



# An Overview of On-going Research at NIHR Leeds BRC April 2017

For more information on any of the research projects, please contact the Named Contact of that study,  
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## General rheumatic conditions.....



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
MUSCLE	Muscle wasting is recognised in people with arthritis. The reason for this is not fully understood. For the MUSCLE study (MRI and US Clinical Evaluation of muscle pathology), we hope to fine tune techniques using MRI and Ultrasound to get the best images of muscles, using scans to study muscles in a variety of rheumatic conditions. This will involve participants with no muscle conditions as well as those with rheumatic conditions.	Dr Ai Lyn Tan <a href="mailto:a.l.tan@leeds.ac.uk">a.l.tan@leeds.ac.uk</a>
Tran-scriptome	It is very useful for medical teams to be able to test their patient's immune function either to help make a diagnosis or to help choose the most suitable therapy. However, currently there are no practical methods for testing our immune system. In a previous study our research team developed a test that extracts RNA from the blood to produce a detailed picture of gene activity. We have tested this on just one group of patients so now we are testing this same method on a wider range of patients who are known to have varying degrees of immune function, this includes patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and lupus.	Prof Maya Buch <a href="mailto:m.buch@leeds.ac.uk">m.buch@leeds.ac.uk</a>
Elast-ography	Investigation of ultrasound elastographic techniques, including shear wave elastography, in the assessment of soft tissue pathology including muscle and tendon injury and soft tissue sarcomas	Dr Philip Robinson <a href="mailto:Philip.robinson10@nhs.net">Philip.robinson10@nhs.net</a>



## Rheumatoid arthritis.....



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
R4-RA	<p>There are a number of options for treatment following on from anti-TNF therapy, however there is currently no clear rationale for deciding which treatment is superior in patients who have initially failed anti-TNF therapy. This study aims to investigate whether the choice of drug treatment may be influenced by different cell types in synovial tissue (tissue which lines joints and becomes inflamed in people with RA). This will hopefully provide evidence for stratifying patients into different treatment groups following anti-TNF therapy. The ultimate aim is to provide a tailored approach to treatment decisions in patients at this stage of their disease, in order to maximise their potential to respond to therapy.</p>	<p>Prof Maya Buch <a href="mailto:m.buch@leeds.ac.uk">m.buch@leeds.ac.uk</a></p>
RA-Strap	<p>It is clear that a “one size fits all” strategy does not work when choosing the most effective drug for ongoing treatment of RA in patients for whom conventional disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) have failed. In this trial, we will be investigating three biologic drugs called Etanercept, Rituximab and Tocilizumab. The aim of this trial is to investigate whether the most effective choice of drug treatment may be predicted by different cell types in synovial tissue, which lines joints and becomes inflamed in people with RA.</p>	<p>Prof Maya Buch <a href="mailto:m.buch@leeds.ac.uk">m.buch@leeds.ac.uk</a></p>
BSRBR-RA (BRAGGS)	<p>BSRBR-RA and BRAGGS are two interlinked studies. Participants take part in one or both of these studies. The BSRBR-RA study is an observational study which aims to assess whether some of the new treatments used in the treatment of rheumatic conditions have a greater risk of serious side effects and long term health problems than established treatments. Whereas, the BRAGGS study looks at whether clinical, serological, genetic and psychological factors influence arthritis, or the body’s response to treatment.</p>	<p>Prof Maya Buch <a href="mailto:m.buch@leeds.ac.uk">m.buch@leeds.ac.uk</a></p>



## Rheumatoid arthritis.....



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TURA	In collaboration with Abbvie, we have established an international multicentre trial, the Targeted Ultrasound in Rheumatoid Arthritis (TURA) study. Thirteen sites have been initiated across eight countries to recruit 400 patients to investigate ultrasound detected synovitis as a primary determinant for treatment escalation.	Prof Maya Buch <a href="mailto:m.buch@leeds.ac.uk">m.buch@leeds.ac.uk</a>
RADAR	This is an observational study of patients who have just received an arthritis diagnosis which investigates issues that determine remission and progression of the condition.	Dr Ai Lyn Tan <a href="mailto:a.l.tan@leeds.ac.uk">a.l.tan@leeds.ac.uk</a>



## Prevention of rheumatoid arthritis.....



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
CCP	This is an observational study of people who have musculoskeletal pain to determine whether having a positive (ACPA) blood result, means that they are more likely to develop Rheumatoid Arthritis. We are also investigating close relatives of people with RA. The study looks at investigating the risk factors of those who may develop Rheumatoid Arthritis and to see if we can prevent them from developing the disease.	Dr Kulveer Mankia <a href="mailto:k.s.mankia@leeds.ac.uk">k.s.mankia@leeds.ac.uk</a>  Dr Jackie Nam <a href="mailto:j.nam@leeds.ac.uk">j.nam@leeds.ac.uk</a>
APIPPRA	Research has shown that a combination of joint pain (arthralgia) and the presence of specific antibodies in the blood can identify people at high risk of developing Rheumatoid Arthritis. This study investigates the effects of treating these people using a drug called abatecept ( already licensed for treatment of patients with established Rheumatoid Arthritis) to better understand the immune and inflammatory responses at the earliest detectable stages of the disease.	Dr Jackie Nam <a href="mailto:j.nam@leeds.ac.uk">j.nam@leeds.ac.uk</a>  Dr Kulveer Mankia <a href="mailto:kulveer.mankia@nhs.net">kulveer.mankia@nhs.net</a>
PREVENT RA	This study will look at genetic, environmental, and other factors to understand what makes people more or less likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis in people who are first degree relatives of those diagnosed with RA. This will be done using questionnaires and blood tests.	Dr Kulveer Mankia <a href="mailto:kulveer.mankia@nhs.net">kulveer.mankia@nhs.net</a>



## Psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis...

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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
GOLMePsA	Psoriatic Arthritis( PsA) is initially treated using a group drugs called Disease Modifying Anti Rheumatic Drugs. This does not work for everyone. The study looks at combining a DMARD called Methotrexate with Golimumab. This is a Biologics drug prescribed only after the use of a number of DMARDs has failed. Typically this means they can only be used after a number of years of disease symptoms. We hope to discover whether or not earlier use of Golimumab in conjunction with Methotrexate will produce a better outcome for patients. MRI scans will be used to help in determining this.	Dr Helena Marzo-Ortega <a href="mailto:h.marzo-ortega@leeds.ac.uk">h.marzo-ortega@leeds.ac.uk</a>
SCRAPS	Psoriatic arthritis occurs in about 1 in 6 people with psoriasis but it is difficult to diagnose. Usually in patients with psoriatic arthritis, skin psoriasis occurs prior to any joint symptoms and people are unaware of the association between the two. This study uses previously developed questionnaires to identify the condition.	Robin Waxman <a href="mailto:robin.waxman@nhs.net">robin.waxman@nhs.net</a>
SPARRO	This is an observational study of patients who have just received a diagnosis of PsA and aims to investigate issues which determine remission and progression of Psoriatic Arthritis.	Dr Helena Marzo-Ortega <a href="mailto:h.marzo-ortega@leeds.ac.uk">h.marzo-ortega@leeds.ac.uk</a>
BSRBR-AS	The BSRBR-AS study is an observational study which aims to monitor the safety of treatments for Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) patients and to find out more about how treatments affect the lives of AS patients.	Dr Helena Marzo-Ortega <a href="mailto:h.marzo-ortega@leeds.ac.uk">h.marzo-ortega@leeds.ac.uk</a>
IMMUNO-GENETICS	Investigating polymorphism of immune response genes in psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis	Professor Ann Morgan <a href="mailto:mrapawm@leeds.ac.uk">mrapawm@leeds.ac.uk</a>



## Connective tissues diseases ...



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
STRIKE	Scleroderma is a rare disease which affects the skin and internal organs. Not all persons diagnosed with it experience the same disease progression. The purpose of this study is to collect sequential blood samples and imaging data over a 5-year period. The study hopes to use this information to better predict who will be likely to undergo disease progression in the future.	Sookhoe Eng <a href="mailto:s.eng@leeds.ac.uk">s.eng@leeds.ac.uk</a>
FASST	FASST (For A Systemic Sclerosis Treatment) is investigating a new drug for treating diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (scleroderma) <a href="http://www.fassttrial.com">www.fassttrial.com</a>	Sookhoe Eng <a href="mailto:s.eng@leeds.ac.uk">s.eng@leeds.ac.uk</a>
GCA	To better understand the condition 'giant cell arteritis' (including genetics) and it's impact on peoples lives.	Dr Sarah Mackie <a href="mailto:s.l.mackie@leeds.ac.uk">s.l.mackie@leeds.ac.uk</a>
CONVAS	An observational study that collects data to identify disease characteristics. This may predict disease progress and outcome. Includes the collection of blood samples to explore how the disease works on a cellular and molecular level and different imaging approaches to characterise diseases.	Prof Maya Buch <a href="mailto:m.buch@leeds.ac.uk">m.buch@leeds.ac.uk</a>
UK-VAS	National registry of autoimmune vasculitides.	Dr Jackie Andrews <a href="mailto:j.andrews@leeds.ac.uk">j.andrews@leeds.ac.uk</a>
SJOGREN'S ACCESS TO CARE	The purpose of this study is to find out what it is like to live with sjogrens, experiences of accessing care when symptoms of sjogrens first began, and the risks associated with this illness through completion of a questionnaire.	Dr Colin Pease <a href="mailto:colin.pease@nhs.net">colin.pease@nhs.net</a>



## Connective tissues diseases .....



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
TARGET - DLE	<p>Discoid lupus is a form of lupus rash which usually occurs on visible areas of the body. If left untreated, this can lead to permanent scarring. Current treatment with an immunosuppressant antimalarial drug is only effective in about 50% of the patients. This study will test a new drug called etanercept to treat discoid lupus. Etanercept has been approved for other immune conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. Etanercept will be given through direct injection to the surface of the rash (intra-dermal) by the doctor for 12 weeks. This study also aims to develop new tests to measure skin inflammation by scanning the skin using optical coherence tomography (OCT), thermography and laser doppler imaging (LDI) and taking photographs of the rash. If the findings from these new tests are similar to the ones from taking a sample of skin (biopsy), then the latter (which is an invasive test) can be avoided.</p>	Dr Yuzaiful Yusof <a href="mailto:yuzaifulyusof@doctors.org.uk">yuzaifulyusof@doctors.org.uk</a>
RITUXILUP	<p>The standard treatment used to reduce the inflammation to the kidney caused by lupus (lupus nephritis) is through a combination of high dose corticosteroids and a drug called mycophenolate mofetil (MMF). This combination treatment is effective but some patients may experience unwanted side effects from prolonged use of corticosteroids such as weight gain, stretch marks, high blood pressure, thin bones and diabetes. The aim of this study is to investigate whether a different drug called Rituximab in combination with MMF (without corticosteroids) would be as good as the standard treatment. If this is the case, then it would be the first in 60 years that patients with lupus nephritis could be spared from burden of long-term corticosteroids.</p>	Dr Yuzaiful Yusof <a href="mailto:yuzaifulyusof@doctors.org.uk">yuzaifulyusof@doctors.org.uk</a>



## Connective tissues diseases ...



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
USEFUL	An observational study using ultrasound evaluation for musculoskeletal lupus	Dr Ed Vital <a href="mailto:e.m.j@leeds.ac.uk">e.m.j@leeds.ac.uk</a>
TULIP	This is a Phase 3 study evaluating the efficacy and safety of two doses of Anifrolumab in adults with active systemic lupus erythrematosus	Dr Ed Vital <a href="mailto:e.m.j@leeds.ac.uk">e.m.j@leeds.ac.uk</a>



## Osteoarthritis.....



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
LOHC	This study uses MRI scans to better understand how hip osteoarthritis develops and progresses.	Dr Gui Tran <a href="mailto:g.tran@nhs.net">g.tran@nhs.net</a>
LOCUS	Leeds Observational Cohort Ultrasound Study – using ultrasound to investigate shoulder pain and whether this can help predict response to treatment	Prof Philip Conaghan <a href="mailto:p.Conaghan@leeds.ac.uk">p.Conaghan@leeds.ac.uk</a>
MOTION	This study evaluates the effects of an investigational medication on pain caused by osteoarthritis of the knee.	Angela Nauth <a href="mailto:oatrials@leeds.ac.uk">oatrials@leeds.ac.uk</a>



## Joint and joint replacement.....



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NAME OF STUDY	AIM	CONTACT PERSON
WEAR ANALYSIS OF EXPLANTED ORTHOPAEDIC IMPLANTS	Implant retrieval studies have previously informed the design, materials and manufacture of joint replacement prostheses, which will ultimately benefit future patients in terms of increased implant longevity. In this study, explanted prostheses, periprosthetic tissue, and relevant demographic/clinical data, are collected from patients undergoing revision surgery. The samples are processed and stored for future analysis, from which information about wear damage and resistance, and the composition, size and morphology of wear products can be obtained.	Sophie Williams or Dawn Groves <a href="mailto:retrievals@leeds.ac.uk">retrievals@leeds.ac.uk</a>
AURA	Cartilage is the tissue that lines the ends of your bones and forms a smooth surface allowing pain free joint movement. When cartilage is damaged, a painful condition called osteoarthritis may develop. Unfortunately, damaged cartilage does not appear to repair itself. We are trying to improve the treatment of cartilage defects using a new medical device. The surgeon will use this device to hopefully increase the likelihood of your joint repairing. This device works by increasing the number of cells in your knee responsible for repairing the cartilage.	Ruchi Higham <a href="mailto:r.higham@leeds.ac.uk">r.higham@leeds.ac.uk</a>
STAMINA	Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans sometimes show abnormal changes in the muscles and bones of athletes who complain of longstanding groin pain. This study aims to see whether these changes are truly linked to symptoms or can occur normally as part of athletic activities.	Phil Robinson <a href="mailto:philip.robinson10@nhs.net">philip.robinson10@nhs.net</a>
PET	Investigating outcome following stabilisation of fresh unilateral unstable pertochantheric hip fracture using two different devices.	Ruchi Higham <a href="mailto:r.higham@leeds.ac.uk">r.higham@leeds.ac.uk</a>