

ISSUE 16

## REFLECTING ON 2023 / 24 HIGHLIGHTS

In this issue we are looking back at the amazing things that you in CAMRIN have achieved through 2023 / 24. There were over 1.5 million scans taken during the year, which is the equivalent of doing three scans every minute of the year!

We have secured an additional £5.2 million of funding to support improvements in radiology across Cheshire and Merseyside in the last twelve months. Including a new collaborative AI project for Chest X-Ray that we shared in [issue 15](#).

One of the advances we made last year was the go live of our real time dashboard; CAMDASH. This is something we have been working on for a couple of years and will really help to ensure we improve health inequalities across the network. There is more information in this issue on how phase one of the project is going this year.

In the meantime, if you would like us to come and visit you in your department, please get in touch.

David White,  
**CAMRIN Clinical Lead**

David White CAMRIN Clinical Lead



### STAFF APPOINTMENTS ACROSS THE NETWORK

Debra Owen has retired from her PACS Manager role  
[The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust \(CCC\)](#)

Andrew Bleasdale has joined the Trust as PACS Manager  
[The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust \(CCC\)](#)

Robert Howarth joined the Trust as Associate Director of Informatics  
[Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust \(MWL\)](#)

# REFLECTING ON 2023/24 AND LOOKING AHEAD

Believe it or not, we have now finished the 2023 / 24 financial year, so we wanted to take some time to reflect on the milestones that we achieved during this time, and look ahead at what we might have accomplished at the end of this year. So lets take you back to the end of last year, when we unveiled the infographic on the right-hand side of the page, to celebrate our collective accomplishments as a Network, our journey together in 2023, and to highlight some statistics that underscored our commitment to excellence and our drive to advancing healthcare through innovation and collaboration.

You'll see from this infographic, that in 2023 CAMRIN witnessed an impressive total of 1,581,459 imaging scans performed, alongside 1,384,204 imaging reports, which is a testament to our unwavering dedication to serving our patients with the highest standards of care. Moreover, we saw a remarkable improvement in patient care, with the percentage of patients seen within six weeks rising from 62.11% in January 2023 to 88.7% in December 2023, and this has only continued to climb, to an outstanding 91.9% as of 22nd April 2024. This enhancement is celebrated in our 'System performance target achieved' article, featured later in this issue, and not only signifies improved health outcomes, but it also reflects our relentless pursuit of enhancing the patient experience, with messages of thanks from Tracey Cole and Liz Bishop.

The year also marked significant financial milestones, with CAMRIN securing £5.3 million in additional funding. Notably, £1.2 million was allocated for the development of an AI tool aimed at expediting the diagnosis of lung cancer patients, thereby improving their outcomes, which will be a pivotal step towards leveraging technology to transform healthcare.



Furthermore, CAMRIN established formal governance for the Radiology Out of Hours Hub and set up a Clinical Reference Group to address clinical challenges in imaging services, showcasing our commitment to operational excellence and continuous improvement. Whilst our inaugural Interventional Radiology Summit brought together professionals from 11 Trusts and the Integrated Care System (ICS), fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, to improve our interventional radiology services.

CAMRIN also made its mark on the national stage, participating in events such as the UKIO conference held in Liverpool and presenting at a national conference on our innovative approach to AI in healthcare. Whilst 2023 also saw the launch of CAMDASH, our Microsoft Power BI app, which has revolutionised data accessibility, establishing a single source of truth and providing real-time insights to drive informed decision-making. With over 8.7 million records feeding into the app and 590 views by 31 users between its launch in November 2023 to December 2023, CAMDASH was already starting to become an indispensable tool in our quest for data-driven excellence.

Building on these successes, the CAMRIN team have been excited to progress projects and embark on new initiatives in 2024. For example, the rollout of our Other Ologies Project promises to enhance collaboration among clinicians across departments and trusts, facilitating seamless patient care. Additionally, our Imaging strategy implementation toolkit will support workforce planning, ensuring the availability of skilled professionals to meet the evolving needs of our healthcare system.

We've recently celebrated hitting a key system performance target, that you can read about in this issue, with more patients being seen within 6 weeks than last year, thanks to the collaborative efforts of our Trust colleagues, and we're looking forward to hitting more targets before the end of the year, that'll help to improve our patients' access, experience, and ultimately their outcomes. This year we've also welcomed the launch of social media channels for the Cheshire and Merseyside Diagnostics Programme, which will only help to amplify our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and patient-centred care.

This year we've also made huge strides with the IT Diagnostic Network Project as 21 Optical Spectrum Access (OSA) circuits and 21 edge switches have now been installed and fully routed. This leaves just 5 OSA circuits and 5 edge switches left now to be installed and routed. Additionally work continues to move forwards with the PACS Cloud Project, with 12 out of 13 Trust sites now able to work through PACS Cloud side activities, including one site that is working through the application sync of historical orders, reports, patients and visits, five sites that are at the stage where DICOM data minus the pixels is being migrated across to the datacentre PACS, and two sites that have started the pixel migration phase.

Last but not least, we've improved and developed more focused imaging reports for CAMDASH to ensure that looking ahead Trusts within the Network will be able to track their performance in areas such as Cardiac CT and Cardiac MR. All of which you can read about further in this issue of the CAMRIN bulletin, and we're not even halfway through the year, with a wealth of accomplishments still yet to unfold. So please stay tuned for more successes that'll be highlighted in future editions in the months ahead and across our new Diagnostics social media channels - as CAMRIN really is just getting started. Watch this space!

**If your Trust has any good news stories you'd like to shout about in a future issue of CAMRIN News, please get in touch with us!**

## 2023, what a year!

We'll let our numbers do the talking...

**1,581,459**

Imaging scans in total (including Barium Enema, CT, DEXA, MRI, and NOUS) were performed in 2023 across Cheshire and Merseyside!



**1,384,204**

Imaging reports (including CT, Fluoro, IR, MRI, NOUS, Nuclear Medicine, and Plain X-Ray) were performed this year for patients accessing Cheshire and Merseyside imaging services.



**88.7%**

of patients were seen within 6 weeks in Dec 23 compared to 62.11% in Jan 23, enhancing overall health outcomes, and patient experience.



**9,954**

total average views of the 2023 bi-monthly CAMRIN bulletins, which are now distributed to 450+ key stakeholders working both in and outside of the Network.



**£5.3m**

in additional funding secured by the Network. Including £1.2m in funding for an AI tool that will help diagnose lung cancer patients more quickly, to improve their outcomes.



This year formal governance was established for the Radiology Out of Hours Hub.

A Clinical Reference Group was established to discuss and tackle clinical issues facing imaging services.



CAMRIN held its first Interventional Radiology Summit that was attended by 51 people from 11 Trusts and the Integrated Care System.



The team presented at a national conference on CAMRIN's approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI).



We hosted a stand at the UKIO event, where we shared what a great place to work Cheshire and Merseyside is. In total our stand had 179 visitors!



### CAMDASH goes live...

Our Microsoft Power BI app "CAMDASH" went live, establishing a single source of truth and providing access to near real-time local and system level views of radiology data, in order to support data-driven insights and decision-making.



**8,700,000**

records feed into CAMDASH.

**500,000**

rows of data are added per day.

**580** views by 31 users since the app launched in Nov 23.



**18** National metrics have been created within CAMDASH and are now accessible to support our key stakeholders.



**11** Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) have been signed and 11 dashboards have been created, with more to come!



**9** CRIS Trust's data is now being pulled into the CAMDASH app, with the aim to add other CRIS Trust's and non-CRIS Trust's data to the app by March 2024.

**And that's a wrap, here's to 2024.**  
Thank you for your continued involvement!



**NHS**  
Cheshire and Merseyside  
Radiology and Imaging Network

# UPDATE ON THE ROLL-OUT OF OUR OTHER OLOGIES PROJECT

The implementation of phase one of the Cheshire and Merseyside Clinical Other Ologies PACS has created a central, regional repository for non-radiology clinical images, allowing clinicians in different departments, on different sites and at different Trusts to work collaboratively, sharing images, to deliver safe and effective care to patients across the region.

Phase one has focused on Digital Wound Care, bringing together clinical imaging from teams such as Major Trauma, Tissue Viability and Podiatry, with Medical Photography, Vascular, and Burns and Plastics teams all about to go-live. This is supporting a multi-disciplinary approach to wound management across some of our local NHS Trusts.

[The National Wound Care Strategy Programme \(2018\)](#), identified the need to significantly improve the availability of wound data insights to support clinical decision making and enable quality improvement. The Programme recommends the use of NHS compliant, digital technologies to achieve this. Imaging is also recommended in [NICE 2014 clinical guidelines for pressure ulcer management](#), which advise documenting the surface area of all pressure ulcers. If possible, using a validated measurement technique (for example, transparency tracing or a photograph).

Within the solution, multiple images from the patient record can be viewed alongside each other making it easier to track healing and/or deterioration of wounds. Previously, these images would have been stored in different systems or files and would not have been available to all clinicians involved in the patient's care, meaning that comparison would not have been possible.

Wound assessments can be documented and stored alongside wound imaging, meaning that a complete record is held within the solution and is available to clinicians, helping to reduce subjectivity and variations in wound care. The classification of wounds within the solution, standardises the approach and terminology used.

Going forwards, the project and clinical teams plan to work with the solution supplier to develop formal reporting functionality (equivalent to Radiology reporting) within the solution, so that formal wound assessments can be recorded within the solution, on standardised, regional assessment templates, which will be automatically distributed to upstream healthcare systems such as Electronic Patient Record (EPR) systems in the acute Trusts and Primary Care.



# NORTH WEST IMAGING WORKFORCE STRATEGY PLAN



The Imaging Workforce Strategy Implementation Plan Toolkit has been designed to support imaging workforce planning for diagnostic radiographers and sonographers at regional, network, and provider level. It has been developed from the North-West (NW) Imaging Workforce Strategy, written and issued in June 2021, using the knowledge gleaned with the extensive research carried out by two of the authors Gill Holroyd, who is now Professional Lead, North-West Imaging Academy and Carol Cunningham, Clinical Programme Manager, Cheshire and Merseyside Imaging Network Programme Management Office. In order to inform the strategy, they linked in with national, regional, and local subject matter experts to provide a helicopter view of imaging workforce issues and potential solutions.

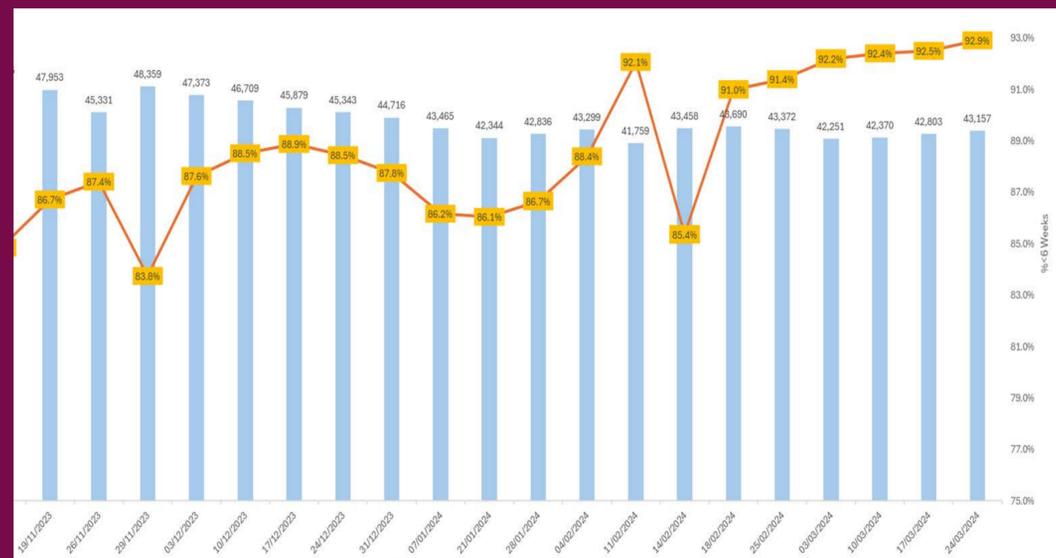
It is intended to provide a set of 'recipes' to support imaging networks to develop their workforce plans. Content is framed around the key enablers of workforce transformation, or the domains:

- Ways to increase supply
- Upskilling
- Leadership and management
- New roles and new ways of working

Once the plan has been reviewed by the Cheshire and Merseyside Imaging Network Workforce Delivery Group and the North-West Imaging Academy Governance Board, it will be made available to key stakeholders across C&M, and for others to use as they wish.

The authors are mindful that since the North-West Imaging Workforce Strategy was published in 2021, there have been structural and strategic changes going on at all levels in our Health Service governance models and this document has had to be amended along the way to reflect these changes. With that in mind, this document could quickly become outdated unless there is a regular review process put in place for it to remain current and useful.

# SYSTEM PERFORMANCE TARGET ACHIEVED!



The Cheshire and Merseyside Diagnostics Programme has achieved a significant milestone by meeting Clearance Target 3: 'To achieve 90% of patients seen within 6 weeks by the end of March 2024' ahead of schedule. Reaching 90.2% of patients seen within this timeframe as of 24th March 2024, a week ahead of the deadline of the end of March 2024.

Given that Cheshire and Merseyside is the second largest integrated care system in England, this accomplishment is not merely a statistic. As it's a real testament to the unwavering dedication, support, and hard work of everyone involved both locally at Trust level as well as those working at System level, especially amidst unprecedented challenges.

Since October 2022, the Cheshire and Merseyside Diagnostics Programme has made remarkable progress, elevating from 66.4% to 90.2% of patients being seen within 6 weeks. This improvement has resulted in approximately 15,000 fewer patients waiting over 6 weeks for their appointments, which will have had a tangible impact on our community's healthcare access, experience, and on patient outcomes overall.

Reflecting on this achievement and highlighting the collaborative spirit and collective endeavour that's driven us forwards, Tracey Cole, C&M Diagnostics Programme Manager expressed gratitude, stating, "Brilliant stuff. I know how big a team effort this is. Thank you so much everyone. Onwards and upwards so that we can keep delivering for our patients".

Furthermore, Liz Bishop, Chief Executive of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS FT and Senior Responsible Officer for the C&M Cancer Alliance commended everyone involved for their commitment to providing exemplary healthcare services across the C&M footprint, stating, "Huge thanks from me too. Great teamwork and impressive drive / ambition from everyone involved".

# DIAGNOSTIC PROGRAMME LAUNCHES NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

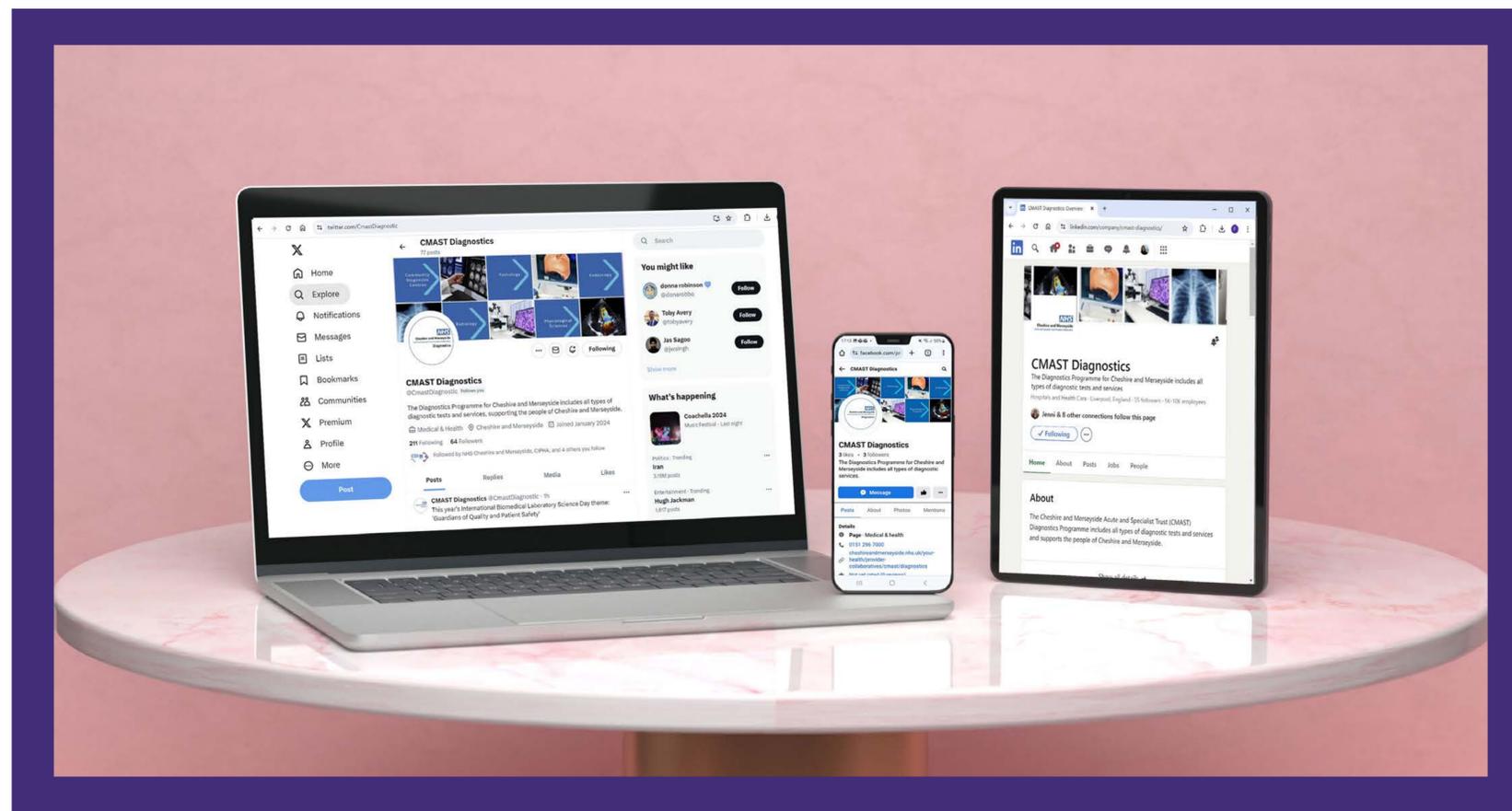
At the beginning of the year, the Diagnostic Programme for Cheshire and Merseyside Acute and Specialist Trusts (CMAST) embraced the digital age, launching dedicated social media channels on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and **LinkedIn**. These platforms aim to disseminate the latest diagnostic updates across Cheshire and Merseyside, ranging from radiology, pathology and endoscopy to physiological sciences and community diagnostic centres (CDCs).

One notable achievement comes in the form of a press release highlighting the Diagnostic Programme in Cheshire and Merseyside **securing up to £1.2m in funding from the NHS Transformation Directorate's AI Diagnostic Fund**. This funding will be pivotal in accelerating the integration of artificial intelligence to expedite the diagnosis of lung cancer patients, marking a significant leap towards quicker and more effective healthcare solutions.

The CMAST Provider Collaborative's commitment to excellence is further highlighted by its feature in **NHS Providers recent 'Provider Collaboratives Building Capacity' publication**. A piece that applauds CMAST's collaborative and proactive approach to improving healthcare outcomes and how Cheshire and Merseyside's CDCs are playing a pivotal role in enhancing access to diagnostic testing and significantly reducing waiting times in the region.

Another testament to Cheshire and Merseyside's forward-thinking approach, is **the launch of the second phase of Warrington and Halton Diagnostics Centre (WHDC)**, which was officially opened at Halton Health Hub in February. The CDC is one of the first of its kind in the UK to open in a community-centric space, being situated within a local shopping centre, giving residents better access to modern diagnostic services in the heart of the community.

It's clear to see from the above highlights, that the diagnostics initiatives taking place across Cheshire and Merseyside extend beyond traditional methods and showcase a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and patient centred solutions. You can keep track of the latest Diagnostic Programme updates by following our new social media channels via the links above, and please keep us informed of all your news, by emailing [v.toiviainen@nhs.net](mailto:v.toiviainen@nhs.net).







## BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

The team has been hard at work, publishing four new focused imaging reports on the CAMRIN version of our Microsoft Power BI app "**CAMDASH**". These reports monitor patients waiting for a number of specialist scans including Cardiac CT, Cardiac MR, CT Colon, and Nuclear medicine. In addition to this milestone, productive meetings have been held with colleagues from our non-CRIS Trusts (Countess of Chester Hospital and Wirral University Teaching Hospital) around setting up Self-Hosted Integration Runtimes (SHIRs) that will enable the secure transfer of data from on-premise sources or private networks at these Trusts into CAMDASH. Whilst the team have also been exploring how CAMDASH can evolve into a multifaceted tool to support the whole Diagnostics Programme.

Following the positive reception that CAMDASH has received to date, a meeting was scheduled to showcase CAMRIN's current '**Capacity and Demand**' model to Diagnostics Programme Leads and external partners that support our waiting list recovery work. During the session, the team outlined plans to enhance this model by integrating the most utilised capacity and demand reports into

CAMDASH. Whilst discussions also centered around making the original imaging capacity and demand model accessible to other networks within the Diagnostics Programme, as a framework for their own development, with support from external parties. The potential for CAMDASH to be utilised on a broader scale was also explored, promising greater efficiency and collaboration.

Looking at **Waiting List Recovery**, significant strides have also been made, as CAMRIN's Network Goal Tracker now includes Did Not Attend (DNA) or Was Not Brought (WNB) rates for Trusts and Utilisation rates for CT, MRI, and NOUS equipment. All of which will be reported monthly moving forwards, to help optimise resource allocation and improve operational efficiencies, where possible. Additionally, thanks to initiatives such as community diagnostic centres (CDCs) and mutual aid, collaboration continues to improve our overall Radiology and Imaging Network performance and alleviate pressure on waiting lists. For example, with lists for East Cheshire MRI patients recently starting at Paddington CDC and lists for Wirral University Teaching Hospital MRI patients starting at Liverpool Women's CDC.



## DIGITAL DELIVERY

Successful testing of Zebra mobile devices with the **Other 'Ologies** solution has seen the devices rolled out to the Podiatry, Tissue Viability and Emergency Department teams in Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Following successful end to end workflow testing with the Mersey and West Lancs Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Medical Photography and IT teams, preparations are now being made to move all configuration into the live environment so that user acceptance testing can be completed.

Similarly, in terms of **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Scoping**, CAMRIN is also making significant strides in advancing the AI Rad Companion approval process within Liverpool University Hospitals. As the solution will be presented at the New Devices and New Techniques Group (NDNTG), who collectively must grant approval of the tool, before it can be used in clinical settings. Whilst the **AI for Chest X-Rays** project is just kicking off, with the CAMRIN team identifying project champions at each Trust, and completing documentation for procurement, which it's

hoped will be completed before 2024. With an evaluation team in place to support this piece of work and insightful discussions already held with the GM Cancer Alliance, regarding their experience in implementing AI for Chest X-Rays.

Turning to the **Diagnostics IT Network** project, 21 out of 26 optical spectrum access (OSA) circuits, that will provide high-speed and reliable connectivity that'll enable the implementation of PACS Cloud, have now been installed. Escalations continue with BT and Open Reach, to push for the installation of the outstanding 5 delayed circuits, and in the interim, the team have been working with Trust's that do have circuits, to install edge switches and connect them to the OSA waves. Whilst on the **PACS Cloud** project, the team have been working with PACS Managers on a full and updated list of modalities across Cheshire and Merseyside, including any modality conflicts, to support with the work in building dedicated firewalls and establishing a rules base for each Trust-site.



## WORKFORCE

The CAMRIN workforce team have held stay conversations with the Ultrasound (US) team at Countess of Chester. This was a great opportunity to meet the team and spend some time talking about what is important to them to support our **US Deep dive**. Thank you for hosting us for the day.

Validation of the baseline data for the workforce calculator tool is underway. Once the data has been validated with all departments within the Network this will contribute by providing valuable, standardised data as we work through our five-year plan.

Discussions with the members of the CAMRIN **Workforce Delivery Group** and lessons learned from the other Allied Health Professions groups means that we will not progress work to align and standardise job descriptions across Cheshire and Merseyside. Our discussions identified that this work would not achieve measurable benefits for our Imaging services.

**NHS Emeritus** is a national pilot for

recently retired consultants to work flexibly within and across system boundaries to help reduce elective (non-admitted) long waits.

This may include cover for leave or additional capacity through advice and guidance, remote consultations, face-to-face outpatient clinics, diagnostic reporting and other clinical activities to release consultant time and enable outpatient transformation.

After completing an expression of interest on [www.nhsemeritusconsultants.org](http://www.nhsemeritusconsultants.org) consultants and providers will be contacted with further information and next steps to register. Led by the Outpatient Recovery and Transformation Programme, NHS England, the NHS Emeritus pilot will run until end September 2024 and will be evaluated. For further information, please contact [the NHS Emeritus project team](#).

Look out for our regular CAMRIN Workforce Bulletin for information on the latest regional and national workforce news, as well as training opportunities and workforce and CPD events.

## CLATTERBRIDGE DIAGNOSTICS CENTRE WELCOMES 100,000TH PATIENT

Clatterbridge Diagnostics Centre, which was set up in July 2021 to reduce NHS waiting lists and increase capacity for earlier diagnosis, has welcomed its 100,000th patient. Grandmother Vivien Wharton, 69, from Pensby, was presented with flowers for being the 100,000th patient to be seen at the Centre, after being referred by her GP.

Vivien said, "I was pleasantly surprised at how quick it was to be seen after being referred by the GP. I had scans and I was only in there for literally minutes. All the staff were professional and very friendly. I was very impressed. It was a really nice surprise to be the 100,000th patient".

[Click here to read the story](#)

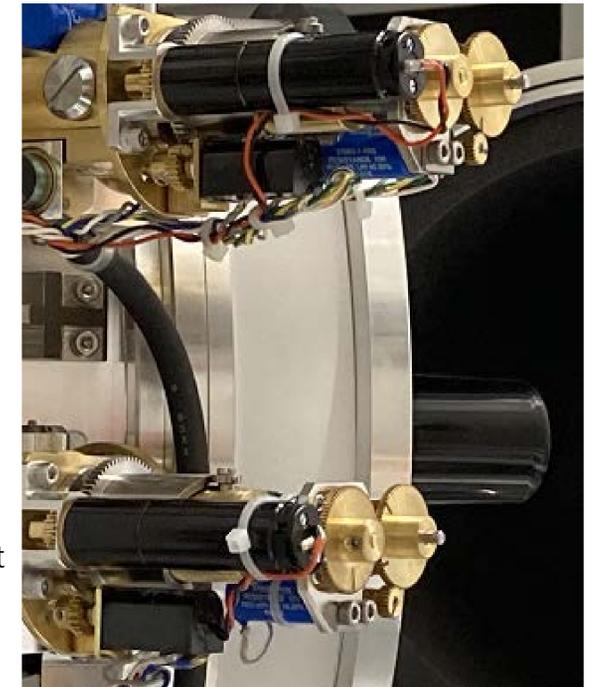


## LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY TO LEAD NEW £125 MILLION NATIONAL RESEARCH FACILITY

The University of Liverpool will lead a new £125 million national research facility to drive forward scientific discoveries and technological advances in areas such as sustainable energy, advanced materials, quantum technologies, and personalised medicine.

Supported by the [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\) Infrastructure Fund](#), the facility known as RUEDI (Relativistic Ultrafast Electron Diffraction and Imaging) will be the world's most powerful microscope for imaging dynamics and position the UK as a global leader in ultrafast electron microscopy.

[Click here to read the story](#)



## RUBIDIUM (RB82) GENERATOR APPROVED



On 6th March 2024, The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved the Rubidium (Rb82) Generator (RUBY-FILL) as a diagnostic tool for imaging of the heart, to evaluate blood flow and aid in the diagnosis or assessment of suspected or known coronary heart disease (CHD). A disease which is the most common form of heart and circulatory disease in the UK, with 2.3 million people living with CHD.

[Click here to read the story](#)

## VRIS RADIOLOGY INFO SYSTEM LAUNCHES IN THE UK



A radiology information system known as 'VRIS' has been formally launched in the UK by healthcare technology provider Vertex in Healthcare. The system, which connects technologies in the healthcare environment, has been shown to automate and streamline administrative processes, as well as helping busy radiologists and radiographers as they deliver timely reports on patient imaging.

[Click here to read the story](#)

## NEW ENDOSCOPY AND RADIOLOGY EXPANSION OPENS



A new state-of-the-art expansion to East Cheshire NHS Trust's Endoscopy and Radiology departments has officially opened at Macclesfield Hospital. The expansion and redesign of the endoscopy treatment unit (ETU) and reconfiguration of the existing radiography department will improve patient flow and experience and opened with an official ribbon cutting ceremony involving staff from both services and CEO, Ged Murphy.

[Click here to read the story](#)



Alexi Shenton  
CAMRIN Programme Lead

## GETTING IN TOUCH

Thank you for taking the time to read the bulletin today, please share with your colleagues. We are always looking for people to get involved in the network and to help us support the 11 Trusts who make up the network.

We welcome your involvement, comments, and ideas. If you have any feedback, would like to share ideas, an issue or priority, which you feel should be taken into consideration for any of the workstreams.

The central CAMRIN programme management office would also like to come and visit your departments, so if you would like a visit, please let us know.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch via:  
[camrin@liverpoolft.nhs.uk](mailto:camrin@liverpoolft.nhs.uk)

