

Patient and Public Involvement Highlights

Welcome to our very first PPI newsletter!

Welcome to our first issue of the King's Clinical Research Facility (CRF) Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) newsletter.

We'll be using this newsletter to tell you a bit more about the King's CRF and our exciting plans for public involvement in 2023. We'll also reflect on International Clinical Trials Day which was held on Friday 19th May.

We'll plan to send you a newsletter every 6 months (summer and winter editions). Please get in touch [here](#) to let us know if the newsletter is helpful and if you'd like to see anything in particular included in the future.

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Welcome to our Public Involvement staff at the CRF!

Cat Harvey – PPI Lead



In October 2022 the King's CRF welcomed their new PPI Lead. Cat joins us from the Cicely Saunders Institute where she coordinated public involvement activities and worked on a dementia programme of research. She has been settling into her role over the last few months and has had the privilege of working closely with several PPI members on our brand-new involvement and engagement strategy. See more about our strategy on page 2!

If you have any questions or ideas for our PPI work at the CRF, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Cat.

Upcoming Events

Friday 20 October 12-5pm: Annual Research Meeting

Join us at the Fetal Medicine Research Unit in Denmark Hill to discuss our hospital-wide research strategy and to hear updates for the year from researchers and the patients they work with.

To see a map of the venue, click [here](#)

To register please email:

catherine.harvey15@nhs.net

What is the CRF?



The King's CRF is designed to support clinical trials on a broad range of topics including mental health and general medicine.

The CRF is made up of four research areas: (1) The **experimental medicine facility**, with rooms with clinical equipment needed to take blood or to give medications (2) the **cell therapy unit** where human and gene-based therapies can be produced (3) **the clinical trials facility** with ward beds and rooms for examinations and (4) the **imaging facility** with an MRI scanner.

We have clinical research and support staff to help research teams with their trials. Research teams from across King's College Hospital can apply to use the CRF and to work with our staff.

Find out more by visiting our [website](#).

To enquire about a tour of the CRF please get in touch [here](#).

PPI Champions

In March 2023 the King’s CRF appointed four brilliant PPI champions from amongst the CRF staff. The PPI champions will support our public involvement members and all the work we plan to do in the future. The PPI champions are:

Angelo: *‘I am a Research Nurse, and what I love about my role is being part of a wonderful team that aims to improve the quality of care delivered to people.’*

Pratik: *‘I have been a Data Coordinator for a year, and I am interested in PPI as I believe it will help me understand the needs and expectations of patients and the public. This will influence my work and will help me to fulfill the Trust’s values and improve the service we provide and the quality of our work.’*

Amelia: *‘I am a Team Lead, and I aim to build the skill set of individuals to ensure good clinical practice’.*

Eden: *‘Research is about people, for people, and affects people; I am interested to know both the experiences of people involved as well as how to make this better. I have a passion for supporting others, especially in regard to empowerment/being given a voice. I am Receptionist/Administrator with a work history in education, charity, and social care.’*

CRF PPI Strategy

The King’s CRF has launched its PPI strategy for March 2023 – March 2025.

The strategy outlines our ambitions, principles, and goals for public involvement and engagement at the CRF. The document was put together by the PPI Strategy group, which is made up of 10 members of the public and 6 members of staff. The PPI Strategy group first met virtually in January 2023, and we carefully reviewed the content and layout of the document together. PPI members discussed the edits they’d like to see, and we made several improvements because of their careful input and insights.

Improvements included:

- Adding hyperlinks to all the acronyms used in the strategy so that readers return to the ‘acronyms’ section where the definitions are written out in full.
- Including more background information about the CRF such as the location, the different research areas, and how it is funded.
- Adding a responsible member of CRF staff for each activity outlined in the strategy action plan.

June awareness days

Wear Red 4 Research 16/06

This day aims to get as many people as possible wearing red to demonstrate their support for everyone participating, undertaking, and supporting research. Read more [here](#)

Learning Disability Week 19/06 – 25/06

A chance to make sure everyone hears what life is like if you have a learning disability. This year’s theme is myth busting. Read more [here](#)

Love Your Lungs Week 21/06 – 27/06

The aim is to raise awareness of lung conditions and the vital research which is taking place in this field.

We’d like to feature blogs on our website with your stories to honour and celebrate these awareness days.

If you’re interested in sharing your experiences with us, please email catherine.harvey15@nhs.net



We’ve already hosted some fantastic blogs written by our PPI champion, Angelo, and our PPI member, Emily. Both blogs were written in honour of International Nurses Day.

You can read Angelo’s blog [here](#)

You can read Emily’s blog [here](#)

The full strategy can be found on our website here: <https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-kings-clinical-research-facility/our-ppie-strategy/>

We are now focusing on fulfilling our action plan for the remainder of the year. We will keep you updated on our progress through this newsletter and will invite you all to take part in relevant activities as they arise. We look forward to working alongside everyone to raise the profile of PPI at the King's Clinical Research Facility!

CRF PPI webpages

We have been working hard towards improving the content about public involvement on our website. We emailed our wider PPI network to ask for suggestions about what to include and we received some excellent initial feedback. Members highlighted the importance of explaining what public involvement is (and what it isn't), including case studies and using diverse imagery throughout the site. We also met virtually with 4 public members in March and May 2023 and mapped out the various subpages we'd like to include. We decided on the following structure, and we're now drafting the content for these pages:



- What is a Clinical Trial?*
- What is Public Involvement?*
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*
- Get Involved*
- Jargon Buster*
- Resources to support involvement*
- Opportunities to develop your skills*
- Feedback*

We would like to thank everyone for all their suggestions for improvement of our website.

A special thanks to all of those from our wider network who submitted content for our FAQs page.

If there's anything else you'd like to see, or if you'd like to author or co-author future content please let us know [here](#).

Did you know?

International Clinical Trials Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on everything that has been accomplished thanks to clinical trials and the people behind them. This includes the researchers, participants, and PPI members!

May 20th was chosen as the date to celebrate International Clinical Trials Day to honour James Lind. James Lind performed one of the first randomized clinical trials aboard a ship on that date in 1747!

International Clinical Trials Day



In May 2023, the King's CRF celebrated International Clinical Trials Day. We held a public engagement event at King's College Hospital in collaboration with other research teams (including the liver and cardiac research teams). The King's Clinical Research Facility hosted two stalls at the entrance of the hospital. One of these stalls was dedicated to the research which takes place at the Facility, and the other stall was dedicated to PPI. As members of

the public passed by, we spoke to them about our work and why it is important to involve and engage members of

the community when conducting research. We also invited individuals to take part in a fun quiz with questions on the topics of: 'In the news', 'Research', 'Ethical or Not', 'True or False', and 'Body Parts'.

A wonderful member of our wider involvement network, Smarajit, joined us at the PPI stall and shared his experience of public involvement and engagement throughout the years.

"I believe an ongoing programme of involvement and engagement with patient representatives who need to know about complex Clinical Trials is vital. Clinical Trials lead to knowledge that informs better treatment decisions."

Smarajit, public member and International Clinical Trials Day attendee

Overall, the event was very well attended, and four individuals expressed an interest in joining our wider public involvement network.

Thank you!

We're celebrating Volunteer's Week on 1st – 7th June, and in honour of this **we'd like to say the biggest thank you to everyone in our public involvement network!**

We appreciate all your input and honest feedback, particularly as we are just starting out on our public involvement journey at the CRF.

We wish you all a lovely Summer and look forward to the work we'll do together in the latter part of 2023 and beyond!

The Public Involvement Team, on behalf of the King's Clinical Research Facility (staff pictured below).



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If you would like to receive this newsletter in a different format, please let us know.

Please also get in touch if you have any feedback or queries for us. We'd be more than happy to hear from you.