

# Examples of Innovative roles or practice in an ECMC

Translational Research Nurse Role

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# Introduction

- What is translational research?
- Developing the translational research nurse role at Addenbrookes/University of Cambridge
- Role of the translational research nurse
- Interactions with other members of the team
- Summary



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# What is translational research?

The Translational Research Working Group (TRWG) of the NCI defines Translational Research in the following way:

**"Translational research transforms scientific discoveries arising from laboratory, clinical, or population studies into clinical applications to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality."**



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# Stand up 2 cancer (SU2C)

“I have a scientific insight. I develop a drug for that scientific insight, or a new therapeutic approach . . . You have to find the cancer patient who would respond to this drug, and you have to deliver it to that cancer patient in a compassionate and reasonable way to see if you can get maximal response.”



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# Role Development

- Started in 2004 in breast
- NTRAC (pre ECMC) funded nurse (not called research assistant)
- Role looked at developing tissue collections from theatres, not specific trials
- Late 2004 first specific collections with scientists start
- 2005 first translational trial 'Neo-tango' used translational research nurse to co-ordinate tissue collections from around the country
- 2007 Translational nurse appointed in gynae
- Today we have translational nurses in Breast (2), Gynae, Colorectal, Prostate, Haematology, and Imaging



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# What do we do?

- Work with the scientists to help them develop a study (don't do the science!)
- Design the protocol, PIS, consent, Ethics applications, R&D forms etc and put the projects through the application process
- Recruit the patients and act as their advocate
- Collect the samples
- Run the projects until closure



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# What else

- Collaborate closely with clinicians
- Assist with the running of the translational elements of Phase 1,2,3 studies
- Help other staff members with tissue collection procedures i.e. HTA guidance etc in the hospital
- Help other areas with designing tissue collection studies, in particular consents
- Most importantly act as a resource for patients so that we can talk science in a patient 'understandable' way and also keep them updated with the latest science at the hospital

# Interactions

- Scientists
- Clinicians
- Theatre staff
- Tissue bank staff
- Oncology
- Radiologists
- Patients



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# Summary

- Relatively new role for nurses
- Helps to ensure quality of samples
- Gives patients a good understanding of what we want and why we want it
- Patients advocate
- Experienced nurse able to assist with procedure and any untoward incidents (many years training)
- Patients want to donate samples