



## Strengthening the clinical trial climate

U-TRIAL aims to strengthen the clinical trial climate at the UMC Utrecht. This ensures that we, as an academic institution, remain an attractive partner for CROs, pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies. We do this by offering our knowledge and expertise to our clinical researchers, the trial bureau staff and our external research partners. That past year, our focus has been on strengthening and expanding our ties with external parties. Internally, we have worked on optimizing processes, such as implementing harmonized budget procedures.



### In-house optimization

This year, we have optimized several internal processes, making UMC Utrecht an even more attractive partner for clinical trial research.

- We have harmonized the process for drafting trial budgets for the fourth funding stream. Through a budget calculator, we ensure that UMC Utrecht's researchers present clear and realistic trial budgets. This also helps reduce startup times for studies.
- We are committed to faster coordination with external parties during contract negotiations, making processes more efficient. This strengthens collaboration, increases efficiency, and enhances UMC Utrecht's appeal as a partner for clinical research.
- Internally, we are working hard at better patient inclusion. We do this by analyzing process improvements together and engaging with stakeholders. By identifying recurring challenges and developing concrete solutions, we are optimizing patient inclusion at UMC Utrecht.



### U-TASK, Fase 1 unit early phase clinical trials

In 2024, we focused on increasing awareness of our [UMC Utrecht-wide Phase 1 initiative](#). We engaged more with pharmaceutical companies, biotech firms, and CROs, resulting in over 20 Phase 1 study proposals within a year.

With U-TASK, UMC Utrecht can support the entire research trajectory for new medication, making it a more attractive partner for follow-up studies in which the medication is also tested among patients.



### PIs of the Future community

With [PIs of the Future](#), we bring together promising clinical researchers conducting trial research at UMC Utrecht. This network offers members networking events, practical workshops, and coaching.

In 2024, we organized multiple meetings focused on clinical trials. Through the PIs of the Future community, we are building a strong group of clinical researchers who deliver high-quality clinical trials.



### BioVAT-HF collaboration

U-TRIAL [visited and collaborated with the University of Göttingen and the company Repairon in Göttingen, Germany](#). During this visit, UMC Utrecht's participation as a study site for the BioVAT-HF study was discussed. This study involves transplanting heart failure patients with heart tissue derived from stem cells.



### ACT EU

The [Accelerating Clinical Trials in the EU \(ACT EU\)](#) initiative aims to develop the European Union into a competitive hub for innovative clinical research. U-TRIAL represents the UMC Utrecht in the multi-stakeholder platform. Here, U-TRIAL presented about the challenges academic centers face in conducting (investigator-initiated) multicountry trials and what is needed to streamline this process.

## Closing remarks and outlook

In 2025, we will further align the expertise of our PIs with the needs of pharmaceutical companies. Additionally, we aim to streamline processes to facilitate the execution of as many trials as possible.

*"Closing the loop in clinical trial research"* will be our motto this year. This means that roles and functions within U-TRIAL will change. We will have three Trial & Acquisition Leads, who will be responsible for collaborations with external partners. Additionally, we will have three Internal Project Leads dedicated to strengthening the internal trial ecosystem.

Finally, we will give more visibility to our expertise in innovative trial methodologies.

Through these efforts, U-TRIAL ensures that the UMC Utrecht remains an attractive research partner for conducting clinical trials.

## U-TRIAL, we CONNECT

More information?



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