

Transcript: Video of Stuart Ralston

Hi!

I'm Professor Stuart Ralston and I am Director of the MSc in Clinical Trials here at the University of Edinburgh.

I am Head of the Rheumatic Diseases Unit in Edinburgh and also Lead Clinician for the osteoporosis service and Clinical Director for the Rheumatology service in NHS Lothian

I have been involved in clinical trials for over 25 years in the field of rheumatology and bone disease. I am also Clinical Director of the Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit or the ECTU. The Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit is an academic unit supporting the University of Edinburgh and NHS Lothian. It was established in 2006 and acts as a centre point for clinical trial activity across the region.

For clinical trials to be successful they need a robust and supportive infrastructure. In the ECTU we work with researchers to help provide this. We are able to offer assistance with the design and the planning of clinical trials and their analysis in collaboration with our colleagues in the Medical Research Council (MRC) Clinical Trials Methodology Hub.

I have also been involved recently in licensing and regulation of new medicines in my role as the Chair of the Commission for Human Medicines. Almost all of the products that come before the commission have been investigated in clinical trials. So you can see the clinical trials are important since they underpin almost all the treatment we give in the clinic today as doctors

The online MSc in Clinical Trials is the result of a collaboration between the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility and the ECTU. I see the development of the MSc in Clinical Trials as an important addition to our existing support structure and a great resource for people interested in learning more about clinical trials. Therefore, I would like to invite you to enrol in one of our modules that deal with specific aspects of clinical trials or indeed into the full MSc since this will give you a great grounding in clinical trials and we hope will provide you with a great educational experience.