





Case study: Birmingham Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

About the BRC

-  NIHR's Biomedical Research Centres are collaborations between leading universities and the NHS which aim to turn lab-based scientific breakthroughs into new treatments, diagnostics and technologies
-  Birmingham's BRC received £30m funding in 2022 – almost three times the funding it received in the previous cycle, making it the largest BRC outside the Golden Triangle (London, Oxford, Cambridge)
-  Research focuses on inflammation – including arthritis, cancer inflammation, heart disease, liver disease and women's health
-  Collaboration between five of BHP's member organisations (UoB, UHB, BWC, Aston and SWBH), working with Keele University

Our impact

-  VITTAL study demonstrated that a liver perfusion technique could save 7 out of 10 donor livers which would previously have been unsuitable for transplant, **informing new NICE guidance and changing clinical practice** at several UK liver transplant centres
-  Research into idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) – which causes daily debilitating headaches and can result in blindness – has identified a new drug to reduce brain pressure. A spinout company (Invex Therapeutics) developing the drug has been valued at £30m and is **working with both the MOD and NASA** to explore using the drug to reduce brain pressure after injury and in space flight
-  During Covid19 the CATALYST trial confirmed reduced inflammation and fewer deaths in patients treated with Namilumab – as well as ruling out another drug – thanks to a **cutting-edge trial design** that delivered results with only 100 patients recruited
-  Since 2017 BRC researchers have delivered **950 clinical trials** of novel treatments – of which 50 were first-in-human or child