

<b>NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde</b>	<b>Paper No. 26/48</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>NHSGGC Board Meeting</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>30 April 2026</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Research and Innovation Annual Report 2025</b>
<b>Sponsoring Director:</b>	<b>Dr Scott Davidson, Executive Medical Director</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Professor Jesse Dawson</b>

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of the attached paper is to:

- Describe Research & Innovation (R&I) key achievements and activity in 2025, areas of strength and priorities for R&I in the coming year.

## 2. Executive Summary

The paper can be summarised as follows:

### Summary of Activity

- 1,000 active studies; ~400 Investigators; activity stable across 2023–2025.
- 8,073 participants recruited in 2025 (15% rise in commercial recruitment; 6% overall increase).

### Key Achievements

- First-in-patient recruitment for major Glasgow-led trials.
- CRDC strengthened significantly: imaging upgrades, aseptic pharmacy expansion, increased nursing, pharmacy and clinical fellow capacity.
- Major expansion in mental health research
- West of Scotland Innovation Hub (WoSIH): strong AI governance, innovation adoption pipeline, multiple national award-winning projects.

### Education & Workforce Development

- “How to be a Great CI” course delivered in Glasgow; 22 delegates.
- “Welcome to Research” Day established for early-career researchers.
- New MSc Clinical Trials and MSc MedTech Innovation programmes with funded NHS places.

## BOARD OFFICIAL

- Survey of research-active clinicians identified needs for protected research time, regulatory support and easier access to funding.

### **Patient & Public Involvement**

- School engagement programmes via WoSIH and Living Lab.
- Improvements to participant experience in Women's Health and Paediatrics
- Research roadshow at the RAH showcasing opportunities for the Clyde-sector.

### **Data, Tissue & Digital Infrastructure**

- West of Scotland Safe Haven supported 77 new data-driven projects, AI evaluation studies, and screening support for trials.
- Biorepository supported ~120 studies; maintained ISO20387 accreditation; expanded digital and tissue-linked research.

### **Innovation Hub Highlights**

- Strategic repositioning to support complex, data-driven innovation.
- Strengthened staffing including Innovation IG/IS, technical architect, sponsor coordination.
- National adoption successes (gentamicin-induced ototoxicity POCT; CYP2C19 testing; ECG patch monitors).
- Major progress across CSO-funded innovation challenges (mental health, HbA1c remote monitoring, overdose detection wearable, asthma tech, menopause digital support, dementia care).

### **Objectives for 2026**

- Improve study set-up speed to meet UK 150-day target.
- Expand early-phase/novel therapy capacity and increase phase 3 recruitment.
- Grow mental health industry-led portfolio and embed the Mood & Wellbeing Clinic.
- Broaden PPIE and QI work
- Strengthen data/tissue/digital infrastructure.
- Deliver new annual R&I conference
- Continue leadership in national research networks.

## **3. Recommendations**

**The NHS Board is asked to consider the following recommendations:**

The Board is asked to note the research and innovation activity, areas for priority and upcoming opportunities

## **4. Response Required**

This paper is presented for **assurance**.

## 5. Impact Assessment

The impact of this paper on NHSGGC's corporate aims, approach to equality and diversity and environmental impact are assessed as follows:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Better Health        | <u>Positive</u> impact |
| • Better Care          | <u>Positive</u> impact |
| • Better Value         | <u>Positive</u> impact |
| • Better Workplace     | <u>Positive</u> impact |
| • Equality & Diversity | <u>Neutral</u> impact  |
| • Environment          | <u>Neutral</u> impact  |

## 6. Engagement & Communications

The issues addressed in this paper were subject to the following engagement and communications activity:

Input & review by R&I Senior management team

## 7. Governance Route

This paper has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development:

Boardwide Clinical Governance Forum- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026  
Clinical and Care Governance Committee- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Corporate Management Team- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## 8. Date Prepared & Issued

Date Prepared: 26 March 2026  
Date Issued: 22 April 2026

# Directorate of Research and Innovation

## Annual Report 2025





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## Foreword

2025 was a year of significant change and development within the Research and Innovation Directorate. I want to thank members of the senior management team and all staff for making me welcome and providing much needed support when I started as R&I Director in February 2025. In particular I would like to thank Chloë Cowan who served as Interim Director and the previous Director, Professor Julie Brittenden, for their guidance.

Partnership has been one of the key themes of 2025; partnership with the University of Glasgow, with the Chief Scientist's Office and other boards across Scotland, with our clinical services, with industry and innovators, and most importantly with the patients and members of the public who support our research.

We recognise the pressures facing our health and social care system and believe passionately that research is the solution. Rapid, safe assessment of new medicines, diagnostics and innovative technologies will support our key corporate objectives of Better Care, Better Health, Better Value, and a Better Workplace.

**Jesse Dawson**

**Director of Research and Innovation**

## Executive Summary of Key Achievements

Research activity across NHSGGC remains strong and stable, with over 1,000 active studies and continued growth in commercial research, including a 15% increase in commercial recruitment and more new commercial trials opening than the previous year.

Glasgow delivered major milestones in investigator-led research, recruiting first participants to high-impact trials such as CLASP, NOVEL, PROTECT and the PHOENIX pharmacogenomics programme, demonstrating strong translational capability across multiple specialties.

The Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) significantly strengthened infrastructure and workforce, including imaging upgrades, aseptic pharmacy expansion, and growth of nursing, pharmacy and clinical fellow capacity, contributing to improved trial performance and national leadership in the new UK CRDC Network.

Mental health research expanded rapidly, supported by membership of the UK Mood Disorders Research Network and UK Dementia Trials Network, enabling new funding, new workforce posts, and Glasgow's first-in-human Alzheimer's disease trial capability. Industry-led trials rose sharply and are expected to increase again in 2026/27.

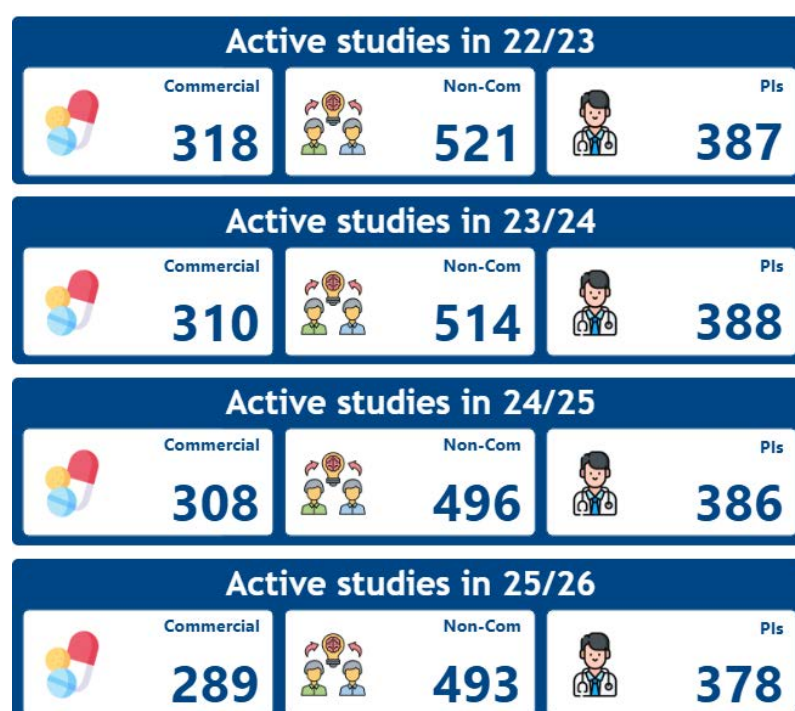
The West of Scotland Innovation Hub (WoSIH) supports innovation across the full pathway, from grant-funded, research-enabled development through to successful referral for national adoption. By aligning clinical, academic, digital and commercial expertise, WoSIH enables NHS Board-level transformation through the safe evaluation and adoption of innovations that address priority service and patient needs. WoSIH also provides system leadership in AI healthcare governance, setting and operationalising robust ethical, legal and regulatory frameworks to support responsible, scalable adoption across the region and nationally.

Education and workforce development strengthened the research ecosystem in several ways, expanding induction and training pathways, and improving routes for early-career researchers to engage in R&I.

Patient and public involvement and participant experience were enhanced, with multiple QI projects improving communication and, especially in Women's Health and Paediatrics, and increased engagement with schools and community partners through the West of Scotland Innovation Hub.

## DELIVERY

NHSGGC has over 1000 active studies (recruiting and in follow-up) across all therapeutic specialties. There are currently 289 commercial studies open to enrolment and 493 non-commercial studies. There are nearly 400 Investigators engaged in clinical research in NHSGGC. These numbers are broadly stable across 2023 to 2025 (figure 1 below).



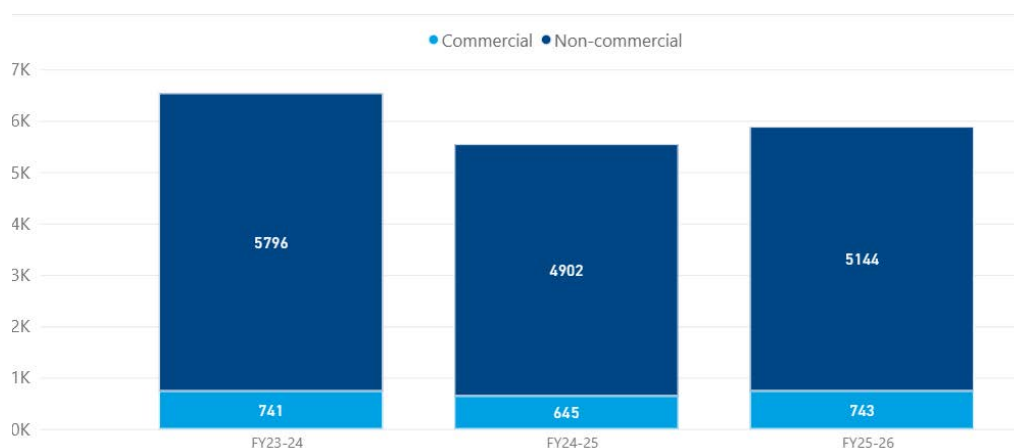
Recruitment in 2025 to studies is summarised in the table below.

	Commercial	Sponsored non-commercial	Hosted non-commercial	TOTAL
CTIMP	292	45	364	701
Non CTIMP	664	1238	5470	7372
TOTAL	956	1283	5834	8073

Recruitment across the first 3 quarters of the previous 3 financial years is shown in figure 2 below (to provide a like for like comparison with previous years). Overall



there was a 6% improvement in enrolment and a 15% increase in commercial trial recruitment (although the number recruited to commercial drug trials has not increased). The number of new commercial clinical trials opened in 25/26 is higher than the like for like period in the previous year (85 vs. 80). The total potential contract value of our commercial clinical trials has increased slightly in the financial year 2025/26.



There are currently 18 studies of Advanced Therapy Investigational Medicinal Products open or in set-up in NHSGGC, covering areas of solid tumour oncology, haematology/rare disease, cardiology and autoimmune indications.

Net commercial income over the past 4 years is shown in table below. Note that the income for 2025/26 is for months one to nine and the comparable figure for last year was £6,094,383.

Summary	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Duration	M1-12	M1-12	M1-12	M1-9
Net commercial income (invoiced)	£8,752,082	£5,902,599	7,868,885	7,284,224

### **Delivery of NHSGGC and University of Glasgow Led Studies**

**First patient first visits for three NHSGGC and University of Glasgow co-sponsored trials.**



- CLASP is a prospective, randomised open-label blinded-endpoint phase 3 multicentre trial with a primary objective to determine whether 5 days of treatment with clarithromycin, in addition to usual non-macrolide antibiotic treatment, for post-stroke pneumonia improves functional outcome at 90 days. Post stroke pneumonia has very high mortality, of approximately 40%. The trial is funded by the NIHR HTA programme with a target of 45 sites to be opened by April 2027 and 1166 participants recruited by November 2028. The first participant was recruited in Glasgow.



- NOVEL is a multicentre single-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial investigating the effects of a drug called NanO2 on brain tissue damage caused by a stroke. The trial involves treating patients diagnosed with a stroke that occurred within the past 9 hours and will involve 8-15 hospitals across the UK. The trial aims to determine if NanO2 can limit damage to brain tissue and improve outcomes for stroke patients. The first participant was recruited in Glasgow.



- PROTECT is a gene-therapy clinical trial sponsored by NHSGGC and the University of Glasgow, with additional partners including the University of Edinburgh and NHS Golden Jubilee. It focuses on improving outcomes for patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). It focuses on improving outcomes for patients undergoing CABG. In the trial, a novel TIMP-3 gene therapy is introduced directly into the grafted vein during surgery. TIMP-3 regulates tissue remodelling and increasing its levels may prevent the graft from thickening or blocking, which is a known complication. The trial is only being conducted in Glasgow and the first participants have been included.



### **The PHOENIX Trial**

- The PHOENIX Trial is a multi-specialty, real-world pharmacogenomics (PGx) clinical trial based at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUEH). The study aims to assess the clinical and health-economic impact of PGx guided prescribing by comparing outcomes in patients who receive genetic-guided drug prescribing versus standard care. The trial targets recruitment of over 2,000 participants by 30 September 2026 and has already enrolled more than 1000 participants.

### **Glasgow Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) Update**

The CRDC continues to strengthen its infrastructure and workforce to support the expanding commercial research portfolio. It is beginning to deliver improvements in our commercial trial performance.

**Infrastructure updates** – We have completed an upgrade to our 3T Magnetic Resonance Imaging system. This particularly enhances our advanced imaging capability in neurological disorders and we are installing new software to support cardiac imaging. Scoping work is underway for the installation of both a wide-bore MRI scanner and a CT scanner, which will expand diagnostic capacity, prolong life span of our equipment, allow imaging of people who cannot traditionally undergo MRI, and bring the latest technologies to Glasgow.

We have also secured funding to expand the aseptic pharmacy team within the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, enabling improved support for oncology services and the delivery of clinical trials of Advanced Therapy Investigational Medicinal Products (ATIMPs).

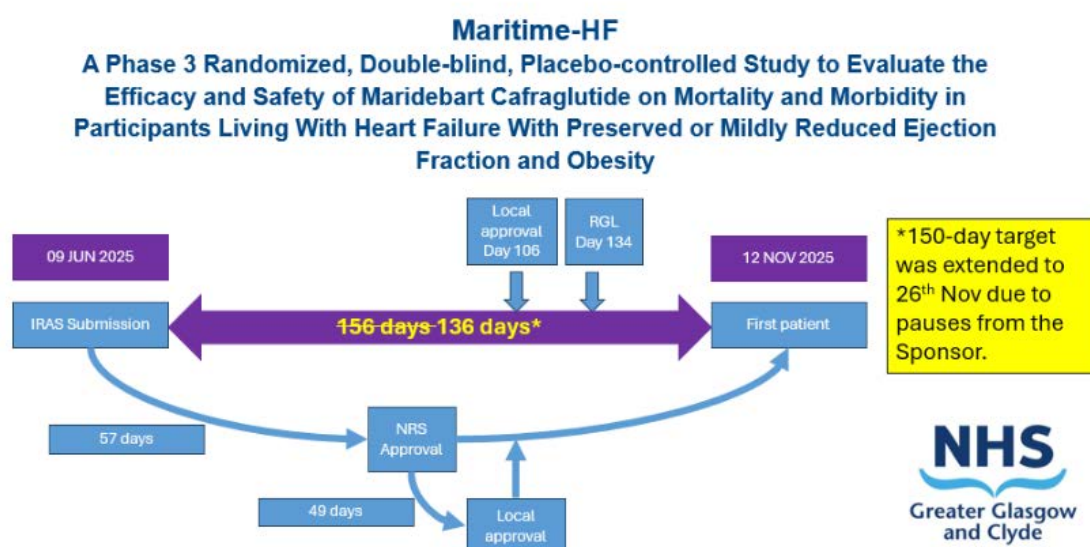
**Workforce Updates** - Significant progress has been made in workforce expansion. A new Commercial Research Manager has been appointed to support study set up and delivery. Research nurse capacity has increased across ATIMPs, respiratory medicine and metabolic disorders, strengthening delivery capability in these high-demand areas. Clinical Fellow numbers have also expanded in oncology and across a range of medical specialties to enhance clinical research leadership and trial delivery.

Consultant sessions have been increased in stroke medicine, respiratory, oncology, diabetes and metabolic disorders, ensuring senior clinical oversight aligns with our expanding study portfolio. Investment in Pharmacy workforce continues, with funding

for additional pharmacists and technicians secured or bid for — including roles supporting aseptic pharmacy in particular — to meet the rising demands of the oncology/haematology and mental health portfolios and delivery of clinical trials involving ATIMPS across all specialties.

## 2025 CRDC Successes

- First European Patient - Children's CRF Clinical Lead and UK Chief Investigator and Glasgow Principal Investigator Dr Ben Reynolds recruited the first patient in Europe to a study exploring the efficacy of a Shiga antitoxin in children with Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome. Glasgow are the top recruiting site in the UK.
- Strategic Partnership site enabling UK deliver above target - Professor Paddy Mark is Glasgow lead for a commercial strategic collaboration in chronic kidney disease trials. The Sponsor approached Prof Mark for Glasgow to contribute to a study already active and recruiting but at risk of not meeting the UK's target. Rapid set up, dedicated fellow and nurse time enabled the study to exceed the UK target, and despite only open for a few months, the rapid recruitment rate meant Glasgow became 6th recruiting site.
- National Chief Investigator (CI) leadership for a cardiometabolic study - Chaired by our National CI Dr Matthew Lee we set up an early collaborative meeting with the trial Sponsor (including lead for the UK and study medical monitor) and key stakeholders to support site set up, patient identification, screening and retention. NHSGGC were able to set up the study and enrol their first participant within the new 150 day timeline and is top recruiting site in the UK. This demonstrates that rapid study set up and recruitment can be achieved.



**Development of Dashboards to Track Performance According to National Metrics** - Dashboards have been created allowing us to track in real time portfolio performance across our commercial and non-commercial portfolio including performance against time to set-up targets (150-day UK target from study submission to first participant), total recruitment and recruitment to target, and performance of individual therapy areas allowing us to better target resource.

## Research Ethics

Our research ethics committees have all been audited with no issues identified. The committees and the leadership team are working to ensure that the timelines required for the UK study set up target are met for studies reviewed in Glasgow.

## The UK CRDC Network

Under the umbrella of the VPAG public-private collaboration, a new UK Network has been commissioned to bring together a comprehensive footprint of Commercial Research Delivery Centres (CRDCs) with the aim of enhancing the UK's attractiveness to industry and accelerating access to innovative treatments for patient. NHSGGC has a key role in the leadership of the network. Built on a federated model, the NIHR £6.5m grant to host the CRDC UK Network was awarded in September 2025. National leadership includes: Prof Melanie Davies (Director), Chloë Cowan (Co-Director, Devolved Administrations), and Prof Lorraine Harper (Clinical Lead).

The Network aims to strengthen the UK's position as a global leader in commercial clinical research by:

- Providing UK-wide coverage through 35 CRDCs embedded in primary, secondary, and specialist healthcare settings.
- Offering a coordinated offer to the CRDC centres —rapid advice, set-up, and delivery of inclusive commercial trials.
- Innovating with industry partners to make the UK the best place to bring clinical research.
- Growing an expert workforce and harness excellence to lead the way in commercial trials delivery.

There are strategic, operational and inclusivity themes and each theme has either two or three Co-Leads. Prof Jesse Dawson is Co-Lead on the Operational Services and Data, Activity and Performance themes. Early impact is being measured through industry engagement events, performance review to targets and early exemplars of best practice. A priority for the CRDC UK network is for UK data integration which includes aligned processes and measurement of the 150 days target (table 2c) for study set up and patient recruitment.

### **Growth of the Mental Health Research Portfolio**

NHSGGC hosts the largest mental health research portfolio in Scotland. The portfolio spans Child & Adolescent, Adult, Older Adult, Forensic, Drug & Alcohol, and Learning Disabilities services. This success is in part due to success in two major national initiatives:

- NIHR Mental Health Translational Research Collaboration (NIHR MH TRC) – joining the UK Mood Disorders Research Network.
- UK Dementia Trials Network (DTN) membership.

These memberships have brought substantial new funding and have expanded access to innovative treatments and research opportunities for GG&C patients. In partnership with the University of Glasgow, NHSGGC secured funding from the NIHR MH TRC to establish the Glasgow Research on Mood and Wellbeing Clinic. This clinic is one of 15 centres forming the UK Mood Disorders Research Network- a national initiative to advance research in mood disorders. It became active in January 2026. Membership of the UK Dementia Trials Network has also facilitated the appointment of an Alzheimer's Society research nurse, provision of research sessions for Consultants and enabled GG&C to successfully bid to support First in Human trials in Alzheimer's Disease for the first time. Building on these developments, industry-led trial activity has increased significantly, with six active trials in 2025/26 and a projected rise to fifteen trials in 2026/27.

Looking ahead, key priorities include sustaining this level of industry-led activity, developing robust research referral pathways, and delivering on research recruitment targets.



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Changes in the workforce to support the commercial trials portfolio is summarised above, along with improvements to our and changes in the West of Scotland Innovation Hub are described in section 6 below.

### **Education and Training**

**How to be a Great Chief Investigator course** - The NIHR How to be a Great CI Workshop was hosted by the University of Glasgow and included a full-day programme designed to strengthen the leadership, operational and strategic capabilities of current and aspiring Chief Investigators. There were 22 delegates from across the UK and Glasgow. The programmes was led by speakers from Glasgow. This included a session on Patient and Public Involvement, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and how to work with the NHS in clinical research. Subsequent sessions highlight lessons from experienced Chief Investigators and group-based work exploring funding and sponsorship challenges before a second panel discussion.

**Expansion and consolidation of research training** - In 2025, GCRF Education Team delivered expansion and consolidation of research training across NHSGGC and the wider NRS/UKCRF networks. We hosted the Welcome to Research Day and Bite Sized virtual training sessions aimed to enhance early-career research engagement. The Welcome to Research Day was an engaging and informative event aimed at fostering the next generation of researchers. This event featured presentations from R&I team leads, a panel discussion, and networking opportunities for those interested in starting a research project. Our goal is to enhance future research capacity by breaking down barriers. The event focused on empowering early-career staff and those curious about research to take the first step toward becoming Principal Investigators. Our Bite sized virtual training sessions complement this by delivering research shore training sessions aimed at supporting those embarking on the NIHR Associate PI Scheme with the practical aspects of research delivery. Early plans are underway to record these sessions to increase availability and accessibility to learning. These events mark a key step in building long-term research capacity.

**Early workforce development** - We have also encouraged early workforce development through structured nursing and medical student placements supported by new dedicated research nurse education champions. The GCRF education team have also supported the Royal College of Nursing to develop research training materials for the King's Nursing Cadets Programme.

**UK Clinical Trial regulations 2025** - With the UK Medicines for Human use (Clinical Trials) (Amendment) Regulations coming into force in April 2026, the education team have been instrumental in preparing staff UK wide to ensure readiness for change. GCRF Education team provided a series of New Legislation webinars, reaching an audience of over 400 researchers across the UK. We have also been responsible

for updating the NRS GCP materials and the delivery of national Train-the-Trainer sessions to ensure Scottish GCP training aligns with new legislative requirements, therefore supporting national quality and uniformity. Collaboration with NIHR and MHRA during this process has been pivotal in ensuring a harmonised approach and consistency of training UK-wide.

**Leadership** - Our leadership was also reflected through contributions to national conferences and representation at national meetings. The Education and quality lead has recently been appointed to UKCRF Network Workforce Development Lead, contributing to and influencing research training and development across the UK. Glasgow CRF education team led a leadership parallel session at the UKCRF Network Conference and have contributed to the design and content of the conference agenda. Our also team sit on multiple working groups of the UKCRF Network, contributing to the development of national learning and support tools.

**MSc Clinical Trials and MSc MedTech Innovation programmes** – Colleagues have been involved in the design and delivery of two new courses at the University of Glasgow which including five fully funded places for NHS staff in both courses. This investment supports future workforce preparedness for the NHS while strengthening capability and partnership across the clinical trials and innovation ecosystem.

**Investigator Engagement and Assessment of Needs** In conjunction with the University of Glasgow's Centre for Excellence in Trials Collaboration, we surveyed all research active clinicians regarding the support they receive, educational needs and areas for improvement. Key themes included the need for clearer pathways to secure protected research time, persistent challenges in accessing research funding, and difficulties navigating regulatory approvals. Respondents also highlighted the substantial effort required for grant applications, for which support is available through the NHS R&I Management Office and CETC's Trial Application Prioritisation Committee, alongside CETC drop-in sessions. The survey further identified strong demand for training and resources, with opportunities available through NHS Research Scotland and CETC's ongoing capacity-building events and monthly newsletter. The organisations remain committed to using this feedback to strengthen support for clinical researchers across NHS GGC.



## INCLUSION AND PATIENT CENTRED DELIVERY

### **Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) activities**

The West of Scotland Innovation Hub collaborated with our colleagues at The University of Glasgow's Living Lab and Glasgow Science Centre to deliver an engaging work experience programme for pupils from local Govan High Schools. Over the course of three days pupils, the pupils gained experience of working in a lab setting, imaging department, and Research and Innovation Office, completing tasks designed to give them first-hand experience of working within the innovation sphere.



Additionally, the hub team took part in a careers speed dating event with local high school pupils to help them explore the variety of different careers available to them in a healthcare setting.

We work in partnership with the Centre for Excellence in Trials Collaboration and co-fund their activities. They provide support is available to all researchers across the University and the NHS, including those working in basic science or discovery research to ensure patient and public involvement is at the heart of our activities. They run drop in sessions for researchers and provide training and review of documents which is a valuable resource for researchers.

**Research roadshow at RAH –** We held a Glasgow Clinical Research Facility event at the Royal Alexandra Hospital on 27 May 2025. This was designed to showcase research projects supported by the facility and highlight the teams involved in delivering them. The roadshow gave staff an opportunity to explore ongoing research activity, meet expert teams, learn about current initiatives, and understand how to become involved in clinical research across the Clyde sector. The Education & Quality Team encouraged attendance to help shape the future of healthcare research within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

**Improving Participant Experience -** The Glasgow Clinical Research Facility team carried out several Quality Improvement (QI) projects focused on enhancing the participant experience in clinical research. The Women's Health team evaluated parental experiences of being approached for research within the neonatal unit, recognising that this often occurs during a highly emotional and challenging time. A survey was conducted to gather feedback on communication, approach, and consent processes. Key themes centred on improving communication and timing, leading to several recommendations to inform future neonatal research practice.

The Paediatric team also completed a QI initiative, developing a feedback questionnaire to improve experiences within the children's CRF. Thirty-four respondents (29 parents, 5 participants) took part, with feedback being positive and staff frequently highlighted as a key strength. A few quotes are included below



An informative booklet has now been designed to help families understand what to expect during a research visit has been developed with the aims to improving communication, alleviating anxiety, and supporting a more positive and informed experience for both children and their caregivers.



## OPTIMISING TISSUE AND DATA

### **West of Scotland Safe Haven**

The West of Scotland Safe Haven (WoS-SH) enables data-driven and data-supported research by providing access to a wide range of CHI-linked secondary care datasets relating to the NHSGGC population. This extensive data resource supports a diverse portfolio of activity, including retrospective real-world data analyses, innovation initiatives, and clinical trial delivery. In 2025, the WoS-SH initiated 77 new feasibilities, grant applications, projects, dataset imports and clinical trial support activities, in addition to continuing support for projects ongoing from previous years.

Collaboration remains central to the WoS-SH operating model. Within NHSGGC, partnerships include the Biorepository, the CRIF West of Scotland Innovation Hub, the Clinical Research Facility, and eHealth teams. Externally, the WoS-SH works closely with the University of Glasgow, the Scottish Safe Haven Network (SSHN) and Research Data Scotland (RDS), enabling ongoing development of capability to support high-quality data-driven research.

A particularly significant partnership is the close collaboration between the WoS-SH and the West of Scotland Innovation Hub. As interest in data-driven research and artificial intelligence continues to grow, the WoS-SH has supported numerous innovation-led projects, including 20 initiated in 2025. These include AI evaluation, development and validation studies (such as SOPRANO and SEARCH-ED), risk-stratification initiatives (such as PRESIDE), and pharmacogenomics-focused clinical trials (such as PHOENIX). PHOENIX not only delivers a novel approach to patient treatment but also incorporates a pivotal role for the WoS-SH in recruitment support through a semi-automated screening process developed within the Safe Haven, reducing burden on trial teams and enhancing recruitment efficiency.

The WoS-SH also continues to collaborate closely with the University of Glasgow, including through the Living Lab programme. Notably, the Radiogenomics initiative is supported via data pseudonymisation and secure data provision. The forthcoming University of Glasgow Trusted Research Environment (TRE) will represent a major new collaboration in 2026, particularly with the launch of six exemplar projects.

Clinical trial and clinical research support formed a major component of WoS-SH activity in 2025. Support for commercial trials generated considerable interest, with the WoS-SH providing feasibility assessments (including PACIFIC and LILAC) and screening support (including THARROS and PACIFIC). The NHSGGC–University of Glasgow co-sponsored CLASP trial also received screening support. The WoS-SH further contributed to follow-up analyses and secondary research questions (such as PRECISE) and baseline evidence for grant applications. Public health–related

projects, including ACCEPT and CHARISMA, continue to be an important part of the portfolio.

Throughout 2025, the WoS-SH maintained active involvement in the SSHN, coordinated by RDS. Membership strengthened relationships among regional Safe Havens (DaSH, DataLoch, HIC and WoS-SH) and the National Safe Haven, enabling shared development of Scotland's health data infrastructure, including work toward Scotland-wide Safe Haven support for clinical trials. Key developments included progress on federated governance pathways, a Memorandum of Understanding signed by participating health boards, the development of pilot governance and approval processes, and the launch of initial pilot projects—such as MACCS (led by the National Safe Haven) and ICU and cardiovascular studies (led by DataLoch).

Support from NHSGGC's eHealth and Diagnostics Directorates has been essential, particularly for imaging-related projects, given ongoing national infrastructure challenges. Their collaboration has ensured continued delivery of critical imaging datasets required across the WoS-SH portfolio.

### **Biorepository Update**

During 2025 NHSGGC Biorepository supported 70 fresh tissue studies and around 50 Pathology based studies – of which approximately 15% had a Digital Pathology requirement building on workflow and capabilities for the use of AI in Pathology.

The Biorepository works closely with colleagues in the West of Scotland Innovation Hub and the West of Scotland Safe Haven to support large scale linked tissue and data studies.

The Biorepository continues to offer central laboratory support for national clinical trials as well as the ongoing delivery of the University of Glasgow Living Laboratory projects.

NHSGGC maintained accreditation to ISO20387:2018 and continue to build industry collaborations for the provision of fresh tissue as a result of this recognition for Quality Standards. Under the umbrella of CRUK Scotland and alongside colleagues in Lothian, NHSGGC Biorepository are working closely on a number of joint tissue delivery projects and building pathways to facilitate better linkage that will hopefully extend across the four National Biorepositories.

## NOVEL MEDICINES AND TECHNOLOGY

The number of Advanced Therapy clinical trials hosted within NHSGGC continues to grow and includes in-vivo and ex-vivo gene therapies and other cellular therapy products. There are 30 ATIMP trials open or in follow-up currently with 4 others in set-up. 20 participants were enrolled to these studies in 2025. Expansion is being seen in many therapy areas including mental health, cardiovascular and rheumatology/immunology diseases.

NHSGGC is a core Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre network partner, heavily involved across national coordination, trial delivery, funding management, impact reporting, and workforce development. NHSGGC provides regular updates to the Scottish ATTC Steering Group, leads on pharmacy and clinical operational elements for ATIMP trials, contributes to multiple workstreams, and supports impact reporting for Catapult/NIHR. NHSGGC remains one of Scotland's most active and influential ATIMP-delivering boards.

## WEST OF SCOTLAND INNOVATION HUB

The West of Scotland Innovation Hub (WoSIH) supports the development, funding, and implementation of impactful healthcare innovation across the West of Scotland. Hosted by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and working in partnership with six NHS Boards, 14 Health and Social Care Partnerships, academia, industry, and citizens, the Hub provides access to real-world NHS test-bed environments, specialist expertise, and robust governance to accelerate safe and effective innovation.

During 2024/25, WoSIH underwent a period of strategic change to better align its core-funded resources with the increasingly complex legal, ethical, and regulatory landscape associated with healthcare innovation. This repositioning has strengthened the Hub's ability to support research-enabled innovation and service evaluation, particularly around emerging and data-driven technologies.

As a result, WoSIH is building a strong pipeline of impactful, evidence-based solutions, supporting early- and late-stage innovation, evaluation, and scale-up. This ensures that new technologies are introduced safely and effectively, helping patients access the right care, at the right time, while delivering benefits for the NHS workforce and the Scottish economy.

**Development of Innovation Hub Staffing and Capability** – The Innovation Hub has strengthened its staffing and capability through the addition of a Programme Manager, expanded Innovation Sponsor coordination, an Innovation Technical Architect, and dedicated Innovation IG and Cybersecurity management. This enhanced capacity improves integration with Digital Services, supports a growing innovation portfolio, and ensures compliance with data governance and security standards and legislation. Collectively, this enables the rapid development, evaluation and adoption of high-impact digital and innovation solutions from research and innovation into healthcare delivery, improving patient access to the right care at the right time.

WoSIH has developed and operationalised robust AI governance group including frameworks to support the safe, ethical and legally compliant development, evaluation and adoption of AI in healthcare. In collaboration with the digital directorate this has led to the establishment of an NHS GGC AI Governance Policy and the inclusion of clear information on the deployment & monitoring of AI within healthcare. Updated public privacy notices include information about our approach to AI evaluation and deployment.

### Key Successes

National Adoption “Once for Scotland” - With a very active innovation portfolio in the West of Scotland there have been several applications put forward For national adoption via Centre for Sustainable Delivery support.



Project Title	Project Lead	Status
<b>Pharmacogenetics: A Point of Care Test (POCT) for neonates</b> to prevent the permanent hearing loss caused by gentamicin-induced ototoxicity	Dr Neil Patel and Dr Helen McDevitt (NHS GGC) lead on the submission for POCT for Neonates.	NHSGGC was the first site to roll out the POCT test in NHS Scotland as Phase 1 of the implementation. Roll out will follow across all other sites in NHS Scotland
<b>Pharmacogenetics: A lab-based test CYP2C19 Genotype Testing</b> to identify stroke and TIA patients who are resistant to Clopidogrel	Dr Alex Doney (NHS Tayside)	Value Case approved by IDA and Funding Letter received 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024. NHSGGC are working toward implementation in 2026.
<b>ECG Patch Monitors</b> Adoption of adhesive single lead ECG patches for post cryptogenic stroke and TIA patients. Provides the opportunity to develop a national remote diagnostic service for Atrial Fibrillation (AF) which is predicted to prevent 689 recurrent strokes and deliver £14.6 million resource savings for NHS Scotland over five years	Dr Faheem Ahmad (NHS GGC)	Value has been reviewed and supported and implementation is aimed for 2026.

The Innovation, Medicines, Prevention and Care Technology (IMPACT) portfolio delivered significant progress across multiple **CSO-funded Open Innovation Challenges** and grant-supported programmes.

Remote HbA1c Monitoring advanced Scotland's shift toward virtual diabetes care through validated self-testing kits, NHS system integration, and reduced pressure on primary care. The Mental Health SBRI programme delivered a scalable digital platform supporting earlier engagement, streamlined assessments, and improved access for conditions including eating disorders and ADHD, while the ASSESSOR

project progressed development of a low-cost wearable sensor for early overdose detection. Additional SBRI initiatives supported proactive dementia care through a patient-facing digital solution; near-patient bilirubin testing to reduce neonatal admissions; remote asthma management using connected inhaler technology; and improved menopause support through co-designed digital therapeutics.

**Grant-funded programmes** included FAMOS, which established safe, scalable AI deployment infrastructure for imaging workflows; PRESIDE, which used risk-stratified data to optimise Type 2 diabetes treatment and reduce inequalities; and the PARS respiratory monitoring feasibility study for paediatric safety.

**Commercial collaborations** with Medtronic, Boehringer Ingelheim, and Qure.ai supported innovation in neonatal respiratory monitoring, multidisciplinary HFpEF care, and AI-assisted lung cancer detection, collectively enhancing patient outcomes, supporting more proactive models of care, and strengthening workforce capacity across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

### **Engagement activities**

The team held our first ever Heath Tech Innovation event as part of Glasgow Tech week in late 2024, where we welcomed around 100 delegates from the industry, academia, and the public sector to highlight some of the key projects and technologies being supported by the West of Scotland Innovation Hub.

During the 2024-2025 reporting period The West of Scotland Innovation Hub welcomed delegations from the following institutions.

- University of Agder , Norway
- North Estonia Medical Centre, Estonia
- Washington University and BioSTL, USA
- The Diagnostics Development Hub (DxD), Singapore
- A Regional Collaboration for Health (ARCH), Wales

### **Awards**

Innovation projects involving the Hub were shortlisted for multiple industry recognised awards during 2024-25. The following awards were won:

- 2025 Scotland's Life Sciences Conference & Awards:
  - Innovation – Health Technology Award: Red Star Fracture Liaison Service
  - Innovative Collaboration Award: MR CoilTech
- 2025 Digital Health and Care Awards
  - Digital Service Transformation Award: Transforming Fracture Care Delivery with Red Star Fracture Liaison Service



## KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2026

In 2026, we will focus on strengthening the efficiency, impact and visibility of research across NHSGGC. We will work to accelerate study set-up and delivery, ensuring consistent achievement of the UK 150-day benchmark, while expanding capacity for early-phase and novel therapies, and grow the numbers we enrol in phase 3 clinical trials. We will build on the rapid growth of the mental health research portfolio by embedding the new Glasgow Research on Mood and Wellbeing Clinic into clinical pathways and supporting further expansion of industry-led trials. Workforce development will remain central, with enhanced training for aspiring Chief Investigators and targeted growth of specialist research posts across high-demand areas. We will also prioritise improvements to participant experience, broadening QI initiatives and strengthening PPIE involvement across R&I. Continued modernisation of data, tissue and digital research infrastructure will support high-quality, data-driven research delivery. Finally, we will expand our leadership role in UK-wide research networks, deliver a new annual R&I conference, and strengthen the Innovation Hub's role in accelerating safe, evidence-based adoption of emerging technologies within NHSGGC.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Research activity across NHSGGC remains strong and stable, with over 1,000 active studies and continued growth in the commercial portfolio, including rises in both recruitment and new trial openings. Glasgow achieved major milestones in investigator-led research, delivering first participants to several high-impact trials and demonstrating broad translational strength. Significant investment in CRDC infrastructure and workforce has improved performance and reinforced Glasgow's leadership role nationally. The mental health research portfolio expanded rapidly through major national network memberships, new funding, and the launch of first-in-human dementia studies, with further industry-led growth expected. Education and workforce development continue to strengthen the research environment, while patient and public involvement has been enhanced through targeted QI work and wider community engagement. Together, these achievements reflect a robust, forward-looking research ecosystem well-positioned for continued growth and innovation in 2026.