



2020 is not a year anyone will forget in a hurry. COVID-19 has had an impact on everyone, both personally and professionally yet despite the extraordinary challenges the NHS R&D Forum Research Management Working Group has continued to grow, shape and learn.

Below are some of our achievements aligned to the **Forums 5 strategic aims** together with the work we've undertaken, contributed to and supported this year.

## Leading



- Tracy Assari led a national survey exploring Industry studies in NHS organisations.
- Sally Humphreys led [#Red4Research](#) uniting and raising the profile of all those involved in COVID-19 research.
- Maria Palmer represented the Forum on the DHSC Restart Advisory Board.

## Shaping

We worked with the following stakeholders feeding into consultations and meetings to shape the R&D landscape;

- cCOG.
- CQC.
- DHSC on UPH studies and re-start.
- HRA on amendments, CAG, COPI approval, IG challenges, IRAS and LIP.
- [MHRA](#) on protocol deviations and inspections.
- NIHR on restart, communicating with commercial sponsors on feasibility timelines and working with industry.
- NHS England on restart and open access.



## Helping



We all reviewed and shared our research processes and continue to do so finding ways to simplify and improve them, making them as efficient as possible. Those shared are freely available via [REX](#).

We contributed to a quick guide on ISCTN registration.

Excluding requests via COVID coffee and outside of our 4 meetings RMWG members made and supported requests for help on 19 topics;



## Connecting

We moved to working from home, re-thinking how we convene to ensure social distancing.

The Forum invested in the online GoToMeetings platform to ensure our community could continue to meet in a time when peer support and connectivity has never been more important.

We continued to run our **4 RMWG meetings** and connect through COVID Coffee enabling our virtual voices to be heard.

### 4 RMWG Meetings



## Thriving



Our RMWG membership has continued to grow during 2020. The pandemic forced us to do things differently, be more innovative, more responsive and we should all be incredibly proud of what we have collectively achieved. We have proven that we can be effective in the most challenging of circumstances. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen.

Sally Humphreys  
NHS R&D Forum Research Management Working Group Chair