



Recruitment

Total = 63 participants.

To reach our target we need to hit 7 per month ...

so every participant counts!

We need all teams to be actively screening for the trial.

Congratulations to our recruiters for February and March:

Sophie, Hannah, Dan and Madeline at Sheffield and to Nic, Eleanor and Clare at Alder Hey.

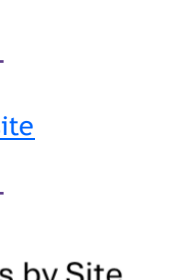
We couldn't do this without you—thank you for all your hard work!

Welcome to the Team = Southampton!

Southampton achieved green light on 26th March and are excited to get started. We are so happy to have them on board.



A Token of Thanks!



Goodies in-coming...

We are pleased to be able to offer all teams a token of our thanks.

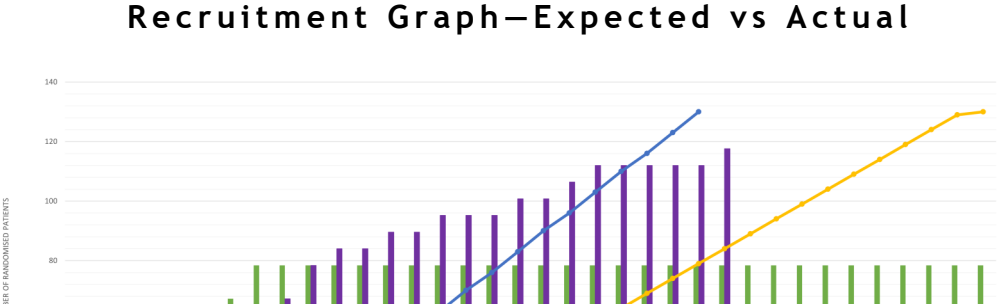
Winging their way over to you in the next couple of weeks we have notepads and pens for our wonderful site teams.

And for the participants—a star each to say thank you for their participation.

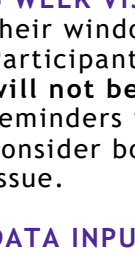


♦ [See live site opening & recruitment on our website](#)

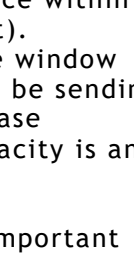
Time Since Site Opening and Total Enrollments by Site



Recruitment Graph—Expected vs Actual



Important Information

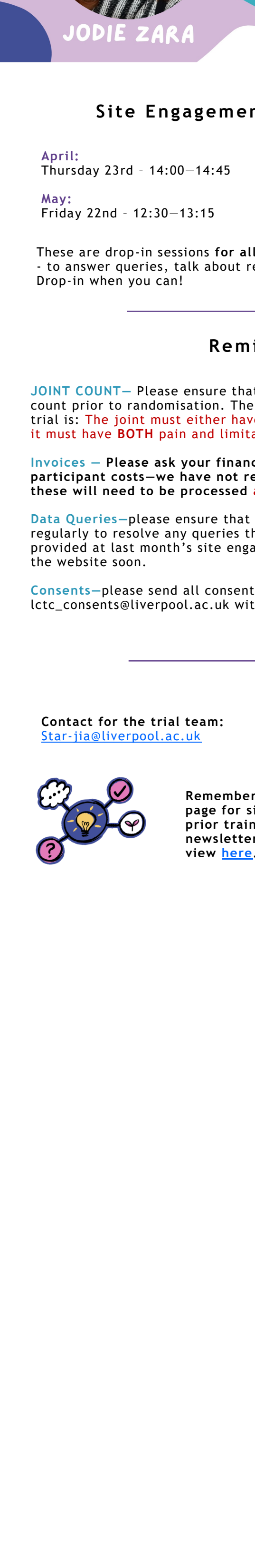


LAB CLOSURE OVER EASTER— Liverpool University Biobank (LUB) will be closed between 2nd and 7th April. **Please do not take or post samples after 31st March** as they will not be able to process them.

6 WEEK VISITS— It is **essential** that the T6 visits take place within their window (1 week either side of the 6 week timepoint). Participants whose 6 week visit does not occur within the window will **not be included** in the analysis for the trial. We will be sending reminders to ensure that you are aware of the dates. Please consider booking this visit in before randomisation if capacity is an issue.

DATA INPUT TIMELINES— Baseline and T6 are the most important timepoints in terms of our primary endpoint - the data for these visits **must be completed** within 7 and 14 days and will be actively chased.

SCREENING LOGS— Any participant that you approach will need to be captured on the log. **NOTE:** If a potential participant is NOT eligible this must be captured on the screening log eCRF and NOT on the consent eCRF.



Jodie joined the team in November as PPIE lead for STAR-JIA. She has a background in involvement work with children and young people (CYP), and through national networks and project workstreams (at the Experimental Arthritis Treatment Centre for Children) she supports CYP to build understanding, share feedback, and take part in clinical trials and health research. Within STAR-JIA, Jodie aims to engage patients and their families to develop meaningful recruitment strategies, co-design resources, gather honest feedback, and improve the overall patient experience.

Site Engagement Meetings 2026

April:
Thursday 23rd - 14:00–14:45

May:
Friday 22nd - 12:30–13:15



These are drop-in sessions for all—with trial management and the CI - to answer queries, talk about recruitment and share best practice. Drop-in when you can!

Reminders



JOINT COUNT— Please ensure that you confirm the participants joint count prior to randomisation. The definition of an active joint for the trial is: **The joint must either have swelling or if there is no swelling, it must have BOTH** **joint limitation of motion (LOM)**.

Invoices — Please ask your finance teams to invoice for set-up and participant costs—we have not received any from sites to date—and these will need to be processed **as soon as possible**.

Data Queries—please ensure that you are logging into REDCap regularly to resolve any queries that are raised there. The training provided at last month's site engagement meeting will be added to the website soon.

Consents—please send all consent forms securely to lctc_consents@liverpool.ac.uk within **7 days following randomisation**.

Contact for the trial team:
Star-jia@liverpool.ac.uk



Remember to **check out** the new page for sites on the website— all prior training sessions and newsletters are available for you to view [here](#).