

UK-EDI: Insights & Updates

Newsletter: August 2025

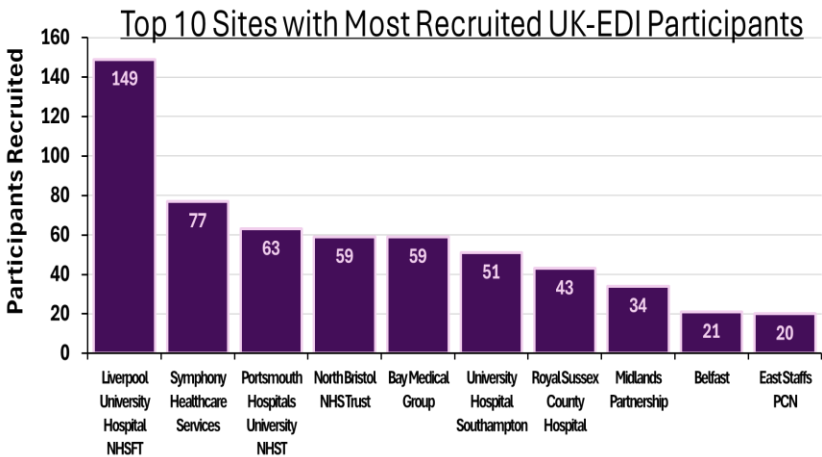


UK-EDI programme: a unique opportunity to develop early detection biomarkers for pancreatic cancer.

The UK-EDI programme is working to improve early detection of pancreatic cancer by focusing on people aged 50 and over who have recently been diagnosed with diabetes. While most people in this group will not develop cancer, a small number - about 1 in 100 - may have early signs of pancreatic cancer. By collecting samples and health information before a cancer diagnosis is made, UK-EDI is creating a valuable resource that could help scientists discover reliable early warning signs of the disease. This is a vital step toward detecting pancreatic cancer sooner, when treatment is more likely to be effective.

A big thank You to Our Collaborating Sites.

We are delighted to share that, together, we have now recruited 780 participants across 31 sites. This is a fantastic achievement, and **we are aiming for our next milestone of 1000 participants**, with follow-up continuing to 36 months. As we now enter the stage of planning our analysis, it is vital that the research team has the most accurate information available. We kindly ask all sites to **ensure that disease diagnosis data in REDCap is up-to-date**. Your continued commitment and support are crucial to the success of this study, and we are very grateful for your ongoing contributions.



Research Highlight- UK-EDI Cost Effectiveness Analysis Preview...

Screening the entire population for pancreatic cancer isn't practical due to the disease's relative rarity. A more effective strategy is to focus on individuals at higher risk, such as those recently diagnosed with diabetes. This group can be further enriched by identifying cases of Type 3c diabetes, which is secondary to pancreatic disease. Our research demonstrates that using a high-performing, affordable biomarker test (approximately £45 per test) to screen this targeted group could be cost-effective - especially if it enables the early detection of at least 35% of cases, when surgery is still a viable option. These findings highlight the real potential of translating future biomarker discoveries into clinical tools that could save lives. This work is currently under revision for publication in *Jama Network Open*.



New Updates

- Prof Eithne Costello was interviewed by Pancreatic Cancer Europe, available [here](#).
- June 2025 - Dr Benjamin Small joins the UK-EDI team as Postdoctoral Research Associate.
- June 2025 - Published [study](#) explored how common new-onset diabetes is in people having pancreatic surgery and explored whether poor blood sugar control was linked to post-op complications.
- Sept 2025 - Dr Lucy Oldfield invited to present to PanCAN Scientific Summit, Boston, discussing the link between diabetes and pancreatic cancer.
- Sept 2025 - Prof Eithne Costello, invited speaker to the Pancreas Summit, Melbourne.

More information can be found on the [UK-EDI Website](#).



UK-EDI Research team

Next Steps

- Our next recruitment milestone is 1,000 Participants
- Participant follow up
- Sites to update REDCap
- Continued lab-based biomarker development

Finally, from all at **UK-EDI**, heartfelt thanks for your invaluable contributions to this project.

