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Working together to accelerate patient access to advanced therapies

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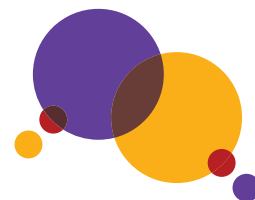
About the ATTC network

The Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre (ATTC) network was established to help the NHS deliver advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs), also known as cell and gene therapies. Nationally coordinated by Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, it brings together regional ATTCs across the UK and through partnerships with the NHS, academia, industry and national bodies including the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), the Network builds capability, reduces system barriers and supports faster, equitable patient access.

With Queen's University Belfast joining in 2026, the Network is now UK-wide and supports the Life Sciences Sector Plan by enabling coordinated clinical, industry and research collaboration.



Headline data from the CGT Catapult UK 2025 ATMP Clinical Trials Database



Strong and sustained UK
clinical trial capability



9%

of global trials have
representation in the UK



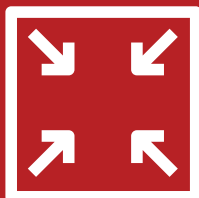
57%

of European trials include
UK participation



62%

of UK ATMP trials conducted
within the ATTC network



~80%

of trials are conducted by
commercial sponsors



Scan here to access
the full database

Our impact:

Enabling a shift to innovation-led care

- **Faster access:** The Network accelerates ATMP trials and NHS adoption, enabling faster research translation and a stronger life sciences economy.
- **Care at scale, closer to home:** The Network builds NHS capability and standardised systems so that advanced therapies can be delivered routinely, not just in a few centres, supporting greater equity of access.
- **Trained workforce:** More than 5,000 have been trained across the NHS and industry, giving the system the skills needed to adopt advanced therapies at pace.



Strengthening NHS–industry–academia collaboration

The Life Sciences Vision and the Life Sciences Sector Plan both highlight the importance of collaboration between the NHS, industry and academia to de-risk innovation and accelerate adoption.



In 2025, 71 companies - including 28 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) - were actively engaged with the ATTC network, reflecting growing confidence in the UK's collaborative ecosystem for ATMP development.



To make it easier for sponsors and Contract Research Organisations (CROs) to navigate the UK offer, the Network launched a new Clinical Trials Support resource area on the ATTC network website.



Scan here
to access



The Industry Advisory Group has become a key route for industry input, bringing together 40+ member organisations to shape shared priorities, standardise ways of working and co-develop practical solutions to system-wide ATMP delivery challenges.



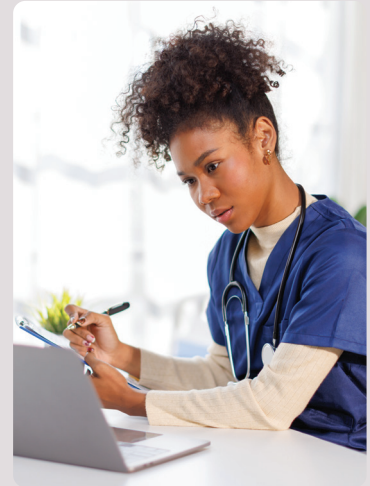
Levelling up through workforce, sites and capability



Development of the first UK ATMP workforce capability framework in partnership with Skills for Health.



Training and education activity included use of online e-learning resources accessed by 2,800+ users within the last year.



Employment supported by the Network more than doubled to 172 individuals, with 96 people benefiting from ATMP-specific upskilling, directly contributing to the development of a highly skilled, future-ready workforce.



The ATTC network expanded to 55 delivery sites in 2025, extending advanced therapy capability and supporting equitable access across the UK.



Development of 200+ resources accessed 32,000+ globally that support both the NHS and Industry in increasing the speed of clinical adoption and clinical trial set up.



Case studies:

Accelerating AUTO1-MS1 CAR-T trial start-up

Coordinated collaboration within NHS Lothian led to accelerated trial activation of a complex multisite ATMP trial, with the first patient recruited five days later.

AT A GLANCE

Lead:

NHS Lothian

Trial:

AUTO1-MS1 CAR-T

5 days

First patient recruited
5 days after site activation



Read the full
case study

01 – Challenge

Complex ATMP start-up spanning Haematology, Neurology, Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS), Pharmacy, R&D and clinical services.

02 – Solution

A disease-agnostic ATMP Working Group, weekly CAR-T meetings and targeted micro-meetings accelerated decisions.

03 – Results

Accelerated site activation and first patient recruited within five days.

04 – Wider impact

Learning on sponsor engagement, documentation readiness and role clarity can shorten future ATMP start-ups.

Takeaway:

Early multidisciplinary engagement and tight communication loops can accelerate complex CAR-T trial start-up.

Accelerating CHILL CAR-Treg trial delivery

Early sponsor engagement and a coordinated operational model helped Newcastle hospitals activate Quell's first-of-its-kind Chimeric Antigen Receptor Regulatory T cells (CAR-Treg) study in 113 days.

AT A GLANCE

Sponsor:

Quell Therapeutics

Trial:

CHILL Phase 1/2;
QEL-005 CAR-Treg

Site:

The Newcastle upon Tyne
Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

113 days

from filing to first patient first visit

First global activation
for CHILL study



Read the full
case study

01 – Challenge

Complex CAR-Treg ATIMP trial extending beyond haematology into refractory rheumatoid arthritis, systemic sclerosis and autoimmune disease delivery.

02 – Solution

Early Quell-Newcastle engagement aligned ATTC, NIHR Industry Hub, Clinical Research Facility (CRF) and parallel reviews.

03 – Results

CHILL start-up reached 113 days, activating Newcastle hospitals ahead of European counterparts.

04 – Wider impact

Coordinated site-level operations create a repeatable path for faster UK ATIMP trials.

Takeaway:

Early sponsor engagement plus coordinated site operations can accelerate complex advanced therapy trials. The Network will enable faster spread of best practice to ensure other UK sites can also benefit in a similar way.



Accelerating ZIMA-101 into clinical delivery

Coordinated ATMP trial support helped Zelluna Immunotherapy move its first-in-human T-cell receptor natural killer cell (TCR-NK) study from approval into operational delivery.

AT A GLANCE

Sponsor:
Zelluna Immunotherapy

Trial:
ZIMA-101 Phase I,
first-in-human

Site:
The Christie NHS
Foundation Trust

126 days

from filing to first patient first visit

**First activated clinical
site globally**

01 – Challenge

Complex ATMP first-in-human trial requiring coordinated approvals, drug supply and site set-up.

02 – Solution

Zelluna Immunotherapy, Medpace, ATTC network and CGT Catapult aligned specialist clinical, operational and regulatory expertise early.

03 – Results

The Christie became the first activated ZIMA-101 site globally; first patient provided consent in 126 days from filing.

04 – Wider impact

A repeatable sponsor-site-network model reduces friction and accelerates the UK route-to-clinic.

Takeaway:

Coordinated network support can turn complex advanced therapy approvals into operational trial delivery.

“Collaborating with Prof Thistlethwaite and her talented team, with the support of the ATTC, has been instrumental in accelerating the translation of our novel TCR-NK platform into the clinic. The expertise of the group, combined with ATTC's infrastructure and commitment to advanced therapies, aligns closely with Zelluna's mission to make next-generation, off-the-shelf cell therapies broadly accessible to patients with solid tumours who are in need of new treatment options.”

Namir Hassan, CEO, Zelluna

De-risking Angicyte® before clinical delivery

ATTC network convened NHS Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) 12–18 months before Phase 1 to help VascVersa refine its diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) cell therapy study design.

AT A GLANCE

Sponsor:
VascVersa Ltd

Therapy:
Angicyte® cell therapy
for DFUs

Focus:
Phase 1 NHS readiness

12-18 months

before Phase 1 to
engage NHS experts

**Trial design still adjustable
before start-up**

01 – Challenge

VascVersa needed NHS input to operationally de-risk a novel regenerative cell therapy targeting diabetic foot ulcers.

02 – Solution

ATTC network facilitated a UK-wide clinical expert focus group to review the draft Phase 1 design, pathway fit and delivery model.

03 – Results

The focus group identified potential NHS sites and clinicians while VascVersa still had time to alter the trial design.

04 – Wider impact

Earlier NHS engagement de-risked clinic introduction, intended to support faster trial start-up and better outcomes.

Takeaway:

Engaging the NHS 12–18 months before Phase 1 can de-risk delivery, speed start-up and improve outcomes.

“The specialist focus group supported by the ATTC has not only shaped our plans for first-in-human clinical trials but gave us access to an invaluable network of clinical, regulatory, and statistical experts whom we hope to continue liaising with as we move our cell therapy forward.”

Fiona Cunningham, Senior Scientist, Vascversa



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