

# 'NeurOdeGenerative Active Partnerships (NOGAP): Enabling access to Neurodegenerative research'

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**Martin Booth<sup>3</sup> - NOGAP Research Coordinator**

## Background

To ensure that patients and carers have access to high-quality Neurodegenerative research across North Staffordshire, the NeurOdeGenerative Active Partnership (NOGAP) was developed.

NOGAP was set up initially in October 2015 as a pilot project, with the aim to build a joint working relationship between two local Trusts, a Mental Health Trust; North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT) and an Acute Hospital; University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM).

NOGAP works to demonstrate how working together closes the gaps and strengthens access and information to Neurodegenerative research.

## Aims

To increase capability & capacity to deliver and develop high-quality Neurodegenerative research across North Staffordshire, building a partnership between North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT) and University of North Midlands (UHNM).

## Objectives

- To complete feasibility and deliver Neurodegenerative Research studies jointly across the two Trusts to enhance capabilities and capacity;
- To share resources and expertise across the two Trusts to deliver and develop collaborative Neurodegenerative Research and Evaluation;
- To further develop the joint working Research Coordinator role to enhance and facilitate partnership working and engagement across the Trusts;
- To build external engagement and collaborative links with other local NHS organisations, charities and Universities.

## Impact

### Commercial Development Impact

The established Neurodegenerative Active Partnership (NOGAP) team recently opened their first joint study, after the two NHS Trusts joined together in submitting feasibilities and expressions of interest. Since the joint working approach began in 2015 within Neurodegenerative Research NOGAP have increased Commercial Development site selection & activity by 300% and feasibility & expressions of interest by 500%.

### Awards

The new joint working team, set up by Emily Howard, Senior Research Sister at UHNM, and Kerri Mason, Researcher at NSCHT, has been recognised at the Clinical Research Network (CRN) West Midlands annual awards 2016, winning the 'Collaboration in Research' award. The team was also commended at the 2016 UHNM 'A Night Full of Stars' staff awards, winning the 'Research Impact Award'.



Collaboration in Research Award – CRN WM



Research Impact Award – UHNM

### Range of studies offered within Dementia Research

The NOGAP team offer patients and carers the opportunity to access a range of studies including; Genetic, Observational, Clinical Trials and evaluation & development opportunities. Working together to deliver research has added value in opening up recruitment across two sites, and for existing studies explored the potential of joint working as identification centre to enhance recruitment further.

## Case Study

The Research Coordinator role was created to enable the development of joint working relationships between NSCHT and UHNM - a collaboration of specialties, expertise and knowledge to deliver high-quality Neurodegenerative research.

Martin Booth, Research Coordinator, who holds the established role within the NOGAP team says "When I was appointed to the role a lot of work took place behind the scenes. This included engagement and strengthening collaboration between the two Trusts, in order to build fluid working relationships between UHNM and NSCHT R&D clinical teams to offer these specialised clinical trials"

The Research Coordinator role facilitates research delivery coordination and engagement of specialist services such as; R&D, Commercial Development team, MRI, Pathology, Consultant Psychiatrist and Neurodegenerative research delivery teams.

## Next steps for NOGAP

### Scoping out Neurodegenerative Research

Over the next 12 months the NOGAP team aim to utilise the joint expertise, enabling a wider scope of research areas within Neurodegenerative research, including Brain Injury & Parkinson's, Disease. The team further aim to begin to develop the governance aspects of NOGAP further to better streamline and coordinate research development and delivery.

### NOGAP Research Development

Building on the lessons learnt and the engagement from the research delivery aspects of NOGAP the team aim to begin to work collaboratively on bids, tenders and clinician-led research developments, to further strengthen the NOGAP working.

**Acknowledgements:** UHNM & NSCHT R&D Team, Lynn Forrester, NSCHT Older Peoples Directorate, UHNM Support Services and CRN West Midlands

## NOGAP – A Collaborative Approach to Research



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Feasibility &amp; Expressions of Interest Submitted</li> <li>Two Trust governance process aligned</li> <li>Set up process aligned i.e. Joint Site Initiation Visits &amp; set up meetings</li> <li>Joint Site Recruitment Targets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint Screening activity i.e. recruiting from both Hospitals &amp; Trusts</li> <li>Shared resource's and expertise to deliver research</li> <li>Shared Research Coordinator</li> <li>Shared services - Memory Clinic and Support Services i.e. MRI, Pathology</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NOGAP joint research forum</li> <li>Joint engagement with Universities, Primary Care, Charities and Organisations</li> <li>Award Application and Nominations – submitted jointly</li> <li>Joint Aims &amp; Objectives</li> <li>Trust &amp; Cooperation</li> </ul> |
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Increase access to Neurodegenerative Research

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