

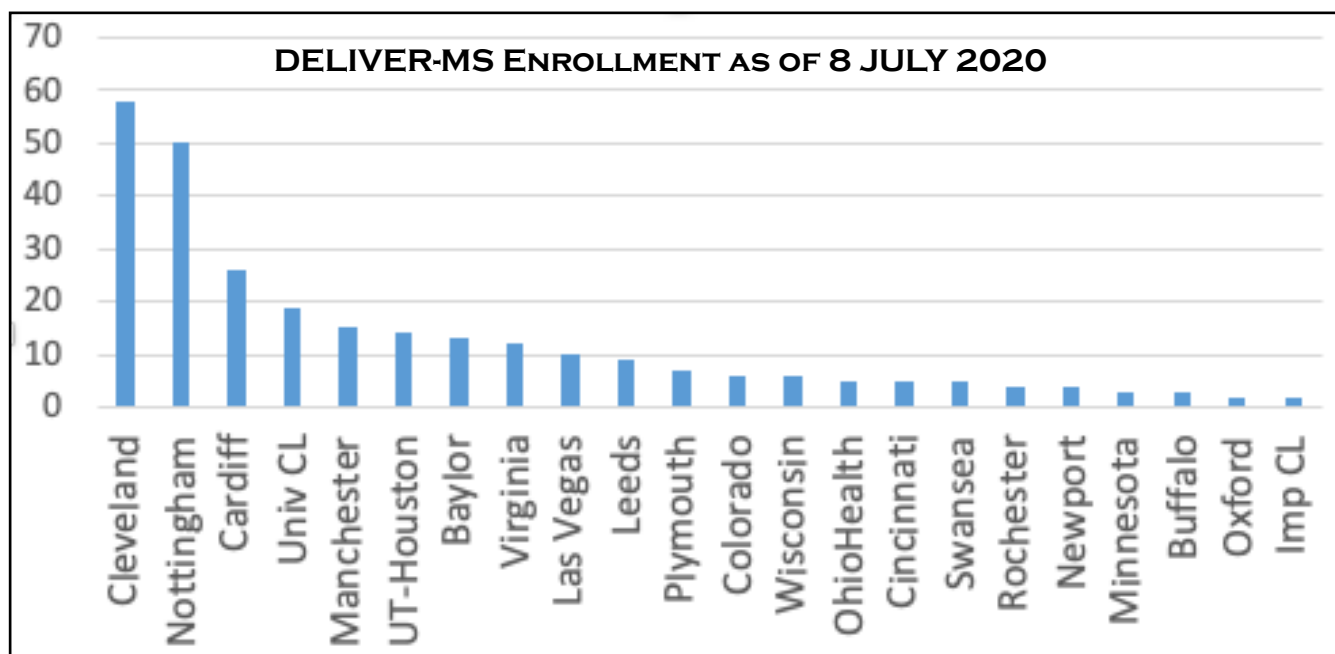


JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Does early treatment with highly effective DMT improve prognosis for people with MS?

WELCOME TO THE DELIVER-MS NEWSLETTER

There were several causes for celebrations this month: US colleagues celebrated American independence on July 4th, while UK colleagues celebrated catching them in the DELIVER-MS enrolment race! We can all now jointly celebrate a return to more normal-looking recruitment figures. Particular congratulations go to University College London, who have led on enrolment this month.



DELIVER-MS TEAM FOCUS : MANCHESTER, UK

This month we are delighted to highlight our colleagues at the Salford Royal, UK. The Salford Royal covers a population of 2.8 million within Greater Manchester, and five MS-ologists collectively care for ~5,000 people with MS. Tatiana Mihalova is DELIVER-MS PI in Salford, where she works alongside Stephanie Mitchell (Neurology Research Assistant), who Tatiana admits is the linchpin of the recruitment process: *“without her nothing would happen!”*. I asked Tatiana to fill us in on the Salford experience of DELIVER-MS so far and to share some top tips.

- You have done very well with recruitment, so far. What has worked well?

Like many centres we have time pressures in our consultations that can make recruitment challenging. Our patients may have travelled a long way and there is a lot of information to process visiting MS clinic for the first time. It is vital to be prepared ahead of clinic - I usually ask Stephanie to prepare information for both Observational and Randomised studies for each new patient; as the consultation unfolds, I judge which is most appropriate for them. If a patient is undecided in the clinic, we ask them to go home and consult the website and video and Stephanie will call them in the next few days. We tend to find that the majority who were undecided in clinic, ultimately choose the randomised study.




- What has been the response from participants recruited to the study?

Our main message to patients in clinic is to try to start DMT early. Participants in DELIVER-MS often feel reassured to have greater contact with the MS team at this uncertain time, and to feel that Stephanie is driving forward the process of treatment and monitoring on their behalf.





The Salford Royal MS team

NEWS FROM THE DELIVER-MS TEAM

-  The **UK biobank in Cardiff is now re-open** to receiving samples for DELIVER-MS. This means you can return to sample collection and couriering as before the onset of COVID-19. Do contact Sam Loveless (Biobank manager) or Aimee Hibbert (project manager) with questions.
-  We hope to open the **US biobank** shipments to UAB soon—we are still awaiting signatures on an MTA (we know -it's taking forever). In the meantime, US sites are asked to keep collecting serum samples and store them on-site.
-  DELIVER-MS investigators may wish to listen to the JAMA Clinical Reviews podcast on **Understanding Pragmatic Trials**, which was released in June 2020 and has much relevance to DELIVER-MS (link below)

FINAL THOUGHTS

-  Just a reminder that (for now) the DELIVER-MS observational arm is open to unlimited recruitment. So anyone commencing their first DMT is likely to be eligible. Do share this simple message with your colleagues: **Starting DMT? Consider DELIVER!**
-  Do reach out to us with any questions about the running of DELIVER-MS at your site and we will be happy to advise.

See the **JAMA Clinical Reviews podcast on Pragmatic Trials** here:
<https://edhub.ama-assn.org/jn-learning/audio-player/18519549>

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