

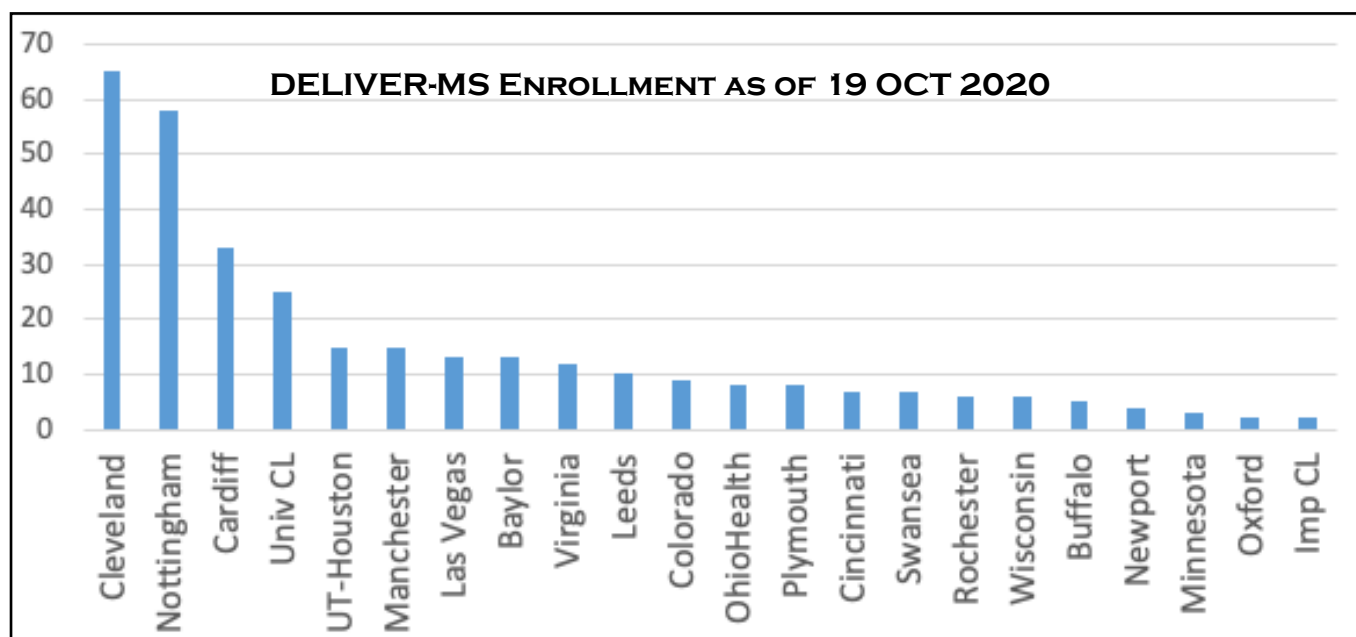
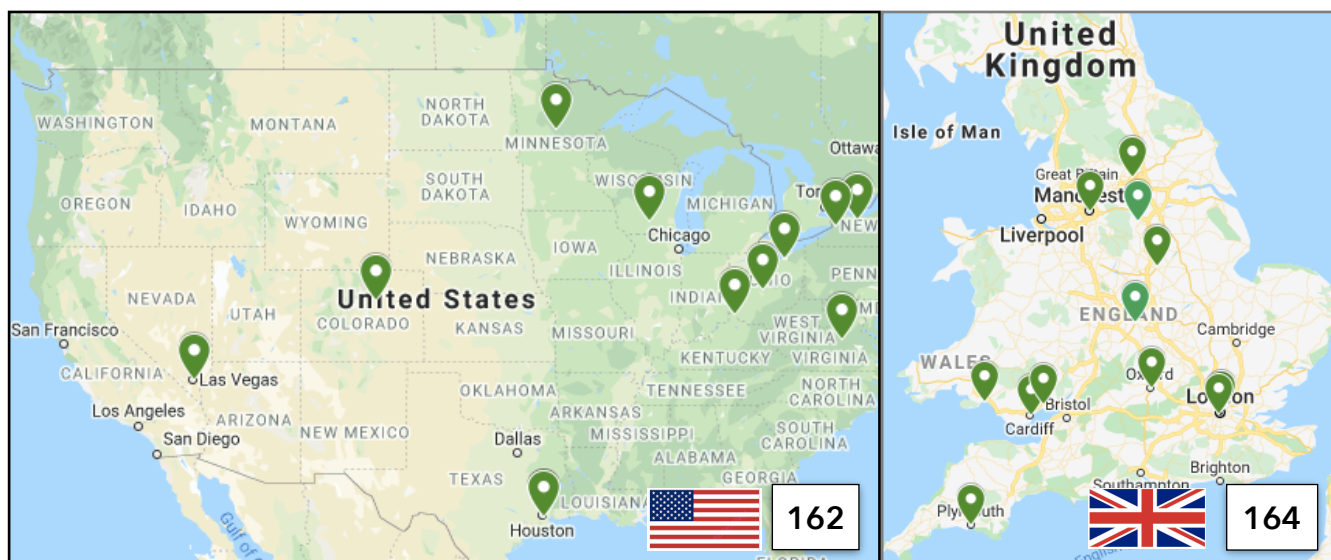


OCTOBER 2020

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

WELCOME TO THE DELIVER-MS NEWSLETTER

It is a pleasure this month to welcome two new PIs to DELIVER-MS. **Tarunya Arun** joins us as PI of **Coventry**, UK a new site that opened this month. Meanwhile **David Rog** takes over from Tatiana Mihalova as PI at Manchester, UK. We are also delighted to see several sites re-opening for research this month with new recruits in **Swansea** and **Plymouth**, UK. Overall, you can see these efforts have seen the UK sneak ahead of the US in recruitment this month!!



DELIVER-MS TEAM FOCUS: CLEVELAND CLINIC, USA

We are delighted to highlight the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio team this month. Headed by Dr Ontaneda, Co-PI of DELIVER-MS and surrounded by a great team including Aryn Giffi Scibona, Sadie Coates, Sarah Planchon, John Mays and Praneeta Raza, it's no surprise that they're leading in trial enrolment. You all know Dan, but you may not know that he was born in Ecuador but grew up in Canada, Hungary, and the United States. Dan loves Cleveland, it is the place he has been the longest, so it feels like home. Growing up Dan wanted to be bullfighter (see picture, right)! Thankfully for all of us he retrained as neurologist. Dan's favourite activities are cooking and early morning running. Many of you already know Sarah, John and Praneeta by now, but here are some fun facts about the rest of the Cleveland team (and yes, more cute pet photos).



Alongside being DELIVER-MS coordinator since the trial opened, **Aryn Giffi Scibona** is an equestrian and wine aficionado - a dangerous combination! She has a cat, Felix and a goldendoodle, Bocce. She is also an Animal Crossing addict - friend her now (don't worry I had to look it up too!).



Cute pics: (a) Felix, (b) Bocce, (c,d) Aryn in equestrian mode

Sadie Coates recently joined Aryn as deputy DELIVER coordinator. She grew up in Naples, FL and worked in cardiology research before moving to Cleveland and switching to neuro research (which she much prefers). Outside of work, Sadie enjoys time outdoors, visiting the lake with her dog, Clark. She also brews beer, a hobby that stemmed from a botched organic chemistry experiment!



Another cute pic: Clark at the lake!



We asked the Cleveland team for their thoughts on DELIVER-MS:

What has been the response from patients recruited to the study?

- Dan: “The participants are extremely happy and motivated to help other people with MS. They tend to connect more with the center when they are involved in research and are so generous with their time.”

How has your team overcome challenges posed by COVID-19 at your site?

- Dan: “COVID is a challenge for all of us, particularly for our patients who are facing a recent diagnosis of MS. I think participating in DELIVER allows people to feel connected and know we have a close eye on everything. We owe it to our patients/funders/stakeholders to get this study done. We have all overcome barriers, and are so proud that DELIVER has kept enrolling.”
- Sadie: “Pre-COVID, patients would return to us in-person after their initial MS diagnosis to discuss options and chose a DMT. This was an optimal time for a DELIVER screening visit. But post-COVID, these visits have become virtual. To overcome this, our fellows have been great at mentioning DELIVER early on, which has made later phone consults much easier and



The Cleveland team: (left to right) John M, Sarah P-P, Dan O, Aryn G-S, Praneeta R and Sadie C.

NEWS FROM THE DELIVER-MS TEAM



Guidance has been issued by NIHR, UK this month (see link below) aimed at protecting COVID and non-COVID research during the “second wave”. The guidances states: ***“We support ensuring research staff are not deployed to the front line unless there are exceptional circumstances, the prioritisation of Urgent Public Health studies and the continuation of non-COVID-19 research - including new studies - wherever possible.”***

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.

Relevant Links

Our website is:

www.deliver-ms.com

Our mailing address is:

planchs@ccf.org (US) and aimee.hibbert@nuh.nhs.uk (UK)

NIHR, UK guidance on supporting ongoing research during a “second wave”:
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-issues-guidance-to-ensure-research-protected-in-a-second-wave/25858>
