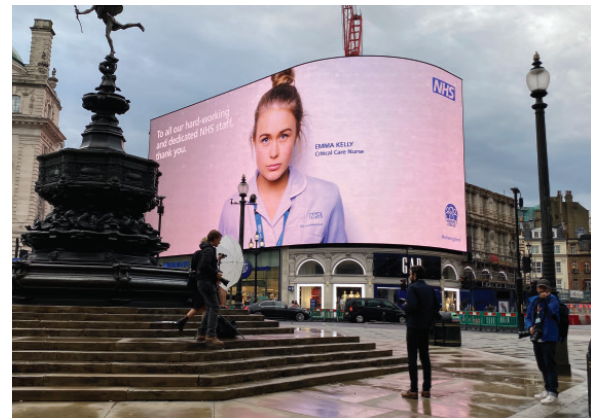
Ms Tsveta Ivanova, Consultant Vitreoretinal Surgeons, alongside a multi-disciplinary team at the Eye Hospital.

MREH patient, Lee Morris, 39, from Chorley in Lancashire (pictured), is one of the first NHS-funded patients in the UK to receive this ground-breaking surgery, in the hope of improving his eyesight.

He said; "I feel like I've waited 39



years for this surgery and I am very grateful to be the first patient to undergo this treatment. Of course, I am hoping for improvements to my vision but this was an opportunity that I just couldn't miss out on, and could be potentially life-changing for me."



## MFT Critical Care Nurse photographed by Rankin for NHS birthday portrait collection

Powerful portraits of Critical Care Nurse, Emma Kelly at MFT, who has served on the NHS frontline throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, have been captured by acclaimed photographer Rankin, as part of collection unveiled on July 5th to celebrate the NHS anniversary.

Emma Kelly was selected to be photographed for the collection, which was showcased at local bus stops, roadside billboards as well as iconic pedestrian areas including the world-famous Piccadilly Lights in central London that week (pictured) to mark the 72nd anniversary of the NHS.

Alongside her portrait, Emma shared her own personal story from the frontline, providing a unique and touching insight into the lives of the people who are at the forefront of the pandemic and saving lives.

## Team of 34 specialists at MFT Hospitals perform incredibly rare, life-saving surgery on newborn

A multidisciplinary team made up of 34 specialists from Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and Saint Mary's Hospital (SMH) safely performed an Ex Utero Intrapartum Treatment (EXIT) for the third time in the hospital's history, with the added challenge of carrying out the surgery during the Coronavirus pandemic.

This rare and complicated procedure is performed when there is a known obstruction of the baby's airway, meaning that the baby would be unable to breathe when they are born. For parents, Deborah and William, this became apparent at Deborah's 20-week scan which showed that there was a large lump in the baby's neck.

Kayleigh was delivered by caesarean section, but only partly up to the top of her shoulders, which allowed the theatre team to then begin the complex procedure on the baby's neck. Skilled Ear Nose and Throat surgeons were able to secure the airway, whilst the placenta from Deborah provided Kayleigh with oxygen whilst she was still partly in the womb.

Once she was safely delivered, she was transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at SMH for further round-the-clock care and at 10 days old, she had further surgery to remove part of the large teratoma, a rare type of tumour in her neck.

Kayleigh finally returned home at the end of June to meet her excited big sister (pictured).



## Miracle twins home for Christmas following life-saving surgery and care at MFT hospitals

Parents of premature twins born with rare birth defects, paid tribute to staff at Saint Mary's Hospital (SMH) and Royal Manchester Children's Hospital for their specialist care and treatment (Pictured).

Twins April and Evie were both born with the rare birth defect; Oesophageal Atresia (OA) with Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula (TOF) and had a challenging start to life as



first time mum; Lindsay went into labour without realising at 26-weeks – almost four months early. After an emergency caesarean at Burnley General Hospital, April and Evie were transferred to SMH Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), where they were provided with lifesaving

one-to-one surgical and medical care – all under one roof.

Parents Lindsay and Stephen said: "To all of the nurses, doctors, surgeons and anaesthetists that have helped us through this year, I cannot thank you enough for your support that you have provided us."

## First patient to undergo pioneering CAR-T treatment at Manchester Royal Infirmary is recovering well

The first patient to undergo the pioneering CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell) therapy for cancer has been successfully treated at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Janice Baker, from Romiley in Stockport (pictured), was diagnosed with large B-cell lymphoma – a type of cancer of the blood and lymph glands – in April 2018 after feeling unwell for several months. After two bouts of chemotherapy which

didn't manage to successfully treat the cancer, Janice was offered CAR-T therapy, which began in May 2019 and lasted for a couple of weeks.

The therapy is a highly complex new type of immunotherapy which involves collecting and using the patients' own immune cells to target their cancer in a process which is completed over a number of weeks.

MFT is one of a very small number of centres in the UK to offer the revolutionary new treatment, widely

regarded as the most exciting cancer treatment development in decades, in 2018.

Janice, pictured said: "When I heard I was eligible for CAR-T cell treatment I was thrilled as

I had read up about the amazing results and it felt like a real lifeline."



## Trafford Stroke Rehabilitation Unit leaps into national Top 10

Trafford Stroke Rehabilitation Unit (TSRU) at Trafford General Hospital has been ranked among the top 10 Stroke Units in the country according to a national audit body, a significant increase from a previous ranking of 70th.

Zoe Barr, Senior Specialist Physiotherapist at TSRU said: "We're delighted to share the news that Trafford Stroke Rehabilitation Unit has been ranked so highly nationally. The results are a testament to the cohesive team working that seeks to support our

patients, their families and carers during their stay on the ward."

Helen Bennett, Ward Manager added: "As a ward we seek to utilise the skills of the whole team, ensuring that patients receive the specialist stroke care they need to enable them to meet their goals."

## Healthy schools team up with Manchester City to ensure young people still get their immunisations this summer

Young people across Manchester are able to keep up to date with their immunisations at special summer clinics taking place at Manchester City Football Club's Etihad Stadium. When schools closed during the COVID-19 lockdown, the usual immunisation programme that takes place during the term also had to stop.

Manchester Local Care Organisation's healthy schools team has worked to arrange catch up sessions this summer. It will help ensure that children in the city don't miss out on their vital protection which includes the booster HPV vaccine. This protects against a range of cancers and is available to both girls and boys for the first time this year. The sessions are being held at The Etihad Stadium with the kind support of Manchester City who have made the facility available. Up to 6,000 year eight children are expected to come for their immunisations over the summer, invited through a direct letter to parents.



## Mother of MFT nurses thanks Wythenshawe Hospital as she overcomes COVID-19

**Mum of four Greater Manchester nurses and retired care home worker of 18 years, Elsie McMahon (pictured) has expressed her gratitude to staff at Wythenshawe Hospital, for her care and treatment as she overcomes COVID-19 (Coronavirus).**

70-year-old Elsie from Timperley, Trafford was admitted to Wythenshawe Hospital in March after a week of feeling unwell. She tested positive to Coronavirus and chronic viral pneumonia with low oxygen levels whilst in isolation and was nursed in a dedicated COVID-19 ward until she was well enough to return home, free of the virus. Two of Elsie's daughters work for MFT at Wythenshawe Hospital, usually in A6 (Surgical Ward) and Theatres – and were amongst the frontline members of staff treating COVID-19 patients at the Hospital.

Elsie said; "I don't know how they do it, even though you can't see their faces properly, you just know they are smiling at you and they care for you with such grace. From the doctors to the nurses and the cleaners, they are all fantastic... Their sense of humour and uplifting approach is what kept me going."

## MFT signs contract with Epic for ambitious new EPR solution

**MFT has signed a contract with medical software company Epic to provide the Trust's future Electronic Patient Record (EPR) solution – providing all the most up-to-date information about a patient's care at the tap of a screen. The contract signing has taken place following approval of the EPR Full Business Case by MFT's Board of Directors.**

MFT's EPR solution will be one of the most ambitious undertaken in the NHS. The EPR solution, which will be called Hive, will eventually provide a new 'operating system' for MFT which will replace current IT systems, including three existing EPR and Patient Administration Systems (PAS) and several smaller specialty systems.

## MFT leading the way in COVID-19 research and innovation

**MFT is at the cutting-edge of research and innovation (R&I) and continues to improve the health and quality of life of our diverse population by developing and delivering new treatments, innovations, products and services. R&I takes place across our hospitals and clinical specialties providing patients the opportunity to be the first in the UK, Europe, and the world, to take part in research studies.**

During 2019/2020 more than 20,000 participants took part in more than 800 active research studies – 300 starting between April 2019 and March 2020.

From March 2020 the skills, expertise and experience of our staff, coupled with our world-class facilities and hosted R&I infrastructure across Greater Manchester, have been utilised to address the urgent priorities for research and innovation as part of a global, coordinated effort to enhance understanding and develop potential treatment for COVID-19.

More than 25 COVID-19 research studies have opened across MFT's hospitals, with nearly 5000 participants recruited. Along with

patients admitted to our hospitals with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, more than 1200 MFT staff, and their children, have also taken part in studies. Many of these studies were run through the MFT-hosted NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (CRF) with sites at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI), Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH), and Wythenshawe Hospital.

*"The impact of COVID-19 on NHS services cannot be underestimated. That's why it's imperative that the cutting-edge R&I we are proud to have at MFT joins with our academic and clinical partners across Greater Manchester to support the worldwide effort to tackle COVID-19."*

**Sir Michael Deegan**  
MFT Group Chief Executive

The need for urgent priority research saw the expertise of hundreds of scientists and clinicians from MFT, the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group and The University of Manchester come



together as part of the Rapid Response Research Group, chaired by Professor Ian Bruce - Director of the MFT-hosted Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and Professor of Rheumatology at MFT's Kellgren Centre.

A patient from RMCH was the first in the UK to receive antibody rich convalescent plasma as part of the RECOVERY COVID-19 study. Dr Tim Felton, an Honorary Consultant at Wythenshawe Hospital and the MFT clinical lead for COVID-19 research, led the RECOVERY trial at MFT. He co-authored an international peer-reviewed paper indicating that the low-cost drug, dexamethasone, 'significantly lowered' death rates in patients hospitalised with severe respiratory complications of COVID-19.

Professor Neil Hanley, MFT Group Director of R&I, said: "New research studies were accelerated through study set-up, supported by a specially assembled team within R&I. Some of these trials were set up in direct response to COVID-19, while some were 'sleeping studies' - purposefully designed for very fast reactivation during epidemics and pandemics."

## MFT one of the first centres in the UK to offer new cutting edge cancer treatment

**MFT has been named as one of a very small number of centres in the UK to offer a revolutionary new cancer treatment, widely regarded as the most exciting cancer treatment development in decades.**

MFT will be able to offer the ground-breaking treatment to children and adults and is unique

in this regard. Within MFT, the treatment will be delivered in Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and Manchester Royal Infirmary.

CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell) therapy is a personalised medicine used to treat patients with certain types of leukaemia and lymphoma. It is a highly complex new type of immunotherapy which

involves collecting and using the patients' own immune cells to target their cancer in a process which is completed over a number of weeks.

Both hospitals can provide the treatment with immediate effect, with Manchester Royal Infirmary being the first centre in the UK to offer this treatment to young adults with leukaemia.

# Tony Walsh film – Every Child Counts

The premiere of a new film featuring internationally renowned performance poet Tony Walsh was launched in January at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

The film was produced to help celebrate ten years of Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and the words used to narrate the footage had been penned by the famous wordsmith. He was inspired by poignant stories of families from whose children owe their young lives to the hospital's medical teams and staff.

The 10-minute film captures what life at the hospital means to staff, patients and their families, starring those who helped Tony in his initial brainstorming session. Tony Walsh was joined by his fellow co-stars back in January (pictured) to witness the screening premiere in the Hospital's atrium, in support of the hospital charity.

You can watch Tony's film, Every Child Counts here:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-lhphM3mxl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-lhphM3mxl)



## Peninsula Group doubles pledge

In April, Manchester-based global employment law consultancy Peninsula Group promised to double its existing £1million pledge to Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity.

Peninsula announced its original commitment of £1million over 12 months ago, but in the light of recent events around COVID-19, which had made the work of the hospital more challenging than ever, as well as impacting on charitable donations, Peninsula generously decided to double its pledge to £2million.

Peter Done, founder and Group Managing Director of Peninsula, said: "We speak regularly with the representatives of the children's hospital and know they have been working incredibly hard throughout this period to keep the NHS staff going and keep the children safe."

## Generous donors celebrate construction progress on state-of-the-art helipad

Generous donors who supported the appeal to raise funds for the new state-of-the-art helipad at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) attended a 'breaking of the ground' celebration to mark construction work progress in February.

Funding for the helipad was raised by MFT Charity's Time Saves Lives Appeal, which raised a phenomenal £3.9million in just 12 months, thanks to the generosity of its supporters.

Robert Bertram, from the HELP Appeal, and Stephen Lowe, representing The Stoller Charitable Trust, joined MFT Chairman Kathy Cowell OBE DL, and Maurice Watkins CBE, Charitable Fundraising Board Chairman, to see progress on the construction project, with a visit to the roof of MFT's Grafton Street Car Park on Oxford Road where the helipad will be situated.

Individuals, businesses and community groups from across the North West all showed their support for the Appeal. This included a generous donation of £1.3million from the County Air Ambulance Trust's HELP Appeal and £1.1million from the government's LIBOR fines funds in the Chancellor's Budget.

The new helicopter landing site is expected to see an estimated 312 patients airlifted to the site each year. The helipad will enable critically ill or injured babies, children and adults to be airlifted straight to four major MFT hospitals, with a high-level patient transfer corridor connecting the helipad landing site to the hospitals on MFT's Oxford Road Campus.

