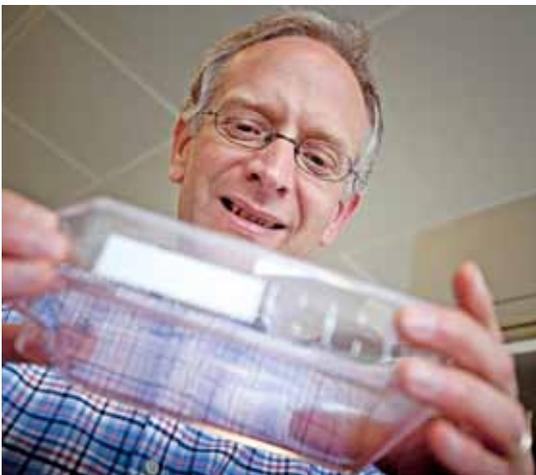


Rheumatoid Arthritis Pathogenesis Centre of Excellence



The core objectives of our centre are to:

- Establish the early events that trigger rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- Identify why the body does not prevent this progressing to a long term condition

Rheumatoid Arthritis is a common auto-immune disease that causes inflammation in the joints of almost 1 in 100 people in the UK

The Rheumatoid Arthritis Pathogenesis Centre of Excellence is a partnership between the University of Birmingham, the University of Glasgow and Newcastle University and aims to speed up the progress towards finding a cure for rheumatoid arthritis. The centre is led by Professors Iain McInnes in Glasgow, Chris Buckley in Birmingham and John Isaacs in Newcastle and was launched in Glasgow by Olympic gold medal winner, Katherine Grainger, in June 2014.

The main symptoms of Rheumatoid Arthritis are painful, swollen joints sometimes starting in a few joints but often spreading to others, causing joint damage, fatigue and disability. It is the second most common form of arthritis in the UK.

We know that certain groups of people, particularly women in middle age or older, are most likely to be affected, although its symptoms in individual patients can be quite different. This is probably because many factors influence the disease, including the genes you inherit from your parents, diet, smoking and infections.

Our research

Our researchers are experts in different areas of rheumatoid arthritis and have made major contributions to the current understanding of the disease. Some are clinicians working with patients in the major hospitals in the three cities; others are laboratory scientists who work with them to try to find why the disease may start and identify possible methods of halting the progress of the disease.



Education and training

We have identified two key programmes which will help us meet our objectives. These are looking at:

- Why the immune system becomes confused in RA and appears to treat the normal structures of the joint as 'foreign'
- Why the synovium, which lines the joint, provides a place where white blood cells can survive, promote inflammation and cause damage.



The main aims of our project include increasing knowledge and awareness of the disease, both in the scientific community and the general public.

We will recruit 12 PhD students through the project. They will be trained in at least of the two partner universities to ensure that they gain exposure to a wide range of skills and techniques, equipping them for a future in research

Our staff gain knowledge and experience through events organised through the centre and we share our experience with researchers from around the world. We do this by presenting our findings at UK and international conferences and by inviting foreign groups to learn how we work in the UK. This project is helping to keep the UK at the forefront of international research into the disease.

We are also committed to engaging with the public to raise awareness of rheumatoid arthritis and the impact that it has on people's lives.





How can you help?

If you have rheumatoid arthritis and are seeing a doctor for this, they may ask to take samples of blood or tissue from you to be used by our researchers in our efforts to find a cure. You may also be offered the opportunity to participate in one of the clinical trials. Please consider these requests and help this and other projects.

Alternatively, Arthritis Research UK is a charity which relies on donations. Please consider giving today to help fund research into the cause, treatment and cure of arthritis.

Contacting us

You can find out more information by visiting our website:

www.race-gbn.org

by contacting the centre manager at:

info@race-gbn.org

or by calling

0141 330 5620

Alternatively, you can contact Arthritis Research UK on:

0300 790 0400

enquiries@arthritisresearchuk.org

