



## **60 Seconds with Paul, patient public representative and co-founder of TrialsConnect**

Paul first became involved in research a few years ago, when he was asked by his GP if he wanted to join a study (ILLUMINATE) at the William Harvey Clinical Research Centre. He had several reasons for agreeing to take part including a general sense of ‘wanting to help’ but as he had also been writing material for national curriculum science — including a section on clinical trials, it seemed a good idea to find out first-hand, if he and his colleagues were getting it right!



### **Why did you get involved in COVID-19 research? What motivated you?**

Through our patient-led group, [TrialsConnect](#), I was initially asked to help with providing resources for the training of volunteer research staff for Nightingale being held at the William Harvey CRC. This led to being asked join the Barts Health COVID-19 Research Delivery and Operational Group, joining the daily virtual meetings as a patient representative. I was also asked to comment on (lay) language for study descriptions and consent information and scripts for proposed patient information videos.

Since then, with help from other TrialsConnect patients, I have completely revised our website to focus upon COVID-19 research information by writing brief study summaries and following up an idea that came up in our discussions to create a [‘Research Volunteer Card’](#) that is now downloadable from the website.

### **What benefits do you think you personally received? Also, any negative experiences?**

Friendly involvement and recognition of skills that could help the COVID-19 research effort.

### **What benefits do you think COVID-19 research will bring to patients in the future? Also, any perceived negative impacts?**

We have no certain treatments or even understanding of the disease as yet and we need that to come out the other side with as many of us as possible able to return to ‘normal’.

### **If you had to list some positive things that came out of your experience of being involved in COVID-19 research - what would they be and why?**

A feeling of playing even just a little part in something positive — especially while at home and ‘locked-down’.

### **In a nutshell how has being involved in COVID-19 research development activities had a positive experience on your life?**

I might have found something else but at least I haven’t been idle while isolating at home.