



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Haemstar: Haematology Speciality Training Audit and Research

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/05/2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1199224

Set out on pages

2 to 3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 May 2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Mark Fellows

Date:

13 March 2024

Name:

Mark Fellows (Willows Accountancy Ltd)

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Fellow Member of Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

172 Watling Street, Bridgtown, Staffordshire, WS11 0BD



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/04/2022

To

31/05/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
AstraZeneca (RAPIDO Milestone 1&2) 18.11.22	35,200	-	-	35,200	-
AstraZeneca (RAPIDO Milestone 3) 28.11.22	17,600	-	-	17,600	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	52,800	-	-	52,800	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	52,800	-	-	52,800	-
A3 Payments					
Instant Print (Promotional flyers 1.4.22)	23	-	-	23	-
ISTH Membership and Conference Registration for Giulia Simini (3.5.22)	268	-	-	268	-
Wiley. Open access fees for Bull et al. JTH 2022 (4.5.22)	2,786	-	-	2,786	-
ISTH Conference Registration for Allie Delaney (21.6.22)	240	-	-	240	-
Conference Clearance Center (Open Access fees for Wilson et al. Hemasphe 2022, 15.7.22)	543	-	-	543	-
Vistaprint (30.9.22)	45	-	-	45	-
Total Merch (Promotional Pens etc, 18.1.23)	155	-	-	155	-
Rich Buka Expenses (roller poster, 1.3.23)	189	-	-	189	-
Lorna Cain (hotel and subsistance, HaemSTAR meeting newcastle 3.3.23)	82	-	-	82	-
Rich Buka Reimbursement for T-shirt purchase and Hotel Costs (HaemSTAR meeting 3.3.23)	338	-	-	338	-
Domain renting (Squarespace 6.3.23)	19	-	-	19	-
Website management (Squarespace 7.3.23)	19	-	-	19	-
Domain renting (Squarespace 6.4.23)	19	-	-	19	-
Rich Buka (BSH RAPIDO Poster 19.4.23)	26	-	-	26	-
UK SHEENA (BSH Regional Rep Meal Out 24.4.23)	250	-	-	250	-
Domain renting (Squarespace 9.5.23)	19	-	-	19	-
Sub total	5,022	-	-	5,022	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,022	-	-	5,022	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	47,778	-	-	47,778	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-

A6 Cash funds last year end	32,915	-	-	32,915	-
Cash funds this year end	80,693	-	-	80,693	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Money in bank account (31.5.23)	80,693	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	80,693	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date	
From	1 April 2022	To	31 May 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

HaemSTAR: Haematology Specialist Training, Audit and Research

Other names charity is known by

HaemSTAR

Registered charity number (if any)

1199224

Charity's principal address

Office 129, Institute of Biomedical Research

Edgbaston

Birmingham

Postcode

B15 2TT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Phillip LR Nicolson	President		
2	Richard J Buka	Chair		
3	Andrew J Doyle	Past-President		
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Emily Millen	
Tom Bull	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. To protect and preserve the health of patients suffering from haematological conditions by:
 - a. the promotion of clinical research into Non-Malignant Haematology in the United Kingdom, the causes, prevention and treatment of haematological conditions on terms that the results of such research will be published.
 - b. the advancement of education and training of junior doctors and haematologists to give them the skills to become the chief and principal investigators of the future.'

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

During 1/4/22 to 31/3/23 we conceived, developed, ran, supported and/or wrote up fourteen projects. All of these projects further our charitable objects because 1) they all require project management (which is used to train junior doctors and haematologists in how to be researchers and principal investigators) and 2) they ultimately result in the publication of research findings that benefit patients. Projects take several years to complete from the time of inception. Activities completed 1/4/22 to 31/3/23 are highlighted in red text.

CA-COVID19 (Coagulation Abnormalities in COVID19)

- **Type of study:** Retrospective Observational Study.
- **Topic:** Laboratory coagulation results and thrombotic and bleeding complications of patients admitted with COVID-19
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived and developed by Dr Deepa Arachchillage from Imperial College in association with HaemSTAR. Promoted by HaemSTAR. Run utilising the HaemSTAR network. Data management performed by Imperial College. Funded by Bayer.
- **Size of study:** Data collection completed 2021 (370 collaborators, 26 sites, 5883 patients).
- **Main outcomes:** Patients taking oral anticoagulation at time of diagnosis were more likely to be admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). Patients developing thrombosis, major haemorrhage or multi-organ failure had a higher mortality. There was no difference in thrombosis rates or mortality between pregnant and non-pregnant women.
- **Outputs:** Two publications in Brit J Haem (Crossette-Thambiah et al. 2021, Arachchillage et al. 2022). Further publication in Rheumatology (see 'Achievements' below)

ITP Post COVID19 Vaccine

- **Type of study:** Retrospective Observational Study.
- **Topic:** Timing of onset, clinical characteristics, response to treatment and outcomes of patients with ITP developing following COVID19 vaccination.
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived and developed by Dr Quentin Hill (Leeds). Run and promoted by the ITP Forum and HaemSTAR. Data management provided by PHE. Funded by PHE.
- **Size of study:** Data collection completed in 2022.
- **Size of Study:** No results available as study yet to publish.
- **Main outcomes:** Data analysis ongoing.
- **Outputs:** yet to publish.

ConNeCT:

- **Type of study:** Prospective Observational Study.
- **Topic:** Neurological, cognitive and neuropsychiatric complications of TTP.
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived and developed by Dr Tina Dutt and Dr Rebecca Shaw (Liverpool). Run and promoted by the University of Liverpool and HaemSTAR. Data management provided by University of Liverpool. Funded by the Bayer Haemophilia Awards Programme.
- **Size of study:** Target of 200 patients and 50 healthy volunteers. Data collection ongoing (planned completion Feb 2024). 247 patients recruited as of 24/1/24.
- **Main outcomes:** Yet to finish data collection.
- **Outputs:** Yet to finish data collection.

A²PLS (Anticoagulation in Antiphospholipid Syndrome):

- **Type of study:** Retrospective National Audit.

- **Topic:** Compliance with BSH guidelines on management of antiphospholipid syndrome (APS).
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived by Dr Deepa Arachchillage and Dr Christina Crossette-Thambiah (Imperial College). Developed and run in collaboration HaemSTAR. Data management provided by Imperial College. Funded by Bayer AG.
- **Size of study:** Recruited 499 patients (Target 500)
- **Main outcomes:**
 - o Overall: 69% of patients anticoagulated with warfarin, 17% DOAC, 6% other, 8% not anticoagulated.
 - o Triple Pos: 80% on warfarin. 10% DOACs.
 - o Of those with arterial thrombosis: VKA 71%, DOAC 9%, other 19.6%.
 - o Overall: 39% thrombosis recurrence over 10 years (Arterial recurrence more likely than venous)
 - o Triple vs dual vs single positive disease not predictive of recurrence
 - o LAC most predictive marker of recurrence
- **Outputs:** Oral Presentation at American Society of Hematology Annual Congress (New Orleans) Dec 2022 (See 'Achievements' below) and Post-ISTH/ASH Conference (Newcastle) Feb 2023. Manuscript in preparation.
-

Vaccine Induced Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia (VITT) Identification:

- **Type of study:** Retrospective Observational Study.
- **Topic:** Whether cases of VITT could be identified from routinely collected hospital admission and outcome data.
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived, developed and run by Dr Emily Millen (Nottingham) and Dr Andy Doyle (Kings College London), PHE and HaemSTAR. Data management and statistical analysis performed by PHE. No significant costs or funding.
- **Size of study:** Completed data collection 2022. (257 patients across 43 hospitals).
- **Main outcomes:** 14% of 84 patients admitted with VTE post ChAdOx1 or BNT162b2 mRNA vaccination had VITT. Attributable risk estimates for a cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) or other VTE with thrombocytopenia after a first dose of ChAdOx1 vaccine were 2.82 and 9.62 per million doses respectively. However, elevated risks were also found after a first dose of ChAdOx1 for VTE without thrombocytopenia with relative incidences for CVT and other VTE of 2.67 (1.77–3.77) and 1.93 (1.57–2.35) respectively.
- **Outputs:** Published in Vaccine (See 'Achievements')
-

BAT-X (Bleeding Assessment Tool in patients with X-linked agammaglobulinaemia [XLA]):

- **Type of study:** Prospective Observational Study.
- **Topic:** To establish whether patients with XLA have increased bleeding.
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived, developed and run by Dr Pip Nicolson and Dr Chris Smith (Birmingham) and HaemSTAR. Data management provided by University of Birmingham. Funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF).
- **Size of study:** Target recruitment: 50 patients. Recruitment ongoing until end of 2023. 43 patients recruited as of 31/3/23.
- **Main outcomes:** Yet to finish data collection.
- **Outputs:** Yet to finish data collection.

2SR (Two-Sample Rule Survey)

- **Type of study:** Healthcare Practitioner Questionnaire
- **Topic:** to establish attitudes towards and compliance with two- (historic) sample rule in blood transfusion.
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived by Dr Lorna Cain (Birmingham) and Dr Suzy Morton (Birmingham, NHSBT). Developed with the help of HaemSTAR. Data management to be provided by NHSBT. Funded by NHSBT.
- **Size of study:** 209 responses across 22 hospitals.
- **Main outcomes:** 96% aware of 2 sample rule in their hospital. 57% understand what the rule is. 55% understand the rationale for the rule. 60% admitted to going against the rule on more than one occasion. Non-compliant behaviour not associated with 2SR training or seniority.
- **Outputs:** Oral Presentation at BSH ASM 2023 (see 'Achievements'). Manuscript in preparation.

HaemSTAR RAPIDO (A 'Flash-Mob' UK national audit of the use of Reversal Agents in Patients anticoagulated with Direct Oral anticoagulants)

- **Type of study:** Retrospective National Audit.
- **Topic:** Compliance with BSH guidelines for the use of reversal agents in patients with major haemorrhage who are taking direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs).
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived and developed by Dr Richard Buka (Stoke) and HaemSTAR. To be run by HaemSTAR. Data management to be provided by BiCOPS. Funded by AstraZeneca and the Dudley Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund. Not yet started recruiting.
- **Size of study:** Round 1: 837 patients (target 600). Round 2 scheduled for Autumn 2023 (also target of 600 patients).
- **Main outcomes:** Median age 81 years. 84% had atrial fibrillation and 18% had a history of venous thromboembolism. 778 (93%) fulfilled the study criteria for major haemorrhage. 431 (51%) had intracranial haemorrhage, 269 (32%) gastrointestinal bleeding, and 137 (16%) had bleeding at other sites. 448 (53%) patients were taking apixaban, 260 (31%) rivaroxaban, 77 (9%) edoxaban, and 52 (6%) dabigatran. 414 (49%) received Octaplex, 327 (39%) Beriplex, 49 (6%) andexanet alfa, and 47 (6%) idarucizumab. Median times to administration of a reversal agent were: from last dose of anticoagulation (where known) 15.8 h (IQR 9.8–23.3), from bleed onset 6.3 h (IQR 3.3–12.5), and from admission (in those who were outpatients at bleed onset) 4.3 h (IQR 2.1–7.9). At 90 days postadministration of any reversal agent, 350 (41%) patients had died and 33 (4%) had had a thrombotic events.
- **Outputs:** Poster presentation at BSH ASM 2023 (see 'Achievements').

AIHA Epi (The epidemiology of autoimmune haemolytic anaemia post COVID19 and COVID19 vaccination)

- **Type of study:** Retrospective Observational Study
- **Topic:** Epidemiology of autoimmune haemolytic anaemia (AIHA) in the post-COVID19 era.
- **HaemSTAR role:** Conceived by Dr Quentin Hill (Leeds). Developed by Dr Mohammed Altohami (Leicester) and HaemSTAR. To be run by HaemSTAR. Data management to be supported by PHE. Funded by PHE.
- **Size of study:** N/A
- **Main outcomes:** Study stopped due to lack of feasibility
- **Outputs:** Study stopped due to lack of feasibility

In set up:

TXA for HMB in acute VTE

Tranexamic acid is an effective antifibrinolytic drug that can reduce heavy menstrual bleeding. Despite excellent safety data showing negligible increased risk of thrombosis across millions of patient years, its use in women with heavy menstrual bleeding who have a recent venous thromboembolic event remains controversial. The goal of this project is to 1) survey clinicians to understand current practice, 2) gather observational data, and 3) work towards a pilot Randomised Control Trial.

MATRON (Maternal Audit on ThRombolysis Outcome and DecisioN)

Will look at the use of thrombolysis for pregnant women with venous thromboembolism. The aims of the project are to 1) survey clinicians to understand their current practice, and 2) gather observational data.

Apixaban thrombo-prophylaxis in multiple myeloma

It is recommended that multiple myeloma patients treated with IMiDs such as thalidomide and lenalidomide be offered prophylactic anticoagulation due to the high risk of VTE. We understand that practice in the UK has shifted considerably and despite a lack of evidence, clinicians now favour the use of oral factor anti-Xa inhibitors, often apixaban, for this purpose. The aim of this project is to perform a retrospective, observational study to document thrombosis and bleeding outcomes in patients who receive this treatment compared to those who receive low molecular weight heparin.

Patient-led research in sickle cell disease

We have formed a working group to develop project ideas in sickle cell disease based on patient-involvement. We hope that this will lead to high quality research that can impact patient management in a meaningful way.

Venesection for idiopathic and secondary erythrocytosis

The evidence for meaningful benefit of venesection in patients with idiopathic and secondary erythrocytosis is extremely scanty. We understand that practice is highly heterogeneous with some clinicians advocating venesection to maintain haematocrit <0.55 for example, and others not venesectioning at all. We aim to 1) understand the variations in practice and the reasons for this, 2) gather retrospective, observational data on the outcomes of patients who are venesected vs not venesected, and 3) work towards a randomised controlled trial.

Audit of management of neonatal ITP

Neonatal ITP is a rare disease and clinical practice is likely heterogeneous. The aim of this project is to prospectively audit care in such cases focusing on protocols, neonatal management and maternal counselling.

FUNDING AWARDS

We were able to fund two registrars (Giulia Simini and Allie Delaney) to attend the ISTH Conference in London in 2022 who would have otherwise not been able to attend.

OPEN ACCESS FEES

We paid for two journal publications that would otherwise have been behind journal paywalls to be open access and thus increase their impact.

CONFERENCE

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Funding

Successfully secured grant funding from AstraZeneca for RAPIDO Project £88,000 to be received in 5 installments of £17,600 on completion of various project milestones.

- Fully executed research agreement
- Commencement of 1st data collection window
- Completion of 1st data collection window
- Completion of 2nd data collection window
- Completion of final study report / draft publication

Conference abstracts:

Crossette-Thambiah C, Rajakaruna I, Odho Z, Doyle A, Breen K, Laffan M, Arachchillage DJ. Anticoagulation Practice, Recurrent Thrombosis, and Major Bleeding in Antiphospholipid Syndrome- a Multicentre Observational Study in the United Kingdom. *ASH Annual Congress* (2022) 140 (Supplement 1): 347–349.

Cain L, HaemSTAR collaborators, Morton S. The ‘two sample rule’ in emergency departments: A UK-wide survey of junior doctors/physician associates. *BSH Annual Scientific Meeting* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjh.18718>

Buka RJ, Pettitt M, Sutton D, Doyle A³, Lowe GC, Perry R, Magill L, Alikhan R, Nicolson PLR, HaemSTAR Collaborators. RAPIDO: Results from a UK-wide audit of reversal agents for direct oral anticoagulant associated bleeding. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjh.18720>

Publications:

- Wilson L, Doyle AJ, Millen EA, Bull T, Biss T, Hart D, Lowe GC, Toh CH, Buka RJ, Nicolson PLR. HaemSTAR – growing experience from a national, trainee-led research network. *Hemasphere*. 2022;6(9):e766 <https://doi.org/10.1097/HS9.0000000000000766>
- Arachchillage D; Rajakaruna I, Pericleous C, Nicolson PLR, Makris M, Laffan M & CA-COVID-19 Study Group) Autoimmune disease and COVID-19- a multicentre observational study in the United Kingdom. *Rheumatology*. 2022;61(12):4643-4655 <https://doi.org/10.1093/rheumatology/keac209>
- Shaw RJ, Doyle AJ, Millen EA, Stowe J, Tessier E Andrews N, Miller N & HaemSTAR Collaborators. Re-evaluation of the risk of venous thromboembolism after COVID-19 vaccination using haematological criteria. *Vaccine*. 2023; 41(36):5330-5337 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2023.06.006>

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We do not have a reserve policy.

Cash in bank at 31/3/23 was £81,007.44 in unrestricted funds. Our committed spending for 2023-24 comprises website hosting fees of approximately £<300 as well as a significant amount of money (but <£80k) for paying for project management support for the RAPIDO project. This is fully funded through the successful AstraZeneca Grant. It is unlikely that this represents any significant financial risk. For 2023-24 we hope to be able to use our funds to further support registrars attending conferences and other academic meetings, to make research publications open access, to run our own conference / meeting and to support research studies. We aim to apply for further funding to be able to fund significantly more people to attend scientific meetings. We intend to start a series of educational events including webinars and podcasts. These are dependent on funding / support from partner organisations. They will not go ahead if we haven't secured sufficient funding. All the projects currently active are fully funded. To develop the more aspirational elements of the projects in set up we will need to gain significant further grant funding.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dr Phillip LR Nicolson	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	President	
Date	24/1/24	