

BHF PROTECT-TAVI



Dear Collaborators,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and were able to take some well-deserved time off to re-charge your batteries after what has been another non-stop, hectic year.

I am pleased to report we have now recruited over a third of our sample (2,733 participants), while still maintaining a 7-month lead on our projected recruitment. Overall, across the whole trial, **almost half of all patients having TAVIs are being recruited into the study.** That is an outstanding achievement! We set out to deliver an all-comer trial to assess whether a strategy of routine CEP-use is effective. Enrolling such a high proportion of TAVI patients into the trial will ensure that the results of this study will be relevant to TAVI practice in the NHS.

A notable event since my last update was our first nurses meeting which was held in London in early July. Based on the feedback we received, one of the aspects research staff found most helpful was learning from each other about the different recruitment strategies being employed across the trial and hearing how colleagues have been able to overcome challenges at their site.

That ability to connect, listen and learn from one another is not easily achieved on a Zoom call, which is why I am delighted to announce that we will be holding our first in-person Investigator meeting on 11 November 2022 – *invites coming soon.* Along with an appraisal of the eagerly anticipated results of PROTECTED-TAVR, we will discuss how we approach the next phase of the trial.

Site set-up is almost complete; we have 28 sites open and a further two sites expected to start later this month. We now need to consider preparing for the interim analysis early next year, and critically, how we keep the momentum going for the remainder of the study. I look forward to meeting you all soon to celebrate our incredible collective successes on BHF PROTECT-TAVI and to discuss the next stage of the trial.

Now this time of year always evokes that back-to-school feeling, so let us start the academic year with some fun and games to ease us into the new term and promote some healthy competition.

This month, we are launching **The BHF PROTECT-TAVI Bonanza**. Prizes will be awarded for:

- The top three sites with the highest conversion rates this month (*Number of participants recruited/number of TAVIs performed this month*)
- Sites that achieve their best recruiting month in September
- Sites that recruit over 6 participants this month
- The site that recruits the 2800th participant



Good luck.

Very best wishes

Rajesh

