

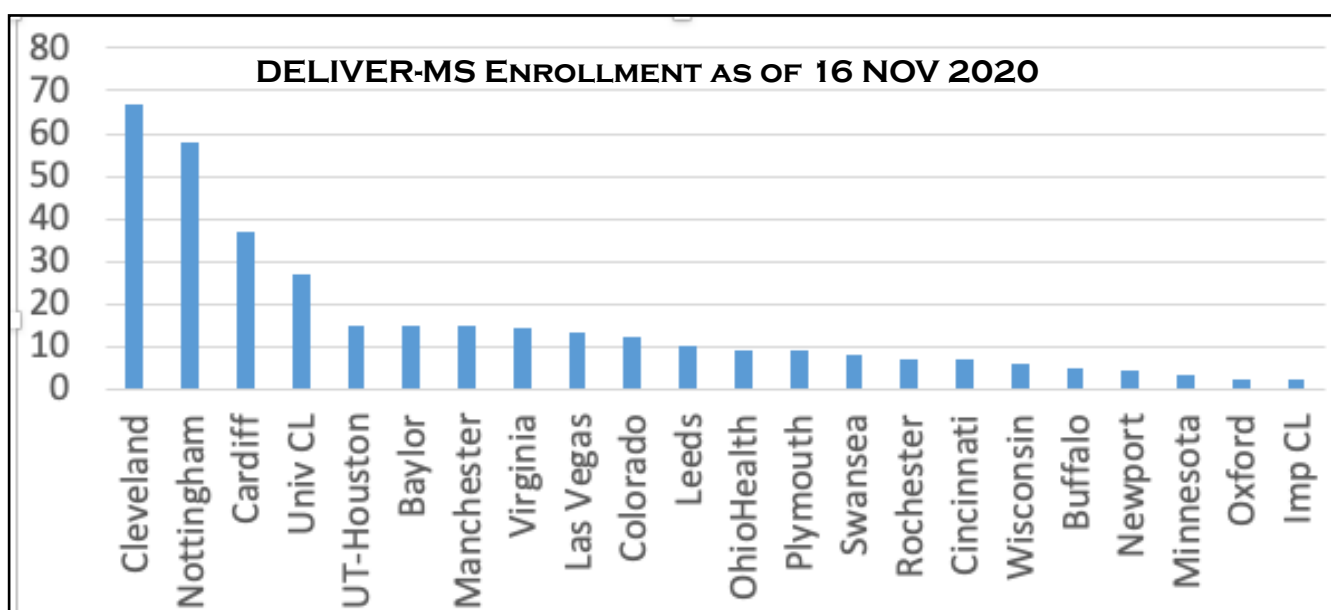


NOVEMBER 2020

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

WELCOME TO THE DELIVER-MS NEWSLETTER

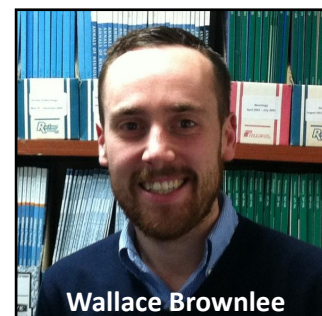
Recruitment has continued steadily this month as sites manage to successfully navigate COVID-19 constraints for those people with MS who need to commence DMT. The enrolment race between the UK vs. US also continues to be extremely close. We are delighted to highlight University College London (UCL) this month. The UCL team, led by Wallace Brownlee, have been key contributors to DELIVER-MS. They share their experience on recruiting in the COVID-19 era (below).



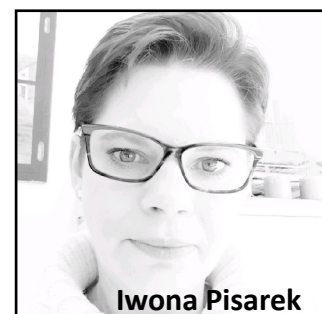
DELIVER-MS TEAM FOCUS: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, UK

Despite being a small team, Dr Wallace Brownlee (PI), Dr Madiha Shatila (research fellow) and Iwona Pisarek (research assistant) were consistently recruiting 1-2 patients per month to DELIVER until COVID-19 hit the UK in early 2020. They shared their recent experience of recruiting to the study:

“When cases of COVID-19 started to rise in London in early 2020, and the first national lockdown was announced, it was unclear whether study recruitment and assessments could continue. DELIVER-MS is unique in that many of the study assessments are also needed for routine clinical care (e.g. EDSS assessments, MRI scans) as patients need to start DMTs whether they are part of the study, or not. For these reasons, our research office allowed DELIVER-MS to continue recruitment.





“As a team we had to re-think how to conduct study visits efficiently and safely. First, we combined screening and baseline visits into a “one-stop shop”, saving time and travel to the hospital for patients. We also worked more closely with clinical teams to ensure any screening blood tests, ECGs and vaccinations were scheduled at the DELIVER-MS study visit. Overall this made the process of getting patients started on DMTs much more streamlined and patients appreciate fewer trips to the hospital!





“Early in the COVID-19 pandemic it was very difficult for us to obtain MRI scans except in emergency or life-threatening situations. We started to rely on baseline MRIs obtained for DELIVER-MS to inform treatment decisions e.g. using gad-enhanced scans at baseline to determine eligibility for cladribine or natalizumab. This has been tremendously helpful and allowed us to save on scanning time through the NHS.

“Despite all the challenges it has been great to continue recruitment for DELIVER-MS during the pandemic. Our patients have remained enthusiastic about taking part in research, and committed to help address this important research question.”

NEWS FROM THE DELIVER-MS TEAM

-  Coventry (UK) have now had their Site Initiation Visit (SIV). As Leicester (UK) approach their SIV we look forward to having two new UK sites on board.
 -  We look forward to welcoming back Myla Goldman (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Leorah Freeman (University of Texas Austin) as they set up new sites. We are also delighted that Orhun Kantarci will be joining from Mayo Clinic.
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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

Our mailing address is:

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