

Research in NHS Practice

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Locally in your hospital

- Become a Principal Investigator
- Express interest/ send CV to your R and D team (GCP)
- Ask research promoter or R and D team to look for portfolio study for you take on
- Be fairly sure you can do what is asked of you, and your clinical colleagues are also satisfied with any changes in practice
- Be realistic about the number of patients you can recruit

Locally in your hospital: Research Management and Governance

- Research and Development Committee
- Strategic approach to R and D in the trust
- Overall plan with regard to numbers of studies opened, number of accruals to studies
- Influence of use of research resources e.g. L-CLRN funding

Regional Research Management

- Local/regional research networks
- Regional Ethics Committees
- Local CLRNs: Comprehensive Local Research Networks; responsible for the funding streams to hospital trusts and other organisations
- Regional grant funding committees e.g. Research for Patient Benefit committees (NIHR)

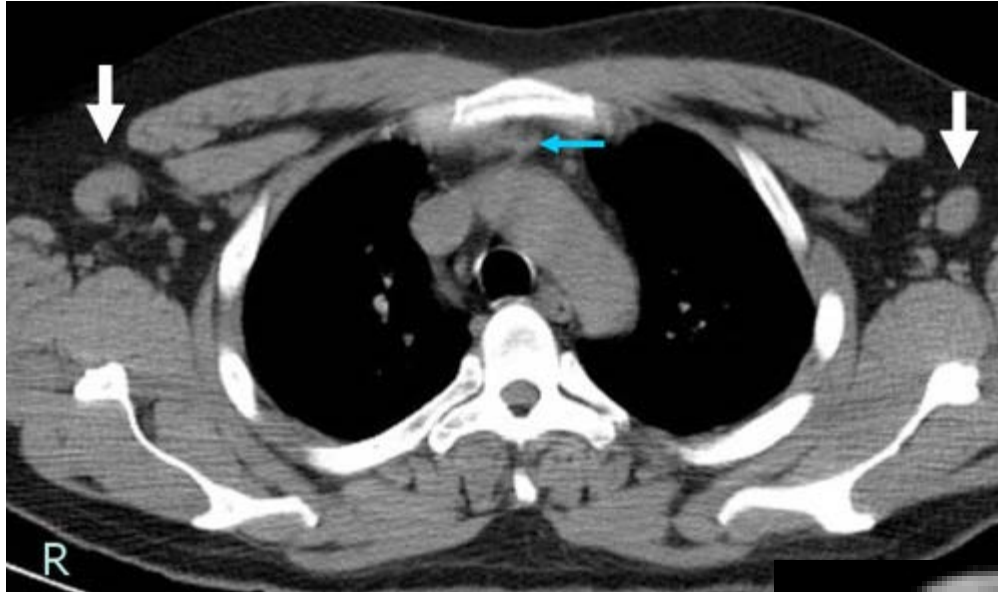
Developing your research idea

- Clinical challenge/ problem in practice
- Patient query
- Audit results
- New technology

Research Question

- But is it research? Testing a hypothesis
- Can use existing data to address a new question and that is research
- Or Audit? Objective assessment of performance against a defined standard
- But audit cannot define best practice
- Much of what is published is audit of practice

Can we use multislice CT to evaluate axillary lymph nodes in patients with breast cancer?



To address the question about which operation breast cancer patients should have primarily on the axilla: ALND or SLNB?



Defining and Refining your Research Question

- Original
- Of interest to the researcher and the **outside world**
- Hypothesis can be formulated
- Hypothesis can be tested
- Study is feasible in terms of time, ethics, money, numbers of patients
- Results may alter current practice

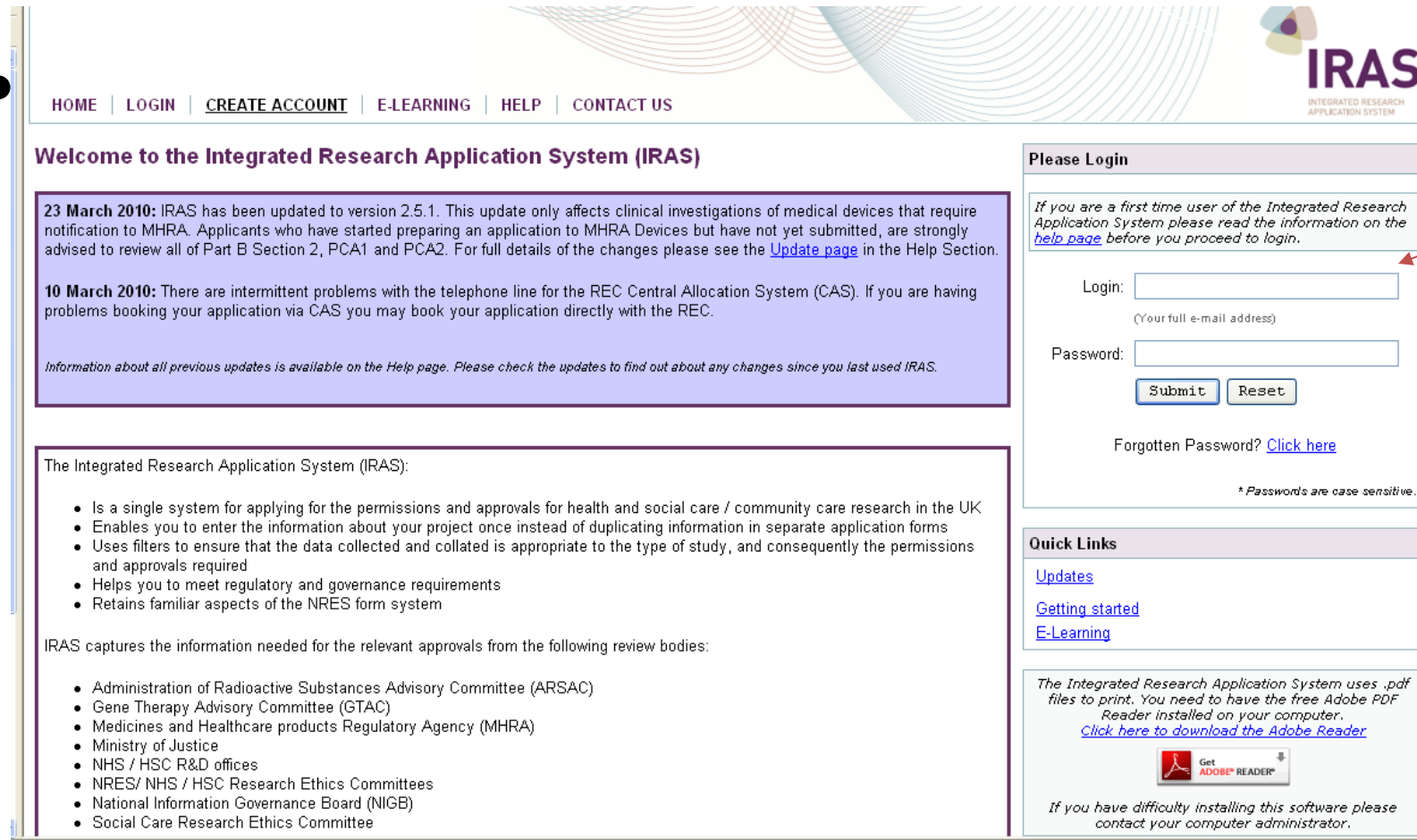
Back ground literature search/ Methodology

- Has it been done before? Same scale, same rigour of design
- Beware covert duplicate publications
- Medline, Cochrane library
- Colleagues, experts, lay people, patients, nursing staff
- Try to explain/ pitch your idea to lay member of the public or give them your protocol for comments
- Try writing a protocol, even if there are blanks in it. Protocol is a recipe, anyone with training should be able to follow it

Methodology

- Choosing which type of study you need to test your hypothesis
- Expert help; can be a steep learning curve
- Statistical analysis, what test, power of the study, how many patients you need to recruit
- May need assistance from statistician or from your local research design service
- Ethical problems or issues to be addressed
- Funding

Plotting a course through ethics and all the forms



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IRAS
INTEGRATED RESEARCH APPLICATION SYSTEM

Welcome to the Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

23 March 2010: IRAS has been updated to version 2.5.1. This update only affects clinical investigations of medical devices that require notification to MHRA. Applicants who have started preparing an application to MHRA Devices but have not yet submitted, are strongly advised to review all of Part B Section 2, PCA1 and PCA2. For full details of the changes please see the [Update page](#) in the Help Section.

10 March 2010: There are intermittent problems with the telephone line for the REC Central Allocation System (CAS). If you are having problems booking your application via CAS you may book your application directly with the REC.

Information about all previous updates is available on the Help page. Please check the updates to find out about any changes since you last used IRAS.

The Integrated Research Application System (IRAS):

- Is a single system for applying for the permissions and approvals for health and social care / community care research in the UK
- Enables you to enter the information about your project once instead of duplicating information in separate application forms
- Uses filters to ensure that the data collected and collated is appropriate to the type of study, and consequently the permissions and approvals required
- Helps you to meet regulatory and governance requirements
- Retains familiar aspects of the NRES form system

IRAS captures the information needed for the relevant approvals from the following review bodies:

- Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee (ARSAC)
- Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- Ministry of Justice
- NHS / HSC R&D offices
- NRES/ NHS / HSC Research Ethics Committees
- National Information Governance Board (NIGB)
- Social Care Research Ethics Committee

Please Login

If you are a first time user of the Integrated Research Application System please read the information on the [help page](#) before you proceed to login.

Login:
(Your full e-mail address)

Password:


Forgotten Password? [Click here](#)

** Passwords are case sensitive.*

Quick Links

- [Updates](#)
- [Getting started](#)
- [E-Learning](#)

The Integrated Research Application System uses .pdf files to print. You need to have the free Adobe PDF Reader installed on your computer. [Click here to download the Adobe Reader](#)



If you have difficulty installing this software please contact your computer administrator.

Streamlining the process: Health Research Authority

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.hra.nhs.uk/research-ethics-committee-members/rec-membership-hra-policy-and-information/. The page features a dark blue header with navigation links: HRA Training, Staff Intranet, Glossary, Vacancies, Contact Us, and a search bar. The NHS logo and 'Health Research Authority' text are also present. A breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Home > Patients and the public > Research Community > REC and REC community > About us > Resources > Research Ethics Committee Members > REC Membership : HRA policy and information.

Research Ethics Committee Members

- Member feedback
- Guidance and policy for members: ethical review
- REC Membership : HRA policy and information**
- REC Members' training
- REC Chairs and Vice Chairs: HRA policy and information

REC Membership : HRA policy and information

Members of Research Ethics Committees (RECs) appointed by the Health Research Authority are selected and operate in the context of a number of HRA policies. Key policies and information are below. If members have questions about the terms of their membership not covered here, they should not hesitate to contact their REC Manager.

Recruitment and Selection of Members of RECs

This **document** [pdf, 201 KB] details the procedure and process for the recruitment and selection of REC Members. The aim of the document is to ensure that the appointment method of members is fair and transparent and compliant with good practice.

This policy also covers transfer to other RECs, and return following a break in service.

The full document set and person specifications for REC members are available for download [here](#).

Any of the standard template letters listed in Annex 1 of this policy are available on request from your REC Manager or Regional Manager.

Terms and Conditions of Membership

Sharing Screenshot
A link to your screenshot has been copied to your clipboard (click to view).

Summary

- Plenty of ways to become more research active in your own local environment even if you don't want to write grant applications or generate new research ideas yourself
- Consider becoming a PI on someone else's trial first (NIHR portfolio studies)
- Consider obtaining some training, courses, RCR Research Certificate
- May well lead to you developing your own research ideas

Summary

- Good question, refine, define, and hone
- Talk to people about it; get opinions
- Try writing a protocol
- Ask for expert help if it looks viable
- Don't be afraid to ask questions