

# Florica's Story

From loss to hope...



I grew up in Romania and was a brick layer there with my husband until we moved to England in the 80's to raise our family. As a result of our brick laying careers, my husband and I had developed lung and heart conditions from breathing in dust at work and smoking. Tragically, my husband's condition was found at a much later stage in the disease, and he passed away.

After being diagnosed with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) in hospital, my GP told me that I could enter clinical trials at the William Harvey Clinical Research Centre. I was worried about the unknowns of pursuing this, but I wanted to explore options that could improve my health as well as others down the road.



I have just finished my first trial in January and am participating in a follow up study in March of the same experiment.

On my first day at the Research Centre, I had water and blood tests done as well as an ECG, breathing and walking tests. Then, I was to use both a pump and tablets to improve my lung health for my trial treatment. I returned to the Research Centre monthly to receive my next dose of trial medications. The team at the William Harvey worked with me and listened to my concerns. This reassurance was vital for me as I was grieving my husband's death and my family and I were trying our best to cope with the loss of my husband alongside my declining health.

When I decided to enter clinical trials, my sons were concerned for my health and the unknowns of clinical trials. They have both been very supportive of me; we all struggled a lot when my husband passed away and being able to improve my health through these trials has been an incredible relief.

Taking part in these clinical trials has significantly improved my health. Before coming to the Research Centre, I could not do much on a daily basis because my breathing was so out of control. I was using oxygen and struggling to actively participate in my day-to-day life. Participating in the clinical trials here has improved my health dramatically, I currently do not need to use oxygen and I am able to get back to spending quality time with my sons without so much worry over my breathing.