

My Laidlaw Experience

Zachary Hobart

SUMMER 2025

EQUALISE, a National analysis of ECMO referrals at the Royal Brompton.

2025 TO 2026

Leadership training days at Imperial & Oxford Character Project. Developing my reflective practice and leadership skills.

MAY TO JULY 2026

Leadership in Action with the Africa Clinical Research Network, Harare and Johannesburg.

NOVEMBER 2026

Travelling to the Laidlaw NA Conference in New York.

The research — a national analysis of access to ECMO

ECMO takes over the heart and lungs when they fail. EQUALISE asked whether access to it depends on where you happen to live and looked at how COVID impacted the network. I built Python pipelines analysing referrals to every British adult ECMO centre, with geospatial mapping of the referral pathways feeding one of them. The analytical techniques were later adopted by the National ECLS Service Evaluation.

12,449

referrals analysed, 2019 to 2025

8

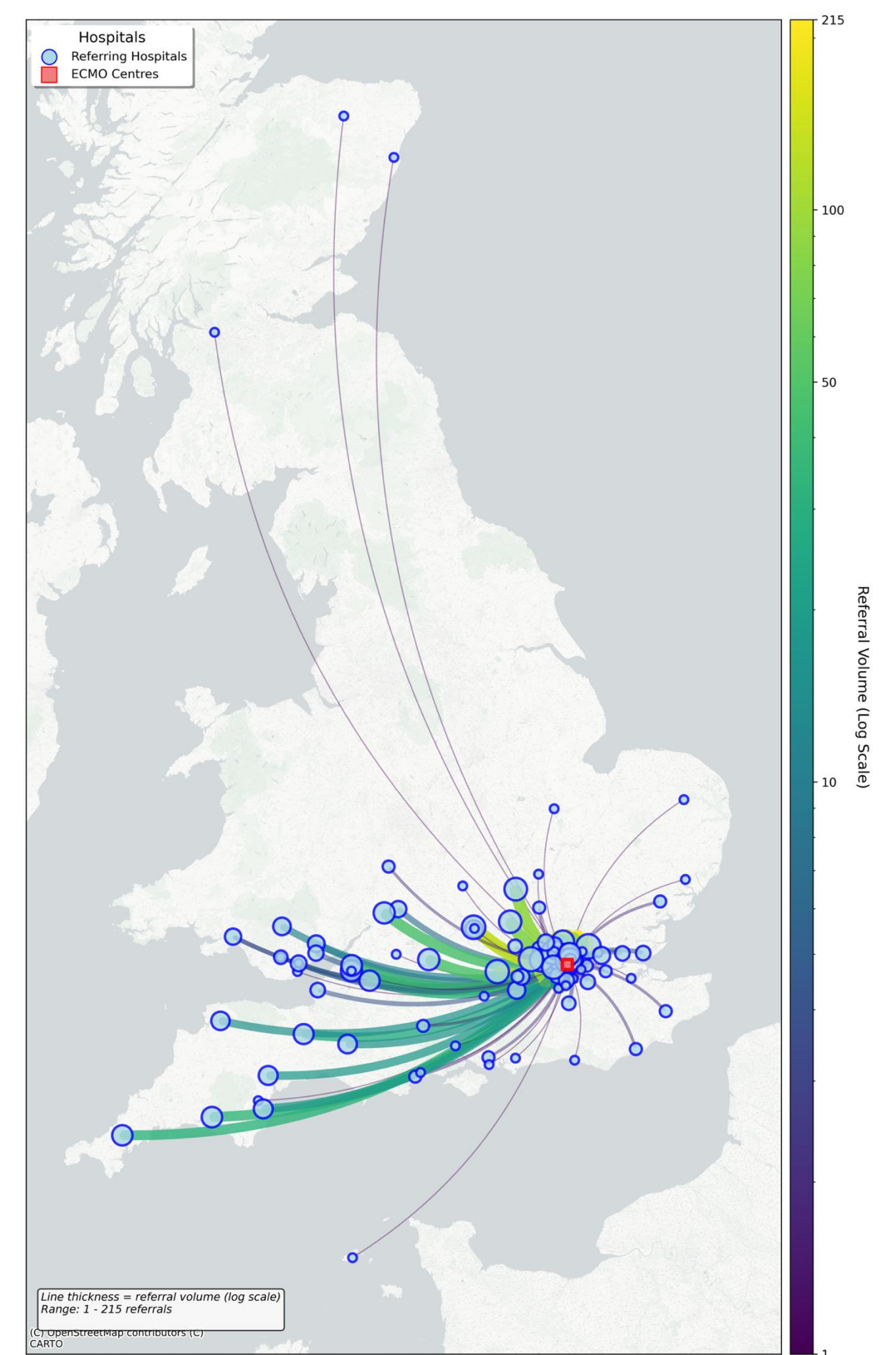
British adult ECMO centres

2,831

referrals mapped geospatially at one centre



Presenting EQUALISE at the Laidlaw Scholars' Conference, Durham 2025



ECMO referrals by volume to RBH (03/2020–06/2025)

Leadership in Action — Six weeks with ACRN

Africa carries roughly a quarter of the world's disease burden yet hosts under 3% of its clinical trials. I joined the Africa Clinical Research Network to support REMAP, a federated platform that turns routine hospital records into locally generated evidence for African patients.

In six weeks, I co-designed the pilot's site-feasibility assessment, wrote the 18 testable hypotheses the pilot is now aligned on, and prepared a presentation delivered by ACRN's CEO at Zimbabwe's national physicians conference.



The REMAP team outside ACRN's headquarters, Harare.



Representing ACRN at Zimbabwe's national physicians conference.



Parirenyatwa Hospital, Harare.

As a leader

I arrived in Harare expecting technical problems, and my first task was none of them. The most useful thing I did was listen long enough to understand the problem the network actually needed solved, and I have carried that habit, naming my assumptions out loud so that others can test them, into every project since.

What's next

I am now a Venture Fellow at DigitalDx Ventures, a Silicon Valley fund investing in AI-enabled diagnostics, where I source and diligence early-stage diagnostics companies and present the investment case to the fund's partners. In November I will represent my cohort at the Laidlaw conference in New York.

As a person

Zimbabwe reminded me that medicine and research are human endeavours before they are technical ones. The generosity I was shown by colleagues and strangers in Harare shaped how I think about who the work serves, and I came home more certain of the direction I want my career to take.

How Laidlaw enabled it

The training days developed my reflective practice that I continue to apply to research, academia and my work in hospital. ACRN gave me real responsibility inside a working organisation and the opportunity to understand and support development in low-resource settings, as well as cultivated my cross-cultural competence.