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Current Fields of Research
The Arthritis Research UK Epidemiology Unit is a unique research institution internationally, in terms of its major focus being the epidemiology of the major rheumatic and musculoskeletal disorders. It consists of three divisions and includes both laboratory and field-based research.

- Clinical Epidemiology Division
Case control studies, longitudinal observational studies and intervention studies investigating inflammatory and non-inflammatory musculoskeletal conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, chronic musculoskeletal pain, bone health and musculoskeletal ageing. Studies investigating the co-morbidities associated with inflammatory musculoskeletal disorders and their impact on quality of life and mortality. Studies of bone health from
childhood to very old age. Intervention studies to investigate the effect of a statin on cardiovascular outcomes; and to improve frailty, reduce pain and enhance quality of life.

- **Genetics and Genomics Division**
  Investigating the genes that confer increased susceptibility to musculoskeletal conditions, or that influence outcome or response to treatment.

- **Infrastructure Division**
  Providing statistical, computing and database support to the other divisions. Complying with national regulations on research governance and data protection.

Research is diverse and multi-disciplinary addressing genetic and environmental risk factors for the development and outcome of musculoskeletal conditions. We also co-ordinate a number of national clinical trials and host several national registers that are investigating the long-term safety of the new biologic drugs in patients with rheumatic diseases.

The Unit conducts research in community, primary and secondary care settings and adds to the published evidence on the best treatment for musculoskeletal disorders.

The translation of identified risk factors for the development of disease or of a poor outcome of disease into evidence-based strategies for disease prevention or improvement is the major aim. Investigation of the existence and impact of co-morbidities is also a major theme.

**Selected Publications**


Current Funding

Arthritis Research UK core grant ref. no. 17552.
Other funding sources include:
British Society for Rheumatology
Medical Research Council
Wellcome Trust
Lupus UK
The British Heart Foundation
National Institute for Health Research
European Union

Training of Fellows in Research

Excellent training opportunities are available for clinical and non-clinical research fellows at pre- and post-doctoral level. Funding for fellowships is obtained from a variety of sources and we work closely with prospective fellows to secure funding. A vibrant training programme is available within the Unit, including taught courses in Epidemiology and Statistics in addition to regular seminars and journal clubs. Training in generic skills is available within the Faculty of Medicine and Human Sciences.

WebPage

http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/musculoskeletal/research/arc/