

What I have learnt in the Research Department

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During the week starting the 17th June 2019, I spent my time at a work experience placement in Princess Alexandra Hospital's Research, Development and Innovations department. With the help of Chris Cook, James Allen, and many other incredible mentors, I was able to learn all about the amazing work they do in this department.

Research and Development has been going on for so many years, a trial from 25 years ago is being showcased here that was pioneered by these research nurses, data managers, heads of department... This is just one example of the hundred live trials that take place at PAH each year.



As a result of all of this effort I have been able to walk out of my placement with a certificate in Basic Life Support, and an expanded knowledge of IG, GDPR, NIHR, the structure of a clinical trial, and the NHS as a whole.



Throughout my placement I was involved in a wide range of activities, spanning from working in the clinic on confidential trials, to a day in the life of a professional trial data manager. These wildly differing jobs and many more taught me greatly on the topic of medical research in a hospital. For instance, I was informed on the lack of awareness of the amazing work this department does. The tireless days that go into developing the drugs that you would be so much worse off without.



As well as the lack of awareness of these hard working individuals, I'd like to point out the kindness they each exhibited with me as a work experience student. They could have done anything with me during my week in their office, I could have been making coffees all week but instead I was hands on in clinic with research nurses like Ervin Shpuza, Nikki Staines and Carol Muir. I also spent time observing critical meetings with Chris Cook detailing the construction of the new hospital.

I am so thankful to all of these people for an excellent week, I have learnt so much. From this I'd like to please urge you to show your love and support for these fantastic and hard working individuals who make your lives so much happier as the driving force for your medicine and healthcare.