

# Francis's Story

“Anything to improve the NHS...”



Right now, I am participating in the **Horizon** trial, but I had previously done three Alzheimer's studies that were all non-invasive. I try to involve myself as much as I can with clinical trials, so I am also on three trials committees as a patient representative.

I have worked in bureaucracies all my life and think the bureaucracy in the NHS is rubbish — there are 1.2 million workers in the NHS, yet how many actually work with patients? These people cannot think for the patient's needs when they do not interact with them. I like to do anything in my power to improve the NHS, even if it is indirectly.



My wife had early onset Alzheimer's and she nearly died from neglect in hospital. This is my motivation to involve myself in improving our health care in any way I can. This cannot happen to more people; I need to make the NHS better; we all do. Neglect in our hospitals needs to be eradicated; it is unacceptable.

Eight years ago, I had a heart bypass done and six months after my procedure my wife passed away. Some time later, I was told about a trial where I could see a psychiatrist to see how I was coping after my bypass. I decided to try it and found it helpful with coping with my wife's death, though I felt I had coped quite brilliantly with my bypass operation.

I try to work on getting minority populations into clinical trials. If we want a just health care service, we need to involve everyone. Proper healthcare cannot be established through the work of a few out-of-touch bureaucrats. It needs to be shaped by the people it is meant to serve — all the people it serves. I like to think simply and as humanly as possible. I like to find how to make things work by solving and addressing each small or even simple problem. If we need to get from point a to point b what steps do we need to take to get there? And what could block a pathway; where can we walk around that block?

At the William Harvey, they do a good job of pointing out to patients just how much they do for the researchers. That acknowledgement does wonders for the patients as well as the researchers, everyone can see that everyone benefits from clinical trials. When everyone involved recognises how much they do for each other, that appreciation goes a long way and establishes the trust that is needed for these trials to run smoothly.