

Health**Pioneering cancer trials begin**

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A pioneering unit solely devoted to cancer prevention and screening has started operating in the UK.

Several clinical trials have already begun at the new Cancer Research UK facility, part of Queen Mary, University London.

A spokesperson for the charity said: "The development of a trials unit whose single focus is cancer prevention and screening will help increase the pace of research.

"Previous experience in setting up and running trials will enable faster start ups, recruitment of patients and reporting of results."

Current prevention trials taking place at Queen Mary include CRISP1, which is using a dietary supplement derived from cabbage to prevent abnormal cervical cells from developing into cancer, and IBIS-2, a 10-year-long international study investigating whether a once-a-day pill can prevent breast cancer in women at high risk of the disease.

A trial labelled HPV015 is looking at the effectiveness of vaccinating against HPV, the virus that causes cervical cancer, in women over 26.

POET is a trial that will be recruiting women in June. It aims to prevent womb cancer in women with Lynch Syndrome, a genetic condition that substantially increases the risk of womb and bowel cancer.

Future studies will look at the effect of diet and exercise on breast cancer risk, vaccination against cervical cancer, developing countries, treatments to prevent cancer of the gullet, and breast cancer prevention in high risk young women.

Queen Mary is a large multi-faculty college spread around a number of different sites in east London and the City

The new unit will be based in a building in Charterhouse Square, Farringdon.

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