Clinical research is essential to the drug development process. It is the study of medicines, devices, products or treatment options to determine safety and effectiveness (efficacy) for potential human use.

Clinical research may be used for prevention, treatment, diagnosis or for relieving symptoms of a disease.

Thousands of patients and healthy volunteers participate in clinical research studies. Every study has its own guidelines explaining the 'inclusion criteria' and 'exclusion criteria' for participation.

All medicines must pass safety and efficacy tests if they are to be approved by regulators. If a potential new medicine shows positive results when tested in animals and in human cells then it may be studied in clinical research volunteers.

Benefits of participating in a clinical research study:
- Assessment by highly-qualified medical professionals
- Possibility of accessing a new drug that is not yet available
- Increases knowledge of diseases and supports drug development

Disadvantages of participating in a clinical study:
- Treatment is not always effective
- Some patients may experience side effects
- Some patients may be given a placebo instead of the active new drug
- Patients may find treatments, hospital stays and frequent trips to the study site to be demanding

Find details about UCB’s Clinical Studies

OR

Search independent registries:
clinicaltrials.gov AND EudraCT

References:
https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/about-site/for-media#ClinicalTrialsStatistics
https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/resources/trends

Additional information:
https://www.who.int/clinical-trials/en/