FAST-Forward BOOST

ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Could you bring patient advocacy experience to help us deliver a clinical trial in radiotherapy for breast cancer?

We are now recruiting patient advocates who can bring a range of perspectives and experiences to the set-up and delivery of the FAST-Forward Boost Trial. FAST-Forward Boost is the largest radiotherapy trial in breast cancer that has ever been run in the UK. It will launch in 2025 and involve 4830 people with breast cancer from over 40 NHS hospitals, running for 8.5 years.

People who have had breast cancer and received radiotherapy have already helped us to design FAST-Forward Boost, and we need your voice to continue this work.

We are looking for people who have experience of radiotherapy treatment for breast cancer (either having treatment themselves or supporting others) for the following roles:

PPI Lead

One person with patient advocacy experience to fulfil the role of **Patient and Public Involvement Lead** (PPI). This role has overall responsibility for coordinating patient involvement activities in the trial and is a member of the Core Trial Management Team, the Trial Management Group (TMG) and will chair the PPI Advisory Panel. This post is funded for one day per month (payment by honorarium).

PPI Advocates for the Trial Management Group

Two people to be members of the Trial Management Group. The Trial Management Group is responsible for the governance of the trial and meets 1-2 times per year. The PPI advocates will contribute the patient's perspective to the Trial Management Group and will be expected to review trial documentation. The PPI advocates will also be expected to be involved in the PPI Advisory Panel. Patient advocacy experience is desirable but not essential. Training and mentoring will be available. Reimbursement for time and expenses will be provided.

PPI Advisory Panel

Four people who can discuss and provide advice to the trial team about decisions that affect patients taking part in the trial. This will be on an ad hoc basis (up to 4 times per year) and reimbursement for time and expenses will be provided.

PPI Lead

PPI Advocates for TMG

PPI Advisory Panel

We are keen to include people from diverse demographic backgrounds and/or geographical locations as the FAST Forward Boost trial aims to improve the assessment of skin reactions in people with

different skin tones as well as assessing the impact of daily travel for treatment for patients from all locations.

We would also like to hear from people with caring responsibilities or who have had to work during their radiotherapy treatment because we know that the duration of treatment and side-effect management can be difficult.

Commitment required

All meetings will have the option to attend virtually (online) and will take place during office hours. You will be offered reimbursement for your time and expenses.

About the FAST-Forward Boost Trial

Each year in the UK, 37,000 people with breast cancer have radiotherapy treatment which is given as a daily dose over 5 to 23 days. Thanks to UK research, most people with breast cancer can now be treated over 5 days. However, about 10,000 people with breast cancer still receive daily doses up to 23 days because they need extra doses called a boost. This boost gives an extra dose to the part of the breast where the tumour was and has been shown to reduce the risk of cancer coming back. A recent study showed that the boost treatment can safely be given at the same time radiotherapy to the whole breast (using a technique called simultaneous integrated boost (or SIB)), with treatment given over a total of 15 days.

For people with breast cancer requiring boost treatment, we want to find out in the FAST-Forward Boost Trial if giving a SIB alongside 5 daily treatments over a total of 1 week is as good as stopping cancer returning as a SIB being delivered alongside 15 daily treatments. We also want to show that any side-effects of treatment will be the same or less when giving the boost treatment over 5 daily treatments and that people recover faster.

We will invite people with breast cancer from over 40 UK radiotherapy centres to take part. A computer will place 4830 participants randomly into one of three groups:

- One group will have a boost dose at the same time as a daily radiotherapy dose over 15 days.
- Two groups will have a boost does at the same time as a daily radiotherapy does over 5 days. These two groups will have a different dose.

Who you'll be working with

You will work closely with the trial team at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) to deliver the trial over the coming years. We would like you to consider all aspects of the trial from the patient's perspective and bring the ability to represent perspectives beyond your own personal experience. You may also be invited to work on specific tasks that emerge from the work of the trial.

This trial is being developed by the Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit at the ICR (ICR-CTSU). The lead researchers are Dr Anna Kirby (Royal Marsden Hospital) and Professor Judith Bliss (ICR).

Dr Anna Kirby
Chief Investigator
RMH

Prof Judith Bliss
Scientific Lead
ICR

Dr Karen Poole
Clinical Trials Programme Manager
ICR

Lorna Bower
Senior Trial Manager
ICR

Mark Sydenham
Senior Trial Manager
ICR

Application Process

To find out more information about the trial or any of the individual roles, please send an email with your expression of interest and one of the trial team members can assist you with providing more detail. If you are then interested in applying for any of the roles mentioned, we would ask you submit a 1-page document outlining your experience and interest in the PPI role by Friday 20th September. All applications will be reviewed and suitable candidates will be invited for an informal interview with the trial team to further discuss responsibilities and answer any questions you may have.

To apply, or if you would like more information or an informal chat about this study, please email: fastforwardboost-icrctsu@icr.ac.uk.

Any contact details you provide will be stored securely according to the ICR's privacy policy (https://www.icr.ac.uk/legal/privacy). Details will be used to arrange discussion groups and provide updates on this project.