

The Women's View



Strictly Liverpool Women's raises over £45,000

Also inside this issue...

- Liverpool Women's and Liverpool University Hospitals appoint joint Chair
- C-GULL study launched - a flagship Liverpool birth cohort study aiming to improve health outcomes opens for recruitment

Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to the first 2024 edition of the *'The Women's View'* and my first welcome note as the new CEO of Liverpool Women's.

I've been in post for a few weeks now as Chief Executive and it has been a busy and exciting time for me as I've settled into the role. I've enjoyed getting to meet many of our staff and patients when I have been out and about across the Trust and I look forward to meeting many more over the coming weeks and months.

It's great to read all about the amazing work taking place across the Trust. The dedication and commitment of our staff is evident throughout and I look forward to building upon these achievements during the year ahead.



James Sumner
Chief Executive Officer





Liverpool Women's and Liverpool University Hospitals appoint joint Chair

David Flory CBE has been appointed as joint Chair of Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT) and Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust. He will start this joint role in March 2024.

The two Trusts have a history of working in partnership and collaboration, and the joint Chair role is designed to build on this foundation.

David was previously appointed to Chair LUHFT for a 12-month term starting in February 2023. Robert Clarke, the current chair of Liverpool Women's, has announced that he will be stepping down from his role at the end of February, having served the maximum eight-year term of office. David has a track record of delivering healthcare services and brings experience and understanding of the population health needs across Liverpool City Region.

Commenting on his appointment, David said: *"I am delighted that I am able to continue working with the fantastic teams at LUHFT and I look forward to joining colleagues at Liverpool Women's where there are so many opportunities to make a real difference to the communities we serve."*

James Sumner, Chief Executive of LUHFT and Chief Executive of Liverpool Women's, said: *"David's extensive skills, knowledge and experience of the NHS, and understanding of healthcare in the Liverpool City Region, are a huge asset and his appointment is fantastic news for our patients and our staff."*

Raj Jain, Chair of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, said: *"I am delighted with the appointment of David Flory as Chair of both Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust. This appointment reflects increasingly close working between the Trusts – for the benefit of local patients – following the recent appointment of James Sumner as joint Chief Executive."*

While this is a joint role, the Trusts will continue to operate as separate and independent organisations. Each Trust will continue to have its own Board of Directors and Council of Governors, which will be managed and operate as individual Trusts.

David is Chair of NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and previously held the role of interim Independent Chair for Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership until March 2022.

Prior to this David had 22 years' board-level experience as Chief Executive and Executive Director of NHS organisations in England.

Liverpool Women's fertility centre becomes first in UK to offer state-of-the-art technology for managing frozen eggs and embryos

The Hewitt Fertility Centre, based at Liverpool Women's Hospital is the first UK clinic to adopt TMRW's state-of-the-art technology for the safe management of frozen eggs and embryos, providing a new standard of care for fertility patients.



“...we are so pleased to be the first fertility clinic outside of the USA to offer this innovative CE Marked technology for our patients.”

TMRW Life Sciences, a fertility technology company automating the IVF lab, today announced its global expansion with the adoption of its technology in the UK.

The Hewitt Fertility Centre, will become the first clinic outside of the United States to adopt TMRW Life Sciences' CryoRobot Select (CRS), an automated platform for the safe management and storage of frozen eggs and embryos.

Thanks to advances in assisted reproductive technology, more people are building families and storing frozen eggs and embryos – often for decades. The UK's Health Strategy is making sure that this growth is inclusive, and the government's decision in 2022 to increase storage time limits for frozen eggs and embryos from 10 years to 55 years was an important response. But both efforts are overwhelming the legacy, manual storage systems and laborious hand-labelled identification methods that fertility clinics have relied upon for decades.

Dr Rachel Gregoire, Scientific Director/HFEA Person Responsible of The Hewitt Fertility Centres said:

“I am delighted for our patients and for the scientific team that we can finally announce the introduction of the CRS into our clinical pathways. It is a credit to Rebecca Lunt, Lead Clinical Embryologist and the team who have worked tirelessly with the incredible people at TMRW to make this happen. Almost three years ago the Hewitt Fertility Centre demonstrated that manual cryostorage involves potential unnecessary handling events of patient samples in storage, and we are so pleased to be the first fertility clinic outside of the USA to offer this innovative CE Marked technology for our patients. We all wish to thank Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust for listening to us and for investing in this technology so that the Hewitt Fertility Centres can continue to be leaders in offering safe and innovative fertility treatments.”

Over the last three years, the Hewitt Fertility Centre has completed in-depth studies to quantify the potential hazards associated with manual cryostorage of eggs and embryos following fertility treatment. The studies' findings show that there continues to be risks associated with manual cryostorage for in vitro fertilisation (IVF), even when clinics use radio frequency identification (RFID) witnessing technology and with well-established standard operating procedures to reduce risk.

Rebecca Lunt, Lead Clinical Embryologist said:

“Here at the Hewitt Fertility Centre the team are over the moon to introduce the TMRW CRS into clinical use for our patients. After several years of working with TMRW to help reduce unnecessary risk in the cryolaboratory for both staff and patient samples, we are excited that this amazing technology is here and we can offer state-of-the-art storage to Hewitt Fertility patients who opt to use it. This has been a real team effort, with the team in Hewitt working closely with TMRW's fantastic team, but also a big thanks to Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust for being dedicated to patient safety and investing in this technology.”

TMRW's CRS is an automated platform that combines proprietary, state-of-the-art hardware and software to safely track, monitor and store frozen eggs and embryos. For the first time in the United Kingdom, frozen specimens can now be digitally identified and tracked, safely managed with automated robotics, and remotely monitored around the clock. The CRS helps reduce potential points of failure by 94% compared to manual specimen management and storage systems, and it helps fertility clinics safely scale to meet growing patient demand.

“Our partnership with The Hewitt Fertility Centre represents the first step in our global expansion and illustrates our commitment to raising the global standard of care,” said Louis Villalba, Chief Executive Officer at TMRW. “We applaud The Hewitt Fertility Centre for being the first IVF clinic outside of the United States to adopt our CE Marked and FDA Cleared specimen management system. Our collaboration heralds a new era of safety and precision in managing frozen eggs and embryos in the UK.”

TMRW received a CE Mark for the CryoRobot Select in September, enabling commercialization across the UK and Europe. To earn the certification, the CRS was developed with state-of-the-art standards and met rigorous clinical safety and efficacy requirements established by European Medical Device Regulations. Along with an earlier clearance by the Food and Drug Administration, the European approval makes TMRW's robotic systems a new global standard.

Patients who wish to request the CRS for the storage of their eggs or embryos can contact the Hewitt Fertility Centre on: 0151 702 4121 for more information or speak to their Healthcare Professional at their consultation.



CHILDREN GROWING UP in Liverpool

Flagship Liverpool birth cohort study aiming to improve health outcomes opens for recruitment

A major birth cohort study tracing the lives of 10,000 Liverpool families to enable researchers, clinicians and policymakers to understand more about complex health issues opened on 25 April.

Children Growing Up in Liverpool (C-GULL) is the first large scale birth cohort study in the Liverpool City Region, and will track 10,000 first born babies and their families from early in pregnancy through childhood and beyond.

Researchers will collect information on their biological, physical, and mental health, as well as the home environment and more. This innovative study will use the latest data collection methods to give a comprehensive picture of the early life origins of health and wellbeing. This information will be used to inform policies and practices that promote the health and well-being of families in Liverpool and beyond.

C-GULL is a partnership between the University of Liverpool, the Wellcome Trust, Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Liverpool City Council. The study is delivered in collaboration with the NIHR Clinical Research Network North West Coast.

James Sumner, CEO of Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, said: *"We're thrilled to be a part of this important study that will benefit families in our community and beyond. C-GULL will provide valuable insights into the early life origins of health and wellbeing and help us create a better future for our children."*





CHILDREN GROWING UP in Liverpool



Professor Louise Kenny, Lead Investigator, said: *“C-GULL is an exciting opportunity to make a real impact on the health of future generations. By tracking families from pregnancy through childhood, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complex factors that shape health outcomes.”*

Professor Tim Jones, Vice Chancellor of the University of Liverpool said: *“C-GULL will be an important resource for health researchers locally, nationally and internationally for decades to come and the University of Liverpool is delighted and proud to partner in this pioneering study.”*

C-GULL will be nested within a population-wide, civic data linkage platform. The study will collect extensive biological, biometric, socio-demographic and psychosocial information at two time points antenatally (12-16 weeks gestational age and 32-36 weeks gestational age), at birth, and when the child is aged three, 12 and 24 months.

Women are eligible to take part in the study if this is their first ongoing pregnancy, their pregnancy is in the first 12-16 weeks, they are aged 16 years and older and they have booked for their maternity care to be provided by Liverpool Women's Hospital.

Parents who participate in C-GULL will receive additional health checks and support for themselves and their child during pregnancy and childhood.

Professor Enitan Carroll, Clinical Director, NIHR Clinical Research Network: North West Coast said: *“Research from the Department of Public Health and Policy has highlighted an alarming rise in health inequalities and infant mortality across Liverpool City Region. We must act now to find a research solution to reverse this worrying trend. The NIHR Clinical Research Network: North West Coast is proud to provide support for an ambitious and collaborative study that will follow 10,000 children born in Liverpool, and bring together researchers and healthcare staff to understand how we can provide a healthier start for our children born in the city. C-GULL will allow future generations to realise their potential, free from the burden that health inequality brings.”*

The C-GULL Study is funded through a Wellcome Trust Longitudinal and Population Study Award, with enhancement funding provided by matched funding from the University of Liverpool. The civic-owned data resource is supported by the Civic Data Co-operative. Interviewees available include researchers, midwives, senior leaders from partner organisations and study participants.

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More information about C-GULL can be found online:
www.liverpool.ac.uk/children-growing-up-in-liverpool

[View here](#)

Participants and prospective participants can find more information here: www.cgullstudy.com

[View here](#)

“By tracking families from pregnancy through childhood, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complex factors that shape health outcomes.”

Liverpool Women's boasts zero vacancies in maternity services despite national shortage

Liverpool Women's is one of a small number of Trusts throughout the country currently carrying no vacancies within their maternity services department.

Despite a national shortage of midwives, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust is currently carrying no vacancies and are confidently retaining their existing workforce. By actively encouraging and supporting retired employees to return to work offering flexible working and a free breakfast and parking for all student midwives, the Trust is thriving.

The Trust is also offering an award-winning Preceptorship Programme for newly qualified Midwives that is seeing an outstanding 98% retention rate. The programme, now in its 3rd year, was developed by a multidisciplinary team within the Maternity department and provides support and development for newly qualified Midwives. The programme has been a huge success and commended nationally, with the most recent accolade coming from the Nursing Times Workforce Awards.

The scheme scooped 'Preceptorship Programme of the Year' at the 2023 Awards. The judges felt the programme was an "outstanding and inspiring submission, showcasing passion, insight and innovative practice with strong aims and a desire to support a growing practice".

Dianne Brown, Chief Nurse commended the Deputy Head of Midwifery Alison Murray, and the education team at the Trust on their national recognition commenting: *"we are absolutely thrilled with this award which acknowledges the multidisciplinary team approach within our Maternity service and for making the vision we had for midwifery preceptorship come to life. We are proud that we have a team of leaders who are supporting and inspiring the next generation of newly qualified midwives at Liverpool Women's and for the benefit of the wider NHS in the future."*

The Trust is also seeing low levels of Staff turnover rates (6.1% below the national target) indicating a stable midwifery workforce.

Yana Richens, Director of Midwifery and Heledd Jones, Head of Midwifery at Liverpool Women's said: *"We pride ourselves on developing our workforce here at Liverpool Women's, and we have introduced several new posts in the midwifery structure during the past 12 months. These include Maternal Medicine Specialist Midwife, Diabetes Specialist Midwife, Clinical Lead Midwife for the Midwifery Led Unit and Clinical Lead Midwife for the Fetal Medicine Unit to name but a few. We feel these additional posts are having a positive impact throughout maternity, and our commitment to excellence continues to strengthen our team and enhance the care we provide."*



"We are proud that we have a team of leaders who are supporting and inspiring the next generation of newly qualified midwives at Liverpool Women's and for the benefit of the wider NHS in the future."

♀ NEWS

Tim Gold appointed as Chief Transformation Officer

We are pleased to announce that Tim Gold has been appointed as our new Chief Transformation Officer and will be joining the Executive team in February 2024 in a joint role which also covers Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT). Read more about Tim's appointment and background online.

[View here](#)

Liverpool Women's among top 50 most inclusive UK employers for third year running

We have been ranked number 41 in the 2023 Inclusive Top 50 UK Employers List (IT50) which was officially revealed at the Inclusive Awards in December 2023. Compiled by Inclusive Companies, the IT50 acknowledges and ranks businesses which are most consistent throughout the whole of their organisation and encompass all types of diversity.

Charity Update



Strictly Liverpool Women's returned for a second consecutive year and raised over £45,000

This year the glitzy event was held on Saturday 3 December 2023 at the iconic Adelphi Hotel, home to the best ballroom dance floor Liverpool has to offer. Over 400 guests arrived on the night to support 12 contestants battling it out to win the judges and audience vote.

Contestants: Jen Deeney, Matt Connor, Evelyn Rogansky, Chris Ventre, Clive Myerscough, Justin Hopper, Jake Archer, Dani Smith, Dave Dobie, Chris Kirkland, Kate Alldred and Chris Clark were the wonderful combination of LWH staff, grateful patients and corporate partners to take to the stage.



The beautiful Dani Smith from Liverpool Women's Hospitals very own Theatre Department scooped a double win with her rendition of the Jive with professional dancer Alex Wyatt.

Kate Alldred, Consultant Obstetrician at Liverpool Women's was a close second with audience votes but only one person could be crowned Liverpool Women's Strictly 2023 star.

A total of £45,000 was raised for the LWH Bereavement Appeal by guests at the event and by contestants who fundraised.

The evening was completed with a top hat and tails Show Dance, made up of staff, grateful patients and professionals, choreographed by Hazel Langdon of Dance Unlimited who also produced the show.

Hazel comments: "Well done to everyone who took part and a big thank you to the judges, Jason Parkinson, Carl Paris and Carol Parry. And to the professional dancers, Peter Parry, Kate Hodgson, Anton Du Cooke, Liam Peters, Ellie Weaver, Shannen Stocks, Amanda Richmond, Alex Wyatt, Libby Rothwell, Amy Wyatt, Helen Maguire and Jack Davies. We delivered a spectacular show and I look forward to working with you again in 2024."

Dual winner Dani Smith comments: "It was an honour to be part of this amazing charity event, I loved every minute, and I would highly recommend the entire experience. I've laughed so much and made memories that will last a lifetime but most of all with thanks to my colleagues at LWH, my supportive family and my amazing friends, I've helped to raise much needed funds for a charity that helps so many families in our city!"

Money raised from this event will help to transform clinical rooms at LWH Gynaecology and Maternity wards to be used by families who have sadly experienced a pregnancy loss or still birth, helping to make a very difficult time in hospital that little easier for families.

Proudly, Kate Davis, Head of Fundraising at Liverpool Women's Hospital Charity said: "It was a fantastic evening, and we are so grateful to everyone who took part, donated prizes, attended on the night, voted, volunteered, and staffed the event. It was a busy but very successful evening of fundraising and entertainment, and we can't wait to do it all again in 2024."

The charity team have been inundated with requests to take part as a contestant next year. If you would like to put your name forward and take to the stage in 2024 please email: fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk



Charity Update



Ibbie's Appeal

LWH Charity has officially launched its first appeal of 2024 - 'Ibbie's Appeal' supporting our wonderful Neonatal Unit.

Meet Ibbie and her family, who share their story on YouTube about how our Neonatal unit and our amazing staff supported them during a very difficult time when Ibbie was born. Thank you to the Hephherd-Hall family for allowing us to share their incredible story.

[View here](#)

Please donate on our [Just Giving](#) page. Your donation can help support families by:

- keeping our Neo kitchen fully stocked
- giving families a place to stay in our Neonatal flats
- Providing a much needed breath of fresh air in our newly refurbished Neonatal garden space

[View here](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Gynaetines Pub Quiz - 13 February 2024**
Buy your tickets available from: www.pay.sumup.com/b2c/QJPWMJBJ
- **Skydive - 11 May 2024**
- **Pram Push - 17 May 2024**
- **Knit & Knatter - 6 June 2024**
- **Go Neon for Neo - 21 June 2024**
- **Yorkshire 3 Peaks - 29 June 2024**
Check out our Facebook page for event information
- **Anfield Abseil - 7 September 2024**
- **Anglican Cathedral Abseil - 21 September 2024**

What are you waiting for? Sign up today, email: fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk

