

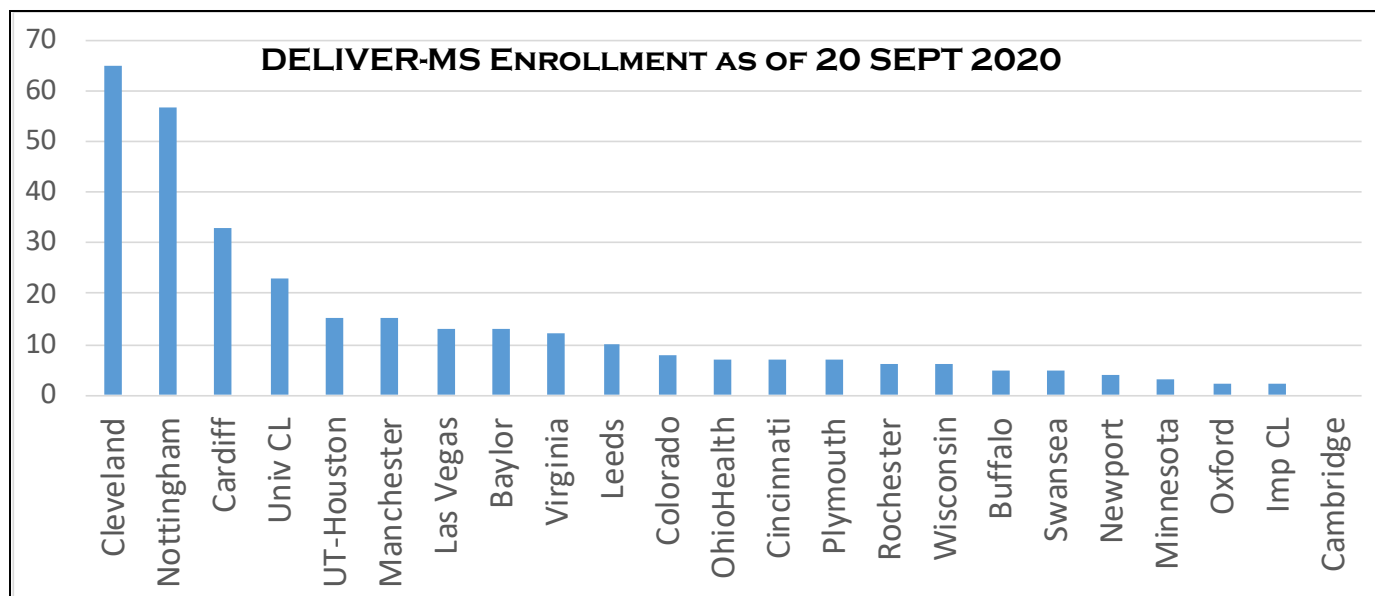
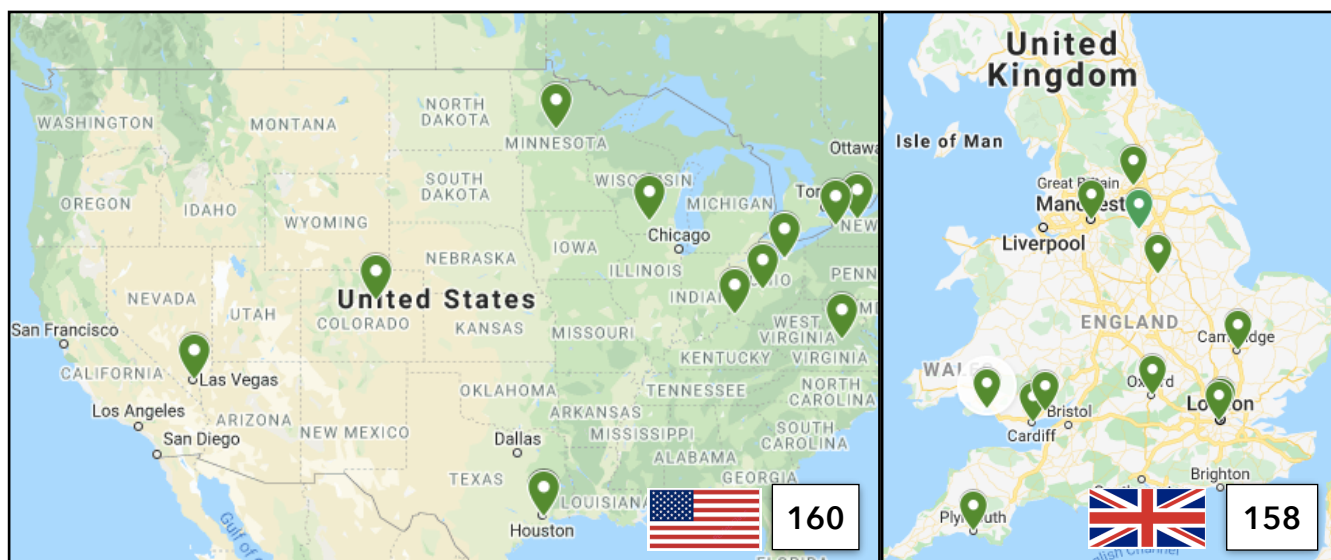


# SEPTEMBER 2020

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

## WELCOME TO THE DELIVER-MS NEWSLETTER

I hope you all managed to enjoy a break over the summer and have returned to this new academic year feeling refreshed and ready for the next challenge. There is no shortage of challenges for all of us at the moment and we hugely appreciate the considerable contributions many sites have been making to continue enrolling patients to DELIVER-MS. Our focus this month is on the biobank. Do check it out to be reminded of the merits of this sub-study.



## DELIVER-MS TEAM FOCUS: BIOBANKING

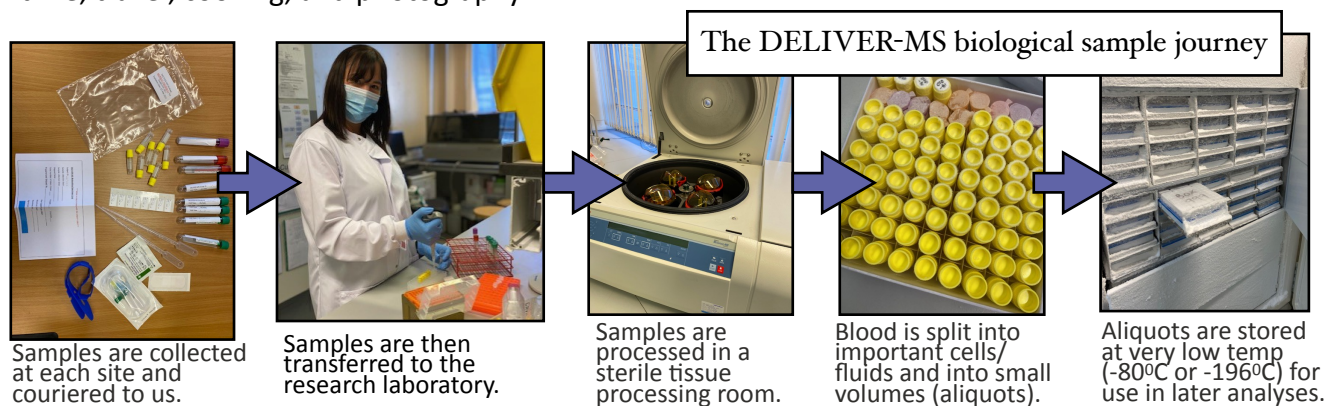
We are delighted to highlight our DELIVER-MS biobank. The collection of blood samples has become commonplace in many MS research studies in a search for biomarkers that might hold promise in predicting outcomes in a more individualised way. We applied to the National MS Society (US) and MS Society (UK) to provide additional funds for biobanking in DELIVER at baseline and 6 month visits. Here we introduce you to the Biobanking team and tell you a bit more about what happens to your samples.

**Sam Loveless** and **Praneeta Raza** oversee the UK and US biobanks. **Sam** is originally from Bath (England) but has lived in South Wales for the last 23 years during which time she gained her BSc and PhD and has worked within the university ever since. Sam has been a part of the Cardiff neurology team for 12 years, as the lab and biobank manager. During normal times Sam loves spending quality time with her family, out walking, at the beach and on



Praneeta Raza, US biobank manager (left) and Sam Loveless, UK biobank manager (right).

holidays in Europe and has a love for DIY. **Praneeta** was born and raised in South India. After earning her MBBS degree from India, she moved to the Ohio, where she graduated Masters in Clinical Research. Praneeta has been the biobank manager for US sites since April 2019 and chose Mellen Center Cleveland Clinic for the diverse MS patient population, the cutting-edge research, and the opportunity to work with well-established and friendly staff. Outside of work, she enjoys family time, travel, cooking, and photography.



We asked the team to give us some top tips on making biobanking work at your site:

- Do use the cheatsheets provided to avoid needing to refer to MOP/Protocol for every patient.
- Monitor biobank supplies periodically to avoid last minute rushed shipping.
- While consenting, instead of mentioning 77-80 mL, translate it to 5 tablespoons - straight forward to understand and projects a less scary number. If a participant is not keen on this number of vials, a limited collection of only 1-3 vials (< 30ml) is possible for serum and DNA only.
- Reach out to the biobank team with questions ASAP without delaying.

**A final word from co-PI Dan Ontaneda:** The DELIVER-MS Biobank will provide the opportunity to interrogate potential biomarkers for disease progression and treatment response in a fully curated clinical trial population of people with treatment-naïve relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis from across the UK/US. Samples will provide the opportunity to explore serum, DNA and inflammatory cells, to identify and validate candidate biomarkers. Results could be later translated into clinical practice.

## 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.

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### Relevant Links

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)



# DELIVER-MS

A study for people recently diagnosed  
with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis

For more information, scan the code

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