

Newsflash

Your regular update
from the research
and development team



June 2024

Team updates

Some of the Research team manned a stall at The White Rose Shopping Centre in Leeds on 28 May to promote some of our studies. Nicola, Adil and Nurjahan were kept busy all day talking to shoppers at the centre letting them know about some of our studies and how to get involved! Well done all and thank you!

Just a reminder that we are always looking to promote healthy volunteers to sign up for studies such as EDGI, GLAD, Cognospeak and Driving Behavioural. Please contact us if you would like further details and to take part.



Appreciation

After the roaring success of the R&D conference on 9 May, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made the day a success.

Our research studies

BABi (Born and Bred in) comes to Wakefield – What is the BaBi network?

Babi (Born and Bred in) comes to Wakefield - What is the Babi network?

[The Born and Bred in \(BaBi\)](#) project is a network of local electronic birth cohort studies.

The Babi Network Meta-Cohort is a multi-site cohort study that currently includes Leeds, Doncaster, Wakefield, and East London. BiB4All are the co-ordinating centre, providing strategic research support to each BaBi site and developing the process to combine these local cohorts as a meta-cohort over time. Supported by the Born in Bradford programme, BaBi sites invite pregnant women to join the project and allow health researchers to join routinely collected data about them and their baby to help develop new services and learn more about early life factors associated with long term health. As of 4 March 2024 – the Babi network has recruited 32,450 mums and babies. The team aims to expand this model across further sites over time, with an ambition of:

- Harnessing the power of routinely collected data from multiple services and organisations to build a clearer picture of children's and families lives over time.
- Creating a series of electronic cohorts across the UK that can be used locally as health intelligence tools and shape services.
- Bringing the meta-cohort together as one, to answer research questions of national relevance i.e., exploring things such as rare illnesses and conditions through the power of shared data and larger sample sizes that the meta-cohort will allow.
- Watch this video below to find out more about the study.



LOLIPOP STUDY

What is the LOLIPOP study about?

[The LOLIPOP study](#) represents the first well-powered prospective investigation of incident cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes (T2D) in people of South Asian heritages. Our findings have enabled us to identify waist circumference and HbA1c as simple, readily accessible, clinical biomarkers that accurately predict future T2D in this high-risk population. Waist circumference $\geq 100\text{cm}$ identifies $\sim 50\%$ of South Asian men and women in the UK who will develop T2D.

These observations provide a strong, evidence-based rationale EU H2020 iHealth-T2D study in which we will determine the clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of HbA1c and waist circumference for identification of South Asians at high risk of T2D (in UK and worldwide), to enable scalable implementation of lifestyle modifications to improve health. Watch the short video below to find out more information.

We are still recruiting to this study, so if you are interested in being a participant or know of anyone else who may be do get in touch: research@swyt.nhs.uk



Training and education opportunities

Research delivery

Implementation science – what is it?

Implementation science (IS) is a field of study that seeks to identify optimal methods and strategies for accelerating and facilitating the systematic implementation, sustainability, and scale-up of evidence based interventions into regular use by practitioners and policymakers (Eccles & Mittman, 2006). Implementation is very important as the things we implement to help people will not help if they are not implemented well. Most implementation efforts fail, even with a plan in place, due to multi-level contextual factors that act as barriers to implementation. Read

more about it on the Yorkshire & Humber Implementation Science portal. [Implementation - ARC \(nihr.ac.uk\)](https://www.implementation-science.ac.uk/)

An exciting example of a local research project utilising implementation science methodology is BRUSH (optimising toothBrushing pRogrammes in nUrseries and ScHools), supporting toothbrushing to reduce tooth decay in young children. A quarter of five-year-old children in England have tooth decay. This figure can rise to 50% in deprived areas of the country. The burden of decay is significant. Decay causes pain and suffering, as well as affecting what children eat, their speech, quality of life, self-esteem and social confidence. In addition, decay has a wider societal impact on school readiness and attendance. In England, treatment of decay is the most common reason why young children (over 33,000 per annum) are admitted to hospital, costing the NHS over £50 million every year.

This project is working with a range of stakeholders, to learn how best to implement these programmes and how to increase their uptake and success in the longer term. Research methods include a stocktake of current practice, qualitative methods, implementation science, improvement science and co-design approaches. The project has produced an implementation toolkit, supervised toothbrushing to optimise the implementation of supervised toothbrushing programmes across England. Click on this link to read the guide. [Tackling tooth decay in children | Faculty of Medicine and Health | University of Leeds](#)

Clinical Academic Career

Thinking about taking the next step in being a clinical academic healthcare professional – come and have a chat, get in touch by emailing: research@swyt.nhs.uk.

The Advance Clinical Academic Fellowship (ACAF) has been developed to replace the ICA Clinical Lectureship and Senior Clinical Lectureship schemes and represents increased opportunity for post-doctoral applicants to the ICA Programme. The HEE/NIHR ICA Advanced Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (ACAF) supports post-doctoral researchers to develop their academic career whilst developing their health or care career. It is for those who:

- recently completed or soon be awarded a PhD but have yet to establish themselves as an independent researcher
- be starting to establish themselves as an independent researcher
- already be established as an independent researcher but have yet to be recognised as an international leader in their field
- be seeking to re-establish their research career following a significant career break
- be seeking to re-establish their research career following time back in health or care practice.

Applicants for an ACAF must hold registration with one of the [ICA approved regulatory bodies](#) or have plans in place to hold the required registration by the proposed award start date. It is always good to read the eligibility criteria. ACAFs can be between 2 and 5 years in duration if taken up full time or can be taken up part-time between 50% and 100% WTE. Individuals are eligible to be awarded up to two ACAFs sequentially, not normally totalling more than 8 years WTE of funding. Between 20% and 40% of the award time needs to be dedicated to development of the awardee's clinical service or practice role, which will be funded through the Fellowship.

The guidance notes are full of helpful information: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/heenih-advanced-clinical-and-practitioner-academic-fellowship-round-4-guidance-notes/34339>. A competitive application takes around 6 – 9 months to develop and the R&D team at our Trust would be happy to support you – so do get in touch by emailing: research@swyt.nhs.uk.

Job vacancies

The R&D team are pleased to announce that we will be advertising some new roles within the department, including a band 6 research facilitator / project lead and a band 6 senior clinical research officer. Further details to follow shortly.

Community engagement

Since July 2023 research and development senior clinical research engagement officer Nicola Mirfin has been working closely with Voluntary Community & Social Enterprises (“VCSE”) across Barnsley, Wakefield, Calderdale, and Kirklees. Nicola said “*engagement is key to supporting public involvement in research and the activities we do. We want to help people understand the benefits of research, working with VCSE that are at the heart of the community can help support our activities and help us create stronger links to the people we serve*”.

Shining a spotlight on: St Georges community centre in the heart of Lupset provides wide range of services to the people of Lupset and Thorns in Wakefield, from younger people to older adults there is something for everyone. The charity is a valued based community hub that provides a happy and welcoming space where local people can feel part of something.

Want to know more [Home - St Georges Lupset](#)

Child safety week 3 – 9 June

- Run by Child Accident Prevention Trust and aims to raise awareness of the risks of child accidents and how they can be prevented – more information can be found on the [CAPT website](#).

Refugee week 20 – 26 June

- Discovery and celebration of the contribution of refugees in the UK – find out more by this year’s theme ‘[Our Home](#)’. Find about more about how [Simple Acts](#) which are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities.

Spotlight of the month

Click on this video to hear more from Ann-Marie Sutcliffe and Karen Palmer who are two of the NIHR DIAMONDS study Facilitators.



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