

Newsflash

Your regular update
from the research
and development team



May 2024

Team updates

Our Research and Innovation conference on the 9th of May at Village Hotel Tingley was a roaring success, with over 190 delegates attending from various service and professions and volunteers joining the research and development team to celebrate some of the amazing work that is happening within the Trust our partners in research.

We would like to thank each and every one of you that was able to attend; the sharing and exchanging information about the great work you are all doing was invaluable. The marketplace showcased over 20 stalls with services, charities and voluntary community and social enterprises (VCSE), along with additional services providing poster displays who managed to network with colleagues to share good practice and research they are currently involved in. Our five workshops promoted healthy discussions around topics that can help us improve the work we do; the feedback is invaluable and will help us shape our work moving forward.

A huge thank you to Jimmy Gittins and Ian Smith from State of Mind Sport who joined the conference to share and speak about the amazing work they do for suicide prevention. Want to know more about the charity, take a look at their website: [State of Mind – A charity that harnesses the power of sport \(stateofmindsport.org\)](https://stateofmindsport.org)

Remembrance

Keith Hardcastle, a former member of our Research and Involvement Group who passed away in May 2023, was remembered at the conference, and Keith's commitment to the organisation as a volunteer for many years brought fond memories to many people. Wajid Khan, head of research shared a quote sent by Keith.

"I was always told life is too short to worry about the small things, but the small things always feel enormous for many of us especially when you are not well - so never forget the small things – such as thank you and to say hello. These can change someone's mental health for the better"



Our research studies

Genes & Health is a huge long-term study of 100,000 people of Bangladeshi and Pakistani origin. We will link genes with health records, to study disease and treatments. Some volunteers may be invited for further studies. We are inviting volunteers to take part in two regions of the UK: East London (East London Genes & Health) and Bradford (Bradford Genes & Health). Scientists around the world are unravelling the mysteries of our genes. Exploring our genes reveals our past and our future, from the diseases you're more likely to get, to where your ancestors came from. But what is a gene? Where do they come from? And how do your genes make you become you? Read more about it in [Genes made Easy](#).

PiP2

We are currently a recruiting site for an important study which is looking to understand some of the biological determinants of psychosis. The PPI2 study includes adult (16-70 years) participants from NHS mental health services who are experiencing their first episode of psychosis or relapse of psychosis symptoms. For participants who relapsed there needs to be a period of at least six months of remission prior to the current episode. Patients with any other neurological disorder would not be included in the study.

Local researchers and clinicians, based in participating NHS Trusts are approaching potential participants from both inpatient and community services. If the potential participant is eligible for the study, the researcher or clinician will take informed consent to participate in PPI2 and will collect a small sample of blood. This sample will be tested for at least four anti-neuronal antibodies, namely NMDAR, LGI1, CASPR2 and GABA-A. Apart from basic demographic and clinical data no further assessments are required. Test results will be communicated to the local research team and the participant's psychiatrist. If results are negative no action is required. However, it is advised to refer patients with identified anti-neuronal membrane antibody in their serum to a neurologist. This can be a [neurologist with special interest in neuroimmunology](#) based in one of the SINAPPS2 trial sites located in multiple hospitals across England.

If you, or someone you care for, is interested in taking part in the PPI2 study, you can find more information clicking [here](#).

Community engagement – Durham University Discovery Research Platform for Medical Humanities

Our Trust has a close collaborative partnership with The University of Huddersfield, particularly within the Faculty of Human and Health Sciences. Professor Mike Doyle has a joint appointment with our Trust and The University of Huddersfield. Professor Doyle is an internationally recognised expert in mental health and is the champion of healthcare professionals wanting to get involved in research. The [Faculty of Human and Health Sciences](#) central research interests are organised around four core themes:

- Contemporary citizenship,
- Evidence-based policy and practice for promoting health, welfare, and crime reduction,
- Social and political identities,
- The development of applied social science theories and methodologies.

University of Huddersfield's research activity takes an applied, multidisciplinary approach to social and health topics spanning child welfare and protection, citizenship, nationalism and identity, gender and sexuality, investigative psychology, long-term conditions, mental health and well-being, reproductive and infant health, and understanding and responding to crime.

Training and education opportunities

Research delivery

The National Health Institute Research (NIHR) offers free courses via the [NIHR Learn platform](#). One of these courses is [Good Clinical Practice \(GCP\)](#). This course is essential if you want to act as a local principal investigator, recruit individuals to research studies or undertake your own research.

What is GCP?

- GCP is the agreed international standard for conducting clinical research.

GCP certification

- You can do the following courses: introduction, refresher, consolidation,

Informed consent

The NIHR also offer courses on informed consent. You can choose your course, depending on your experience, and the needs of the research you are working on. If you are a first-time user, go to NIHR Learn and click on 'Create account'. You can register on NIHR Learn with your work email address. All the GCP courses are available on NIHR Learn. You need to log in to see them.

Clinical academic career

Thinking about taking the next step in being a clinical academic healthcare professional – come and have a chat, get in touch on research@swyt.nhs.uk. Did you know you could apply for a fully funded PhD as part of the NIHR Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (DCAF). This scheme funds registered healthcare professionals to undertake a PhD by research and, concurrently, to undertake further professional development and practice. The DCAF is a three-year award (up to six years part time), approximately 80% of which will be

spent working academically over the course of the fellowship. The remaining 20% of fellowship hours will be spent devoted to practice and professional development. To apply you will need the support of SWYT R&D, your line manager and a university and hold a contract of employment with one of these organisations for the hours and duration of the fellowship. To help support you submit a competitive application get in touch – it is good to have around 6 months before you apply. With this award you can develop a personal research training award covering your salary costs, PhD tuition fees, the costs of an appropriate research project, and the costs of tailored clinical and academic training programmes. More information is available from the [DCAF Applicant Guidance Notes](#)

Research ambassador

We would like to welcome our research ambassador volunteer, Suzie, to the research and development team, Suzie has previous involvement in research and participating in our feasible study SPACES. Suzie wanted to be more involved, learn more about research and help support the engagement pathway for the activities we do.

Suzie said “it’s a great opportunity for me to be involved in research, I am looking forward to being part of a team and to see what this brings for me in the future”.

Community team / voluntary care

Our research and development team are passionate about ensuring our research answers questions important to our families, carers, and service users, across Barnsley, Wakefield, Kirklees, and Calderdale. We are a friendly team, so get in touch to find out more about our activities and for any research studies that maybe relevant to you as a participant, or for services users to get involved in.

Why is research important?

- NHS Trusts involved in research have better services user outcomes and staff are happier,
- Research studies help to answer important questions about new ways to offer treatments and services,
- You can help make a difference, by helping to improve treatments and quality of life, now and for future generations,
- Allows families, carers, service users to take an active role in their care, as well as working with researchers to shape important questions,
- Find out more about being part of research by watching this short video from the [National Institute of Health Research \(NIHR\)](#)

Want to get involved in research?

Getting involved is a click away. Join our research involvement group (RIG) is an online monthly meeting where you can learn: (1) more about our research; (2) be a voice for your community, and (3) participate in study activity as a member or volunteer. If you would like more information, drop us an email: research@swyt.nhs.uk

Celebrating

Deaf Awareness week 6 – 12 May

- Promoting the positive aspect of deafness, social inclusion and general awareness raising. Click on the following links to find out more: <https://actionhearingloss.org.uk/> and <https://rnid.org.uk/>

Mental Health Awareness week 13 -19 May

- Mental health awareness week is open to everyone. It is all about starting conversations about mental health and things in your daily life that can affect it. The [Mental Health Foundation](#) have interesting information.

Spotlight of the month

Find out more about who is in our team – watch this short video where Andy Sedgwick, senior clinical research officer) tells you more about his role.



Sign up for our newsletter - email:

research@swyt.nhs.uk