

iREACH HEALTH

Welcome to the first edition of the **iREACH Health** newsletter, showcasing the progress towards building our new world-class facilities and our wider ongoing work in our current delivery phase in preparation for Opening in 2027.

iREACH Health is led by Queen's University Belfast in partnership with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Health and Social Care Research and Development Division. As part of this development, Celerion will relocate its U.K. Phase 1 clinical research operations to the facility, positioning it at the forefront of clinical research innovation.

Our activities aim to accelerate clinical trial delivery, strengthen industry partnerships, and improve patient access to high-quality research through collaborative innovation, enhanced facilities, and inclusive workforce development - driving growth in Northern Ireland.

MAKING NORTHERN IRELAND A REGION OF CHOICE FOR CLINICAL TRIALS



Construction began in February 2025 on our £64 million world-class clinical research centre. Set across two sites the new facilities will be located at 38-52 Lisburn Road, Belfast, close to the University and Belfast City Hospital. iREACH Health is scheduled to open Spring 2027; see the progress of the site in our footage here

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE: STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDINGS



With the build underway the iREACH Health hoarding messages feature prominently on the Lisburn Road. As an industry, academic and Health and Social Care facility, iREACH Health will build a more connected healthcare research ecosystem that will deliver economic, health and well-being benefits for patients and staff.



PARTNERSHIPS



Mr Chris Hagan (Medical Director, BHSCT) & Prof Judy Bradley (CEO iREACH HEALTH).



Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

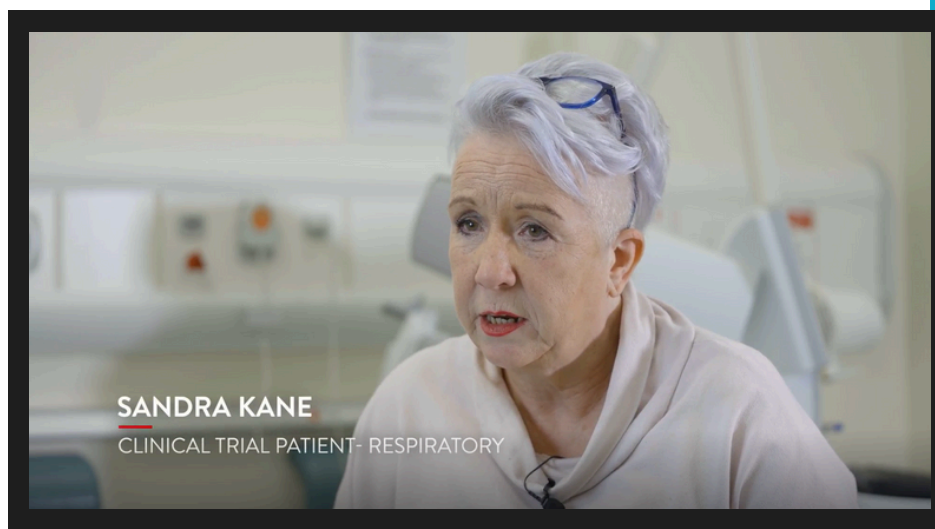
In August a key step was taken with the signing of the MoU between Queen's University Belfast and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. This document sets out the key principles of collaborative working in the development and establishment of the iREACH Health programme, which will foster a strong, collaborative research ecosystem and drive improved economic and health and social care outcomes for the future benefit of all.

THE DELIVERY PLATFORM FOR BOTH INDUSTRY AND INVESTIGATOR LED TRIALS

NICRF @ iREACH Health

The NICRF currently has studies active or in set-up stage across Respiratory health, Gastrointestinal, Renal, Vision Science, Rheumatology, Neurology, Dementia, Public Health, and Cancer. This clinical trial activity will relocate and grow in iREACH Health with state-of-the-art research facilities, an expanded workforce and enhanced access for patients, clinicians and industry.

Clinical trials in the NICRF are addressing important healthcare challenges and helping to provide treatments. Hear one patient's story of how their life benefited from clinical research.



IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR
2024/25
THE NICRF
HAS SUPPORTED

ACTIVE
STUDIES

35



STUDIES
IN SET-UP



16

Sandra's is just one
story - see more here

NIHR FUNDED TRIAL DELIVERS PRACTICE- CHANGING RESULTS

Hosted at NICRF @ iREACH Health (a QUB and BHSCT facility) and led by Professor Judy Bradley, Lead Physiotherapy Investigator and CEO of iREACH Health, the NIHR-funded CLEAR trial - the UK's largest study of non-CF bronchiectasis - found no benefit in prescribing hypertonic saline or carbocisteine. These findings will inform future guidelines, optimise resources, and highlight the power of inclusive, high-impact research. Through iREACH Health, Northern Ireland is driving clinical research that delivers real-world health, economic, and societal impact.

Read the full story on our website.

Bradley JM, O'Neill B, McAuley D, et al. Hypertonic saline or carbocisteine in bronchiectasis. N Engl J Med



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

EVENTS

Lewis J Hurwitz Memorial Lecture keynote speaker Professor Melanie Davies (4th from left), pictured with (L-R): Professor Danny McAuley, Professor Liam Heaney, Professor Judy Bradley, Professor Alan Smyth, and Honorary Professor Matt Rowland

Last month the iREACH Health team hosted the annual Lewis J Hurwitz Memorial Lecture. The lecture was delivered by keynote speaker Professor Melanie Davies, Professor of Diabetes Medicine, University of Leicester, entitled "Crafting commercial partnerships which deliver for patients".

The event also featured presentations from industry and academic leaders working at the interface of academia, industry and health care as well as presentations from the shortlisted candidates for the iREACH Health sponsored 2025 Collaborative Industry Clinical Trial Award. We're excited to further collaborate with the rising stars within this space, and look forward to hosting more events like this in the future.



Panel members pictured left to right: Dr Matt Rowland (Novartis), Dr Rhonda Campbell (HSC R&D Division), and Professor Liam Heaney (Queen's University Belfast), who shared insights from industry, funders, and academia during a Q&A session



Delegates, including award recipient Dr Joseph Kane, watch attentively as Professor Melanie Davies delivers the Lewis J Hurwitz Memorial Lecture

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 COLLABORATIVE INDUSTRY CLINICAL TRIAL AWARD WINNERS - PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: DR DERMOT LINDEN, DR JOSEPH KANE AND DR CATHERINE HANNA.



iREACH Health - INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

The recent workshop brought together representatives from iREACH Health tenants from Celerion, Evolve, and the NICRF for a lively and positive discussion on how best to maximise the potential of the iREACH Health ecosystem to drive world class research and improved health outcomes.

There was clear excitement about the opportunities ahead, with strong alignment on the importance of clear messaging about iREACH Health's role, developing joint training and infrastructure, and streamlining governance to support industry partnerships. Participants also explored future focus areas and how improved coordination can strengthen patient recruitment and clinical delivery. The energy and commitment in the room underlined the shared ambition to build a leading ecosystem that benefits research, industry and patients across the region. [Click here](#) to learn more about our tenants and offering.



Left to Right: Professor Stuart Elborn (QUB), Dr Niall Shields (iREACH Health), Bernie Boyle (iREACH Health), Professor Judy Bradley (iREACH Health), Philip Bach (EVP, Global Clinical Research - Celerion), Fiona McNeilly (Site Director - Celerion), John Horkulak (VP Corporate Development - Celerion), Vanessa Brown (Lab Manager - Evolve)

PERSONAL AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

iREACH Health is committed to working with partners on Personal and Public Involvement in Research. HSC Research and Development Division have launched a new initiative. See the flyer and follow the link to play your part to strengthen, improve and understand the priorities for PPI in Health and Social Care research across Northern Ireland.

Have your say on Personal and Public Involvement in Research

Please complete the survey to help us find out more about PPI

Involvement Matters

Complete the survey to have your say on the future of Personal and Public Involvement in Health and Social Care research in Northern Ireland.

This will help strengthen, improve and understand **PPI** priorities in **#HSCResearch** across Northern Ireland.





James Lind Alliance
In association with



HSC Public Health Agency
Research and Development

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

iREACH Health is committed to training and education to build upon the renowned reputation for excellence in clinical trials at QUB and in Northern Ireland. The short course [“Delivering Clinical Trials: from Protocol to Patient”](#) is open for applications until 17.11.25. [FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE.](#)



Participant feedback from 2024/25 courses highlighted significant improvements in knowledge and confidence across key areas of clinical trial design and execution, including trial set-up and optimising recruitment. Attendees appreciated the practical, experience-driven teaching methods and the balance of content delivered during the course.

QUB now also offer a full time MSc in [BIOMEDICAL AND CLINICAL RESEARCH](#), beginning for the Academic Year 2026/27. This research-intensive MSc equips future scientists and clinicians to tackle global healthcare challenges through high-impact research, advancing patient care and emerging therapies.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Whether you are a patient, student, researcher or a member of the public click above to learn more about how you can get involved in iREACH Health.

