

Paul's Story

"It was time to give back..."



I work in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, so I knew quite a bit about the presence of clinical trials. I decided it was time for me to give back to what I have been working in.

I am currently in the Horizon study for my high blood pressure and before this I was in a COVID-19 study as well. Before the studies, I had read up about the studies and who was funding them. I contacted the clinical trial coordinator who then directed me to the William Harvey Research Centre because it was the closest location to me

Participating in clinical trials is a win-win. I can try to help others and advocate for more people to participate through sharing what my experience was like while adding to our medical knowledge and advancements as a whole.

For the study I am in, compensation is not within the nature of the study, so I was not really expecting any and found my health benefits to be payment enough. People have in their minds this expectation that clinical trials are a manifestation of rampant capitalism and come with a huge risk. I find that this stems from ignorance and the failure of scientists to properly communicate the massive value that clinical trials hold. There is definitely room for improvement within the industry as a whole on sharing results with patients and the public more readily. I understand some of it cannot and should not be shared, either due to proprietary reasons or obviously for patient privacy. However, I think there are ways to accommodate those protections while still communicating well with participants and the general public.

I hope to see more diversity in clinical trials in the near future, we know that we need to be ensuring that enrollment accurately represents the population that is being served through clinical trials.