

# Associate PI Scheme and Getting Trainees Involved in Research

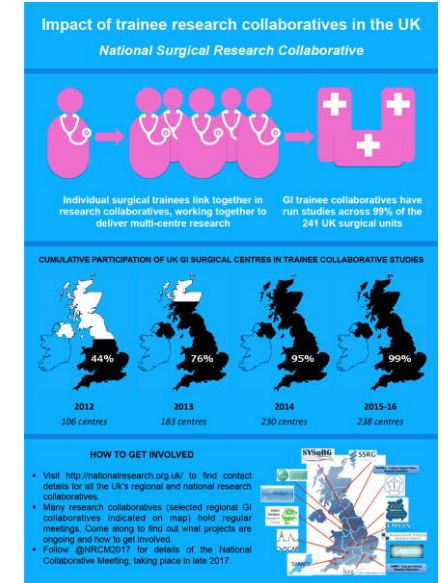
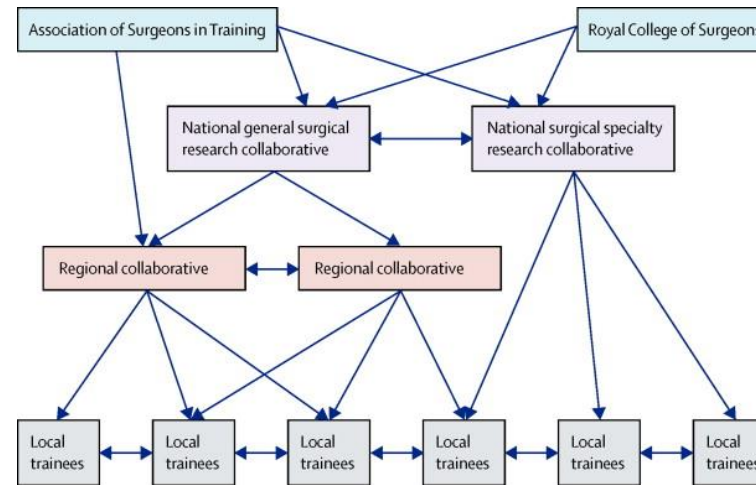
Dale Vimalachandran

SRG Lead Surgery

SRG Summit Thursday Nov 7th 2019

# Why Involve Trainees in Research

- CCT requirements
- Cross fertilization
- Future researchers
- Often more connected regionally
- More flexibility with their time



# Northwest Coast Trainee Research Initiatives

- Appointment of trainee associate SSL's
- INSPIRE research programme CST
- Widespread adoption of the Associate PI scheme
- Development of a deanery recognized research logbook

# Traditional Model of Delivery of Surgical Research

National Surgical Lead ↔ National SSL 

Regional SRG lead

Subspecialty Lead

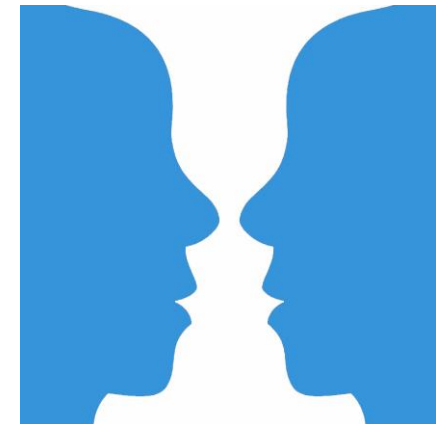
- Cardio thoracic
- Transplant
- HPB
- Head and Neck
- Plastics
- Vascular
- Neuro
- Breast
- T&O
- Urology
- Colorectal
- Upper GI

Local PI

# Face to Face is Best....but logistically more difficult



Subspecialty Lead



# Associate Sub Specialty Leads

Clinical Research Network  
North West Coast

  
National Institute for  
Health Research



## ASSOCIATE-SUB SPECIALITY LEADS SURGERY

The principal aim of this role is to assist the sub-speciality lead in helping deliver recruitment to portfolio studies. In order to do this, the post holder will be expected to:

- Promote surgical research among colleagues and at local, regional meetings and educational events throughout the whole network
- Encourage colleagues to participate in research relevant to their patient populations.
- Work closely with the sub-speciality lead for their speciality to help coordinate trainee delivered recruitment to portfolio studies within the network
- To support the development of locally designed studies.

Post holders will also be expected to liaise with the North West Surgical Trials Unit and the regional

## aSSL's

- Colorectal: Ahsan Javed
- Breast: Emma Blower
- Neuro: Chris Millward

# INSPIRE PROGRAMME

- HEENW core training programme
- Introduction to research/GCP/GRANULE
- Led by CI/PI and NIHR
- Subspecialty breakout sessions
- Signposting after session



## INSPIRE INvolving Surgical trainees to Participate In clinical REsearch

Dale Vimalachandran/Sarah Duff  
Northwest Coast/Greater Manchester

TRAINEE PACK

Big thanks to [@SarahDuff3](#) and everyone who contributed to the INSPIRE programme today. Integrating clinical research into core surgical training in Mersey and Manchester. Looking forward to seeing those research logbooks fill up [#grassrootsresearch](#) [@GemmatheSurgeon](#) [@paulo\\_sutt](#)



# Associate PI Scheme

- National NIHR scheme
- Not just trainees
- At least 6 months in post
- Any study can register



## Associate Principal Investigator (PI) Scheme

### Mission statement

- This Associate PI Scheme will develop junior doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to be PIs of the future.
- The scheme will increase opportunities for patients to be involved in high quality research to improve care.
- The scheme aims to engage, recognise and promote junior doctor, nurse and allied health professional engagement in NIHR portfolio research.
- The scheme is being rolled out for surgical research studies with the aim that every NIHR portfolio trial, led or co-supported by the Surgery Specialty, will have an Associate PI at each open site.
- The scheme has been developed by the West Midlands Research Collaborative, Birmingham Surgical Trials Consortium, Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit and the West Midlands NIHR Clinical Research Network.
- The Associate PI scheme has been endorsed by the NIHR Clinical Research Network's (CRN) Cancer, Surgery and Oral & Dental Specialty Cluster and the Royal College of Surgeons (England).

### Aims of the scheme

- To integrate clinical research as part of routine clinical training.
- To develop a structure for junior doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to gain experience in local leadership of clinical trials, supported by mentors.
- To recognise junior doctor, nurse and allied health professional engagement in a standardised and consistent manner across all NIHR portfolio trials.

### Structure of the scheme

- An accessible scheme open to any junior doctor (FY1-St8 or equivalent), nurse or allied health professional willing to make a significant contribution to the conduct and delivery of a surgical study at a local level

TRAINEE DETAILS		CERTIFICATION DATES						
NAME	INSPIRE	<b>INSPIRE</b> <b>Clinical trial logbook</b>  National Institute for Health Research						
POST	GCP							
DATES	GRANULE							
	FUNDAMENTALS							
STUDY ACTIVITY								
STUDY	IRAS ID	SCREENED	RANDOMISED	CONSENTED	INTERVENTION	FOLLOW UP	DATA ENTRY	PI SIGN OFF
TOTALS								
TRAINEE SIGNOFF		DATE						
EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISOR		DATE						



# Traditional Model of Delivery of Surgical Research

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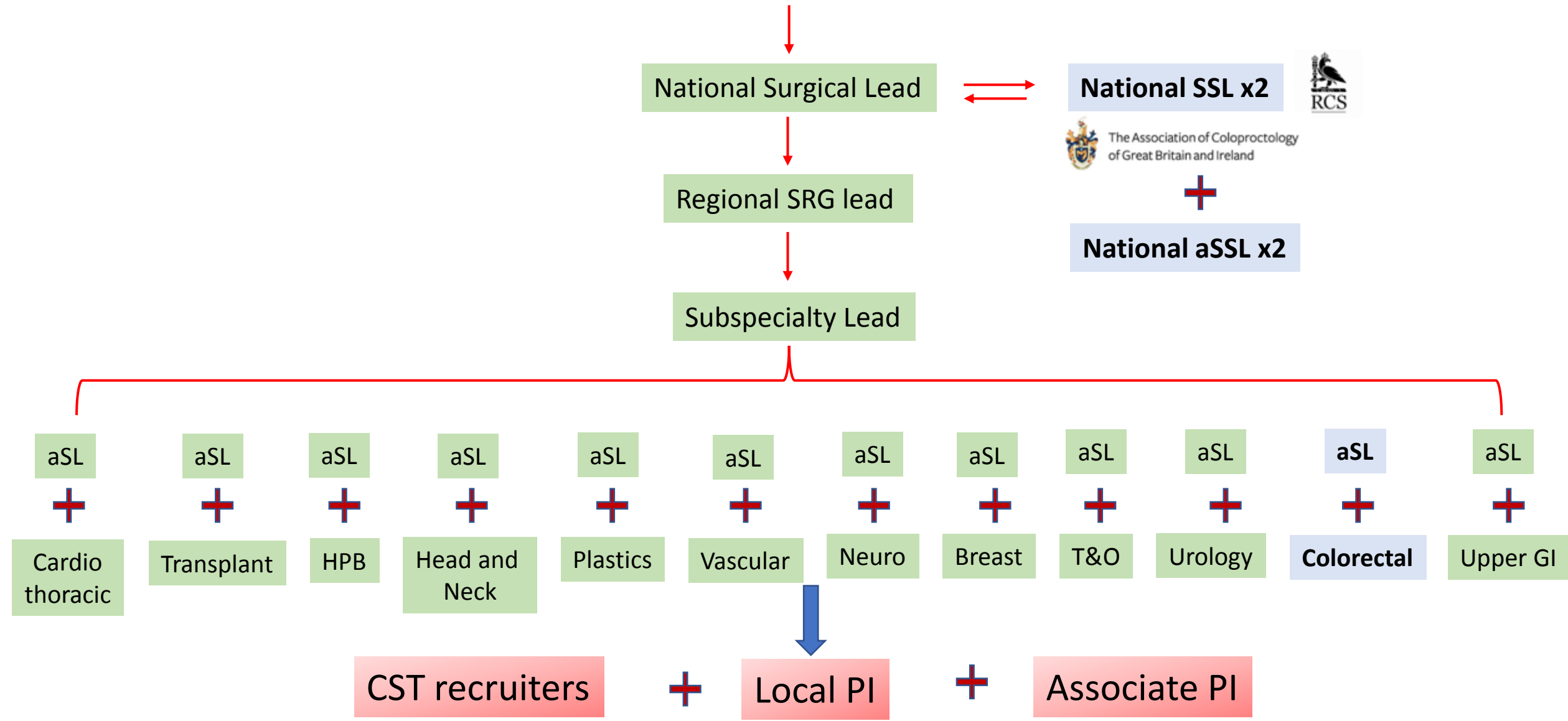
Regional SRG lead

Subspecialty Lead

- Cardio thoracic
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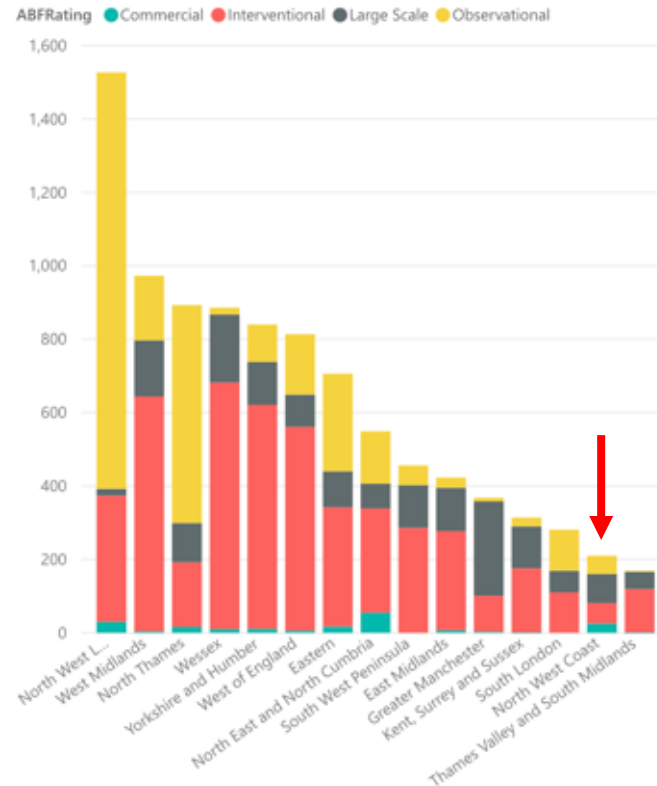
Local PI

# Current Model for Surgical Research NWC



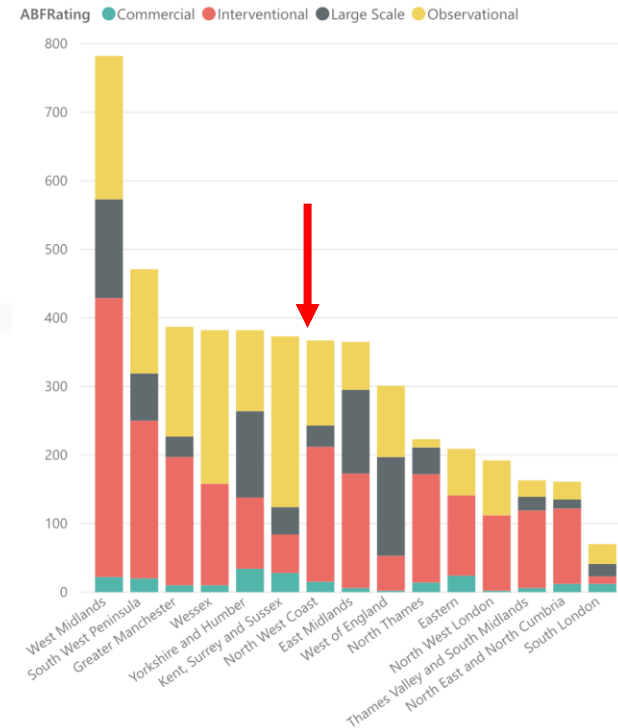
# Is it working.....

Recruits by LCRN and ABFRating



2016/17

Recruits by LCRN and ABFRating



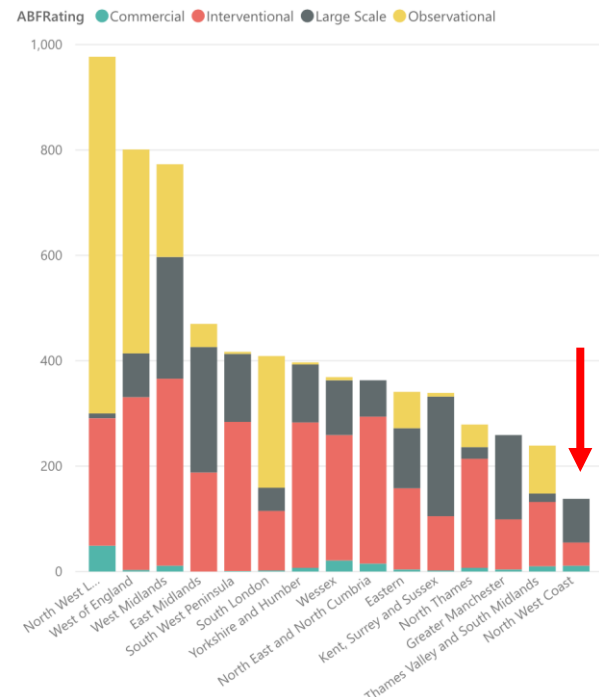
2019 to date

'LCRN Recruits by Total Studies

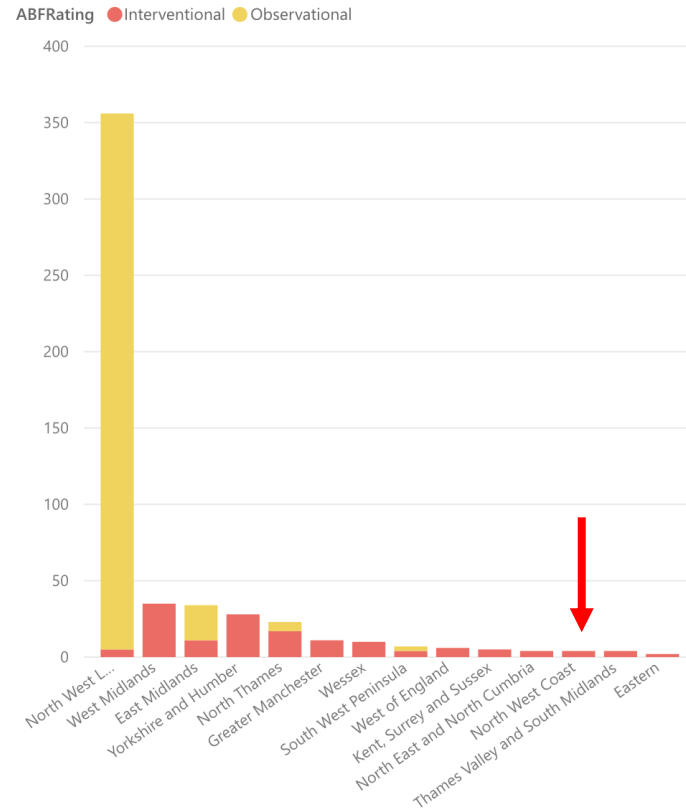
LCRN	Recruits	Count ...
West Midlands	782	29
South West Peninsula	471	25
Greater Manchester	387	20
Wessex	382	22
Yorkshire and Humber	382	28
Kent, Surrey and Sussex	373	18
North West Coast	367	18
East Midlands	365	14
West of England	301	16
North Thames	223	21
Eastern	209	17
North West London	192	12
Thames Valley and South Midlands	163	12
North East and North Cumbria	161	16
South London	70	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>4828</b>	<b>97</b>



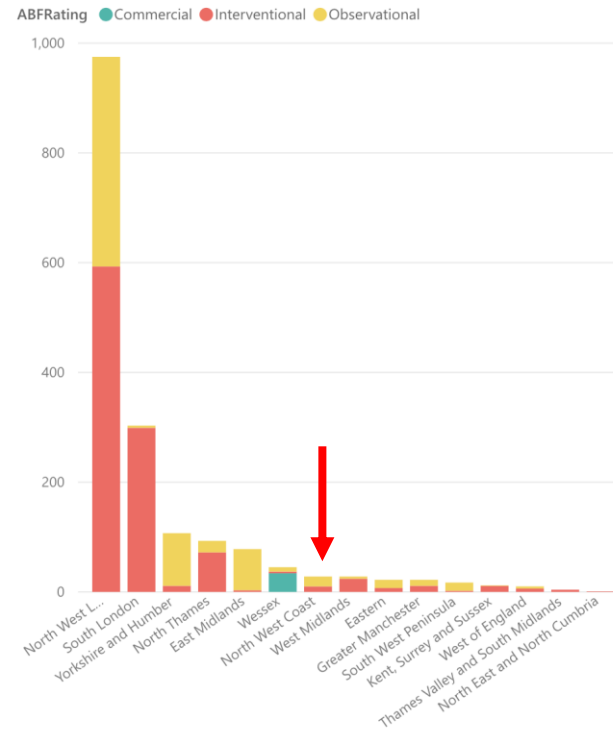
2015/16



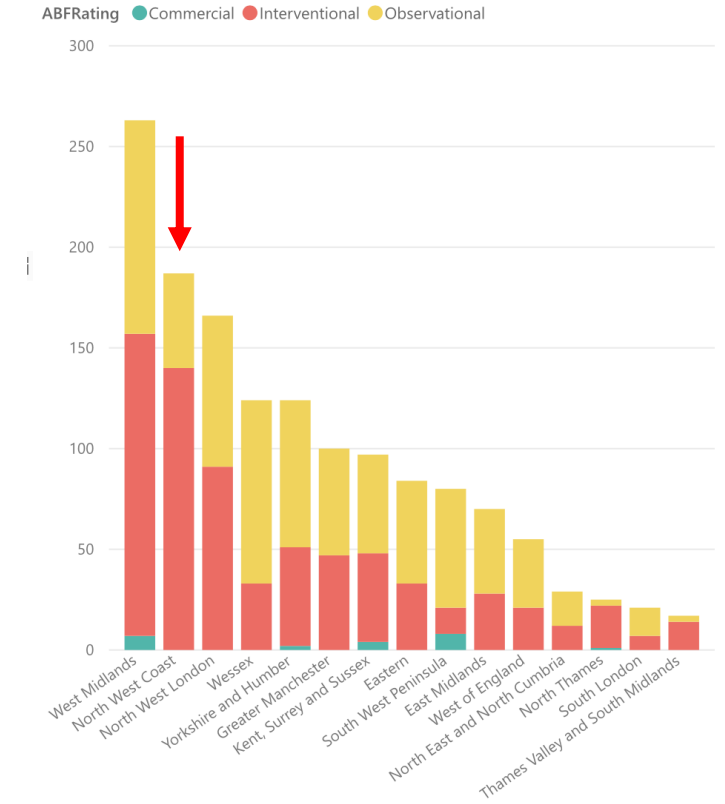
# Colorectal Performance



2015/16



2017/18



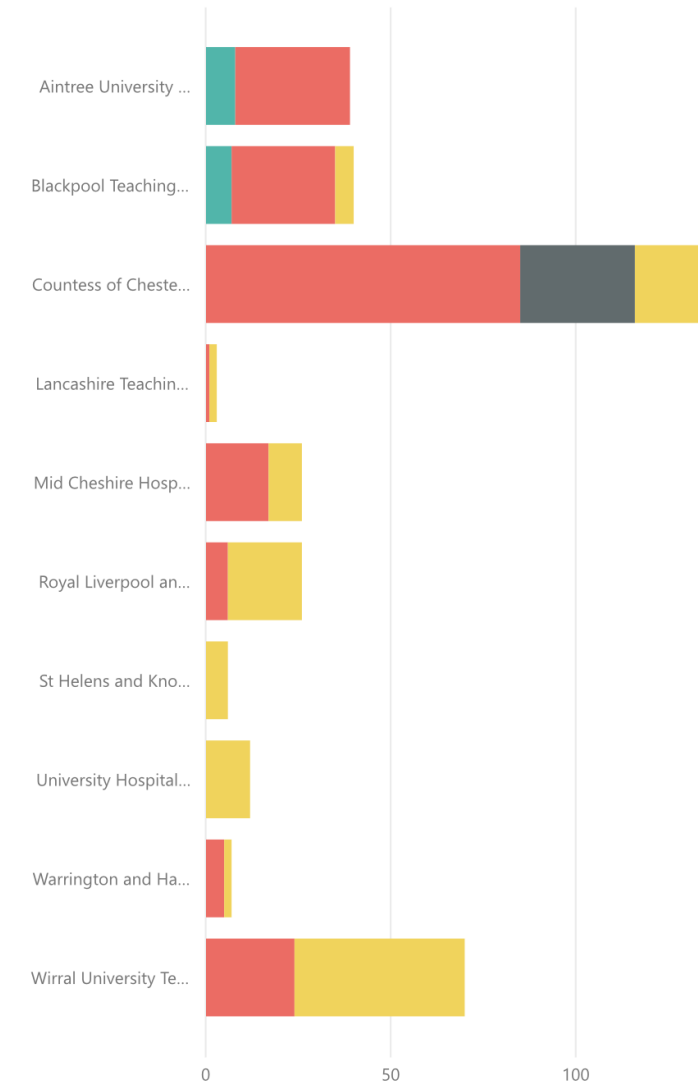
2019 to date

# Northwest Coast Surgical performance by trust

CPMSID	Link	Recruits	Study Title
39722	<a href="#">🔗</a>	115	Reduction Of Surgical Site Infection usi
39722	<a href="#">🔗</a>	46	The CIPHER study
37193	<a href="#">🔗</a>	31	tUS for the detection of complications
38686	<a href="#">🔗</a>	31	The Sunflower Study
38386	<a href="#">🔗</a>	28	WHiTE & COPAL
40221	<a href="#">🔗</a>	24	PITSTOP
37896	<a href="#">🔗</a>	23	DEFEND
36531	<a href="#">🔗</a>	22	The UK Complex Aneurysm Study (UK-
35187	<a href="#">🔗</a>	17	PPAC2: Packing of Perianal Abscess Cav
37985		8	SURG37985
41470		7	SURG41470
32120	<a href="#">🔗</a>	4	CRest2
39231	<a href="#">🔗</a>	3	ALLEGRO
40430	<a href="#">🔗</a>	3	Short or Long Antibiotic Regimes in Or
38354	<a href="#">🔗</a>	2	RAPID-I Version 1.0
31359	<a href="#">🔗</a>	1	C-GALL
34216	<a href="#">🔗</a>	1	IntAct- IFA to prevent anastomotic leak
39224	<a href="#">🔗</a>	1	Molecular evolution of rectal cancer an
<b>Total</b>		<b>367</b>	

Recruitment by Trust and ABF Rating

ABFRating ● Commercial ● Interventional ● Large Scale ● Observational



# Summary

- Trainee involvement is invaluable
- Need to ensure their efforts are recognized
- Promote the development of future research leaders
- Model can easily be adopted to any specialty

BUT.....

- We can do more
- Still large geographical and subspecialty gaps
- We still need consultant involvement