Reflections on COVID-19 research
A global research response

- Lots of varied research
- Rapid funding and set-up
- Rapid publication
A global research response

- Lots of *variable* research
- *Rushed* funding and set-up
- Rapid publication *in the media*
UK approach

- Prioritise key projects
- Encourage patient involvement
- Ensure public visibility of research
- Rapid approval and set-up
HRA Service

- Out of hours service
- A dedicated senior approvals advisor
- Bespoke advice on public involvement and signposting
- COVID-19 specific guidance
- Swift access to a Zoom-based REC
How do timelines compare?

**COVID-19 fast-track review**

- **Application received**
- **REC review**
- **Approval given**
- **Study on website**

- 0 days
- 2 days
- 5 days
- 3 days
- 11 days
- 3 days

**Standard review**

- **Application received**
- **REC review**
- **Approval given**
- **Study on website**

- 0 days
- 18 days
- 62 days
- 90 days
- 80 days
- 3 months
Impact: our help to the system

- Liaising across regulators
- Assisting with site set-up
- Pharmacy and radiation assurances
- Providing guidance on proportionate approaches eg monitoring
Reflections

- Study organisation
- Platform trials
- Designs embedded in clinical practice
- Consent
- Diversity of participants
What does a sustainable future model look like?
• The amendments process is often confusing – it needed simplifying and clarifying.
• The tool will help us test and develop how to automate the amendment process within IRAS.
• Amendment tool is supported by all review bodies and is UK wide.
Online booking
• Phone booking was limited to office hours
• Phone booking was restricted by team capacity
• Online booking open 24/365
• Online booking questions replicate previous options
Innovative trial designs

Podcasts to explore innovative trial design and delivery - working with the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

https://soundcloud.com/user-484575643
### Pharmacy Assurance

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Radiation Assurance

☑️ cardiology
☑️ neurology
☑️ oncology
☑️ rheumatology

“Streamlining the process though a central contact and inbox has also taken a lot of the burden away from the research teams. Reviewers are quickly identified, and we are always kept up to date on progress. Overall it has been a very positive experience for our centre.”

Commercial sponsor
Student research – developing proposals

Encourage other ways of learning about research
Set standards for student projects
Place responsibility on HEIs
Transparency Strategy
What is research transparency?

- **Registration**: making it public that a study has started
- **Reporting Results**: making it public what the study has found
- **Informing Participants**: letting those who took part know what the study has found, and
- **Sharing Study Data and Tissue**: enabling further research.
Queries@hra.nhs.uk