

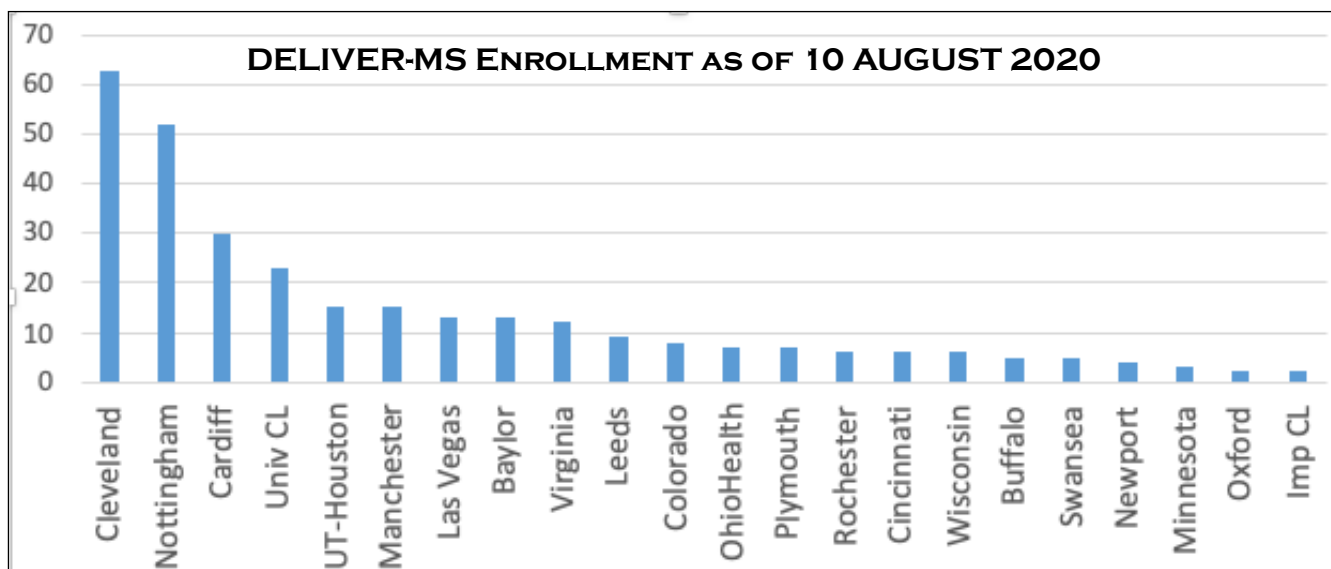
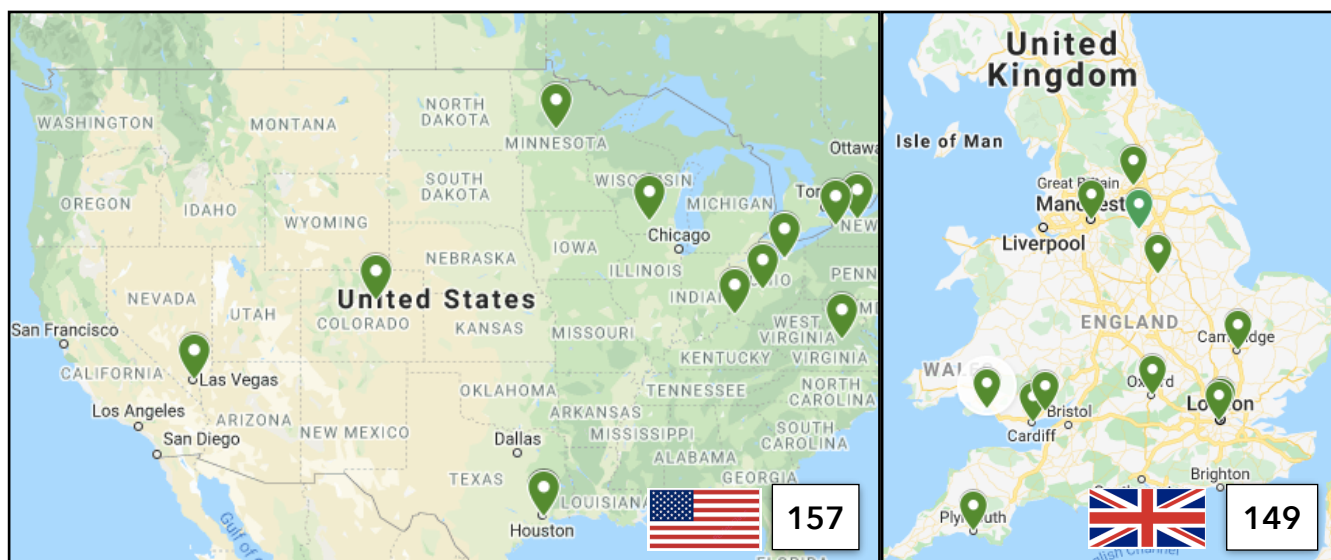


# AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

## WELCOME TO THE DELIVER-MS NEWSLETTER

I hope you are all enjoying some well-deserved breaks over the summer period. We have enjoyed seeing a gradual upslope in recruitment rates to DELIVER-MS this month. Congratulations to Wallace Brownlee at UCL who continues to be a strong contributor on UK recruitment. We are also delighted to be highlighting our colleagues at UT Houston this month (see below), who have been key contributors to US enrolment so far.



## DELIVER-MS TEAM FOCUS : UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, USA

This month we are delighted to highlight our colleagues at the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC), Houston, USA. UTHSC serves Houston and surrounding areas, and has a huge network of basic science and translational researchers.

Rohini Samudralwar (PI) is originally from Philadelphia, but moved to Houston for residency at Baylor College of Medicine. Following a fellowship in Washington University, St. Louis, Rohini returned to work with the MS group at UTHSC. She loves being part of a team who get along well in and outside of work. Rohini enjoys hiking with her husband and her Aussiedoodle, Harvey (see cute pic below). She loves travelling and enjoyed recent trips to Peru and Iceland (pre-COVID of course!).

Jim Jemelka (Study Co-ordinator), Leanne Ledoux (Nurse Practitioner) and Rajesh Gupta (Neurologist) are all key players within the DELIVER-MS team at UTHSC. Jim is the backbone of the team. He has worked at UTHSC for over 25 years but in a former life Jim trained in media and has acted in community theaters, movies and TV commercials. Jim is also extensively trained in psychology (BSc, MA and ABD PhD). Jim continues to love music and the arts scene, volunteering at theaters in Houston and as Vice President of a LGBT Business/Social organization. Jim also loves spending time at the water with his partner.



The UTHSC team. Left to right: Rajesh Gupta, Rohini Samudralwar, Jim Jemelka and Leanne Ledoux.

We asked the UTHSC team about their experience of DELIVER-MS so far:

**What are your top tips for identifying and enrolling potential participants?** Most patients are eager to participate as they understand the need to better understand the impact of DMTs. We mention the study whenever a DMT-naïve patient presents to the clinic. We find directing patients to the DELIVER-MS website is very helpful, allowing them to understand the study on their own terms. We follow-up soon afterwards for consent and screening, emphasizing that we will choose a medication together, so they retain their sense of autonomy prior to randomization.



Harvey the Aussiedoodle

**What has been the response from participants recruited to the study?** Participants in the study appreciate the thorough follow up, and the provision of their first two MRIs. Participants also report surprise at how minimally intrusive the study feels.

---

## 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.
- 🧠 The value of the biobank was highlighted this month by a publication by Cardiff PI, Emma Tallantyre, which demonstrates ongoing uncertainties about the clinical utility of serum neurofilament light in predicting outcomes in MS (*see link below*). We will use serum collected in the DELIVER-MS biobanks to address whether serum markers are capable of predicting relevant outcomes.
- 🧠 DELIVER-MS gained publicity this month with a Neurology podcast and editorial titled ***Making public and patient involvement in clinical trials more than aspirational***. This commentary refers to our article: ***Achieving effective patient and public involvement in international clinical trials in neurology***. See links to the original article and editorial/ podcast below.
- 🧠 Based on feedback from DELIVER-MS investigators and participants, who have told us how helpful they find the [www.deliver-ms.com](http://www.deliver-ms.com) website, we have developed a QR code. Do feel free to print and share.



# DELIVER-MS

A study for people recently diagnosed  
with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis

For more information, scan the code

---

## FINAL THOUGHTS



Just a reminder that (for now) the DELIVER-MS observational arm is open to unlimited recruitment, so most people with RMS commencing their first DMT will be eligible: **Starting DMT? Consider DELIVER!**



Do reach out to us with any questions about DELIVER-MS and we will be happy to advise.

---

### **Relevant Links**

Original article on public engagement in neurology clinical trials: <https://cp.neurology.org/content/10/3/265>

Neurology podcast: [http://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/a/9/8/a98787dfb62b974a/July\\_21\\_2020\\_Neurology\\_Podcast.mp3?c\\_id=78758510&cs\\_id=78758510&expiration=1596672252&hwt=2645552bc48b8aaf8d9fe7ad270c8f78](http://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/a/9/8/a98787dfb62b974a/July_21_2020_Neurology_Podcast.mp3?c_id=78758510&cs_id=78758510&expiration=1596672252&hwt=2645552bc48b8aaf8d9fe7ad270c8f78)

Neurology Clinical Practice Editorial on public engagement: <https://cp.neurology.org/content/10/3/188>

**Our website is:**

[www.deliver-ms.com](http://www.deliver-ms.com)

**Our mailing address is:**

[planchs@ccf.org](mailto:planchs@ccf.org) (US) and [aimee.hibbert@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:aimee.hibbert@nuh.nhs.uk) (UK)

---