

ECMC Trial Operational Delivery Forum

Melanie Morris, Belfast ECMC and Chris Barron, Newcastle ECMC are the joint Chairs of the ECMC Trial Operational Delivery Forum. Find out more about them below.

Melanie Morris Biography



Dr Melanie Morris is the Operational Director of the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Network and Center Business Lead for the Belfast Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre. Melanie has over 30 years' experience in clinical research having obtained a PhD in Photodynamic Therapy from Leeds University in 1995, before taking up a postdoctoral research fellow position at the Beatson Institute Glasgow. Melanie subsequently worked within the Contract Research and Pharma Industries, specialising in global clinical trial project management and regulatory affairs, before moving to her current post in 2005.

Melanie currently oversees a regional multidisciplinary team supporting the set-up and delivery of cancer clinical trials across Northern Ireland. She also works closely with her academic colleagues in Queen's University Belfast to support the work of Belfast ECMC. Melanie has been part of the ECMC Network since its inception back in 2007, and over the years has been involved in many national work streams responsible for the development of new and improved ways of working. She has gained a wealth of knowledge across most facets of R&D, from workforce development, costing and contracting, to regulatory compliance and has helped influence the development of a soon to published Cancer Research Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Chris Barron Biography



I qualified as a radiographer from the Newcastle School of Radiography in 1988. After a short time working in Carlisle I moved to the Northern Centre for Cancer Care (NCCC) and stayed in Radiotherapy treatment and planning until 2000. In September of 2000 I became one of the first two Research Radiographers in NCCC and have worked in research within Newcastle Hospitals until the present day.

My current role is as Cancer Trials Unit and Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre Manager based in the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre, Newcastle. I manage the teams and business aspects of all oncology and malignant haematology research within the Trust. I also have involvement in the strategic development of all areas of research across the Trust and was a member of a Research Ethics Committee for 10 years. In addition, I am also an ECMC Network representative on the NIHR National Commercial Costing Group, providing strategic direction to the NCVR and supporting the development of costing and commercial frameworks across the UK.