



The INJUSTIS Study

INJUSTIS is a prospective multicentre observational cohort study being managed through the Nottingham Respiratory Research Unit and funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) through the Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre and an NIHR Professorship (RGJ).

Interstitial lung disease (ILD) are a group of inflammatory and fibrotic diseases of the lung parenchyma. In a substantial number of patients there is progressive fibrosis leading to increasing disability and death. Establishing the cause of these fibrotic lung diseases is often a clinical challenge and the relevance of aetiology to disease behaviour remains controversial. The best characterised fibrotic ILD is idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a devastating, chronic progressive disease of unknown aetiology. Other conditions characterised by progressive pulmonary fibrosis include chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP), asbestosis, rheumatoid arthritis associated interstitial lung disease (RA-ILD), and unclassifiable interstitial lung disease. In a significant proportion of patients, the progression of these related

conditions is remorseless, with recent studies highlighting phenotypic and molecular similarities across a range of ILDs, raising the possibility of shared mechanisms across diseases.

To explore this hypothesis, the INJUSTIS study will recruit a clinical cohort comprising of ILD subgroups, to explore genetic, serum and clinical biomarkers that may distinguish progressive fibrosing lung disease phenotypes regardless of aetiology. This may then eventually enable therapeutics targeting specific mechanisms of disease rather than clinical phenotypes of disease. 200 participants with recently diagnosed (within 18 months of study start date) fibrotic lung disease (50 each of Rheumatoid-ILD, Asbestosis, Chronic Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis and Unclassifiable ILD) and 50 IPF participants as positive controls will be recruited from ILD clinics across the UK. A subgroup of patients will be offered home hand-held spirometry and asked to perform daily blinded FVC readings for 3 months.

The study protocol has been published in the BMJ Open Respiratory Research and can be found [here](#).



Meet The Team!

(From left to right) Dr Fasi Khan (Clinical Research Fellow), Prof Gisli Jenkins (Chief Investigator), Dr Gauri Saini (Co-Investigator), Dr Iain Stewart (Study Statistician), Lucy Howard (Study Coordinator), Rebecca Braybrooke (BRC Theme Manager), Glenn Hearson (Database Manager), Laura Matthews (Research Scientist)

In the next issue, due in August, we will meet the teams nationwide who are on board and helping to recruit to the INJUSTIS study and take a look at the recruitment league tables.