

Newsflash

Your regular update
from the research
and development team



October 2024

Team updates

New student placement in R&D: meet Faye

'Hi, my name is Faye Richardson. I am on a student placement from the University of Leeds and I am doing a psychology degree. I am currently in my third year. I will be working within the research and development department for nine months. I have always had a love for psychology and learning about human behaviour. My main interests within psychology include clinical, forensics and brain damage. I was interested in Fieldhead for my placement year, because the trust is so varied and has a lot to offer. A big part of psychology is research and my position in the research and development department is a great opportunity to have. I am already having a great time learning about the effort and procedures that go into conducting studies and everyone has been very welcoming. I am looking forward to the rest of my time here and expanding my personal growth'.



Spotlight on two of our research studies

CognoSpeak study

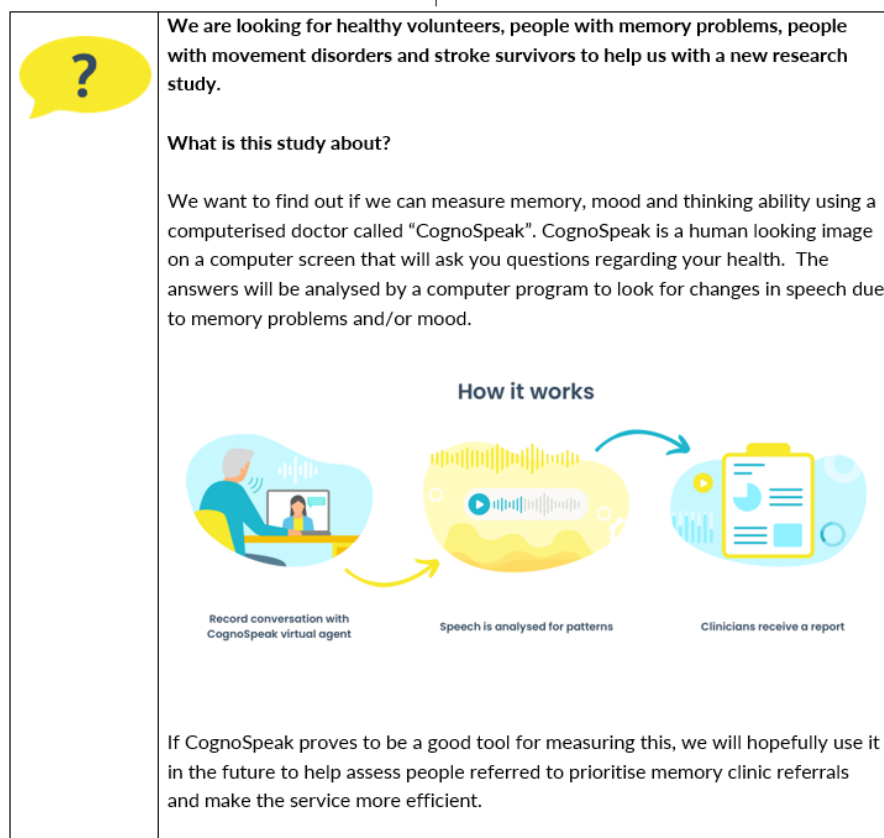
CognoSpeak is an automated cognitive assessment tool based on language (utilising automated speech recognition and machine learning).

Cogno Speak

What is the purpose of this study?

The aim of this study is to understand whether patients with either memory complaints or suspected movement disorders (such as Parkinson's disease), those who have suffered a stroke and healthy volunteers can talk to a computerised doctor (CognoSpeak) regarding their neurological health.

CognoSpeak is a computerised doctor i.e. a human looking image on a computer screen that will ask you questions regarding your health. CognoSpeak will not be able to respond to your answers. The answers will be analysed by a computer program to look for changes in speech patterns due to memory problems and/or mood. CognoSpeak will ask healthy volunteers the same questions as those with either memory complaints, suspected movement disorders or stroke, so that we can compare answers between different groups of participants with cognitive complaints.



For further information about the CognoSpeak study, or to take part, please contact: kasha.malczuk@swyt.nhs.uk or phil.stewart@swyt.nhs.uk.

E-SCAPE – Smoking Cessation Study – promoting E-cigarettes for Smoking Cessation And reduction in People with mEntal illness.

What is the purpose of this study?

This is a trial testing an e-cigarette intervention to help people with mental health problems change their smoking habits and is funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research, being run by researchers from the University of York and University College London in collaboration with NHS trusts.

Why is it important?

Smoking rates among people with a mental health condition are around three times higher than in the general population. Around 14% of adults in England smoke, but this rate increases up to 70% of people with conditions such as schizophrenia. People with mental health conditions are motivated and able to quit and quitting improves mental health symptoms as well as physical health and saves money.

What does the trial involve?

The trial is testing an e-cigarette intervention to help people with a mental health problem change their smoking. The study has two groups so we can test if the e-cigarette is useful in helping people to stop or reduce their smoking. Group 1 will receive an e-cigarette containing e-liquid which you will be asked to use for 4 weeks. In Group 2 there will be no e-cigarette during the trial (however, you will receive one at the end). You will be randomly allocated to one of these groups.

If you would like further information about the E-SCAPE study please contact: nirmala.ragbir-day@swyt.nhs.uk

Training and education opportunities

[Senior Research Leader Programme for nurses and midwives | NIHR](#)

The NIHR's Senior Research Leader Programme helps nurses and midwives develop their research leadership skills to improve research in their organisations and beyond.

[Undergraduate Internship Programme Round 2](#)

The NIHR Undergraduate Internship Programme (UIP) aims to engage and attract students from underrepresented professions in the early stages of their academic studies to consider a career in health and social care research.

World Mental Health Awareness Day – 10 October

World Mental Health Day is an annual awareness day and is observed every October. It is the World's Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) initiative and the objective is to raise awareness of mental health and to reduce stigma for people with mental health illnesses.

Further information can be found on the Mind website: [World Mental Health Day - Mind](#)

Latest news

The National Institute of Health and Care Research has been awarded an initial investment of £27m to create mental health research groups across England where there is high need for mental health support, but currently low levels of research.

University of Huddersfield is one of just nine universities across England to have been successful in the first funding round.

We have secured a Mental Health Development Award (MHDA), which gives us 12 months' funding to work up an application, to be submitted in 2025. This is for the University of Huddersfield to host a mental health research group.

At £11.5m, this will be one of the largest research bids to be submitted by the University of Huddersfield (UoH), and, if successful, will be transformational for mental health research and service delivery across Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield.

A key strand of the initiative is growing and developing mental health research capacity and capability.

The MHDA's Co-Principal Investigators, Profs Mike Doyle and Ann Caress are really keen to find out about all the mental health-related research that's taking place across UoH and bring mental health researchers (staff and PGRs) from across UoH together. **If you or colleagues are involved with or interested in mental health research, please let us know. You can email your interest to m.doyle2@hud.ac.uk or A.Caress@hud.ac.uk**

This is in partnership with our Trust, <https://www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/>, University of Liverpool's Institute of Population Health <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/population-health/>, Creative Minds <https://www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/creative-minds/home/> and The Debs Effect <https://www.thedebseffect.co.uk/> on this exciting project!

You can read more about the funding in this news article: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-launches-pipeline-mental-health-research-groups-across-england>

World Cafe - Wednesday, 13 November 2024

Leeds/York Trust, SWYPT/Bradford District Care Trust/ Lancashire & South Cumbria Trusts are holding a World Cafe inviting social workers and people with experience of World Cafe to attend a Focus Group at the Leeds City Hilton Hotel from 9.45am to 12.30pm.

They would like people to give their opinions and ideas on discrimination and recognition, difficult topics, languages and professional values. There is a £20 gift voucher incentive plus free lunch if you attend! If you are interested, please register here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Vciqy9RX6d>

Community engagement

- In September, some of the team attended the West Riding FA Sports Ground in Woodlesford to promote some of our studies to the players. This is a football league for people with mental health issues supported by Creative Minds/the FA. Despite the weather being drizzly, all the players had a great day and scored plenty of goals. One of our R&D staff members, Andy Sedgwick, was drafted in as a substitute – although he failed to score he still had fun!
- Some team members have recently held an R&D stall at community groups in the area, including: The Al-Hikmah Centre in Batley, Women's Group at Hope Mill Halifax, a stall at Pinderfields Hospital, a stall at the Japs meeting in Leeds, a stall at the University of Huddersfield Welcome Freshers Fair event and a stall at Abubakr Mosque in Dewsbury to promote studies such as Genes and Health, the EDGI (eating disorder study) and GLAD (anxiety and depression study). Please contact us for any further information on any of these studies.
- Adil from R&D has been attending the Memory Action Group at Wakefield West Church and a Carers group at Cleckheaton Library to promote the IACT4CARERS Study
- Nicola our Senior Clinical Research Engagement Officer met with Laura Dixon, Assistant Head, at Batley Girls High school to improve students' knowledge about the importance of research. Laura has invited the R&D team to join the careers fair on 15 October to speak with students aged 14 to 18. Nicola said, "this is a great opportunity for the school and our R&D department, the collaboration will increase opportunities for students with potential future work experience within our department. We will also support students to take part in study activity, our studies will include EDGI, STORY, Genes and Health". We are excited to see what the future holds, we have further plans with schools and colleges across Barnsley, Wakefield, Kirklees, and Calderdale". The research and development team are working hard across our footprint to enhance opportunities for all age groups, understanding research from an early age is an important step for improving our future populations health and wellbeing. For more information about our study activities or if you are interested in learning more please visit our web page.
- R & D work with several wellbeing organisations within the area, such as Kirklees Council, Memory Action Group in Wakefield. If you require any further information about any of their services please contact us.



Wellbeing

Schwartz Rounds Network are holding courses over the next few months and include:

- 12 November 12.15-13.30: "Getting on A bit! What does Ageing mean in the Workplace?" (online)
- 12 December 10.00-13.00: "Menopause Affects us All" – John Smith's Stadium, Huddersfield (F2F)

For further information on upcoming courses or if you would like to be a story teller, please visit: [Schwartz round \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com) book at: <https://bookwhen.com/kc-staff-dev> or contact Michelle.Dooling@cht.nhs.uk / shelle.richmond@swyt.nhs.uk

SAVE THE DATE - Research and development conference 2025

After the success of our conference earlier this year, we are now in the process of planning our next one, which is set for Tuesday 3 June 2025, again being held at The Village Hotel in Morley. After the good feedback we had for our conference this May, we are confident that next year's conference will even more successful.

Look out for full details coming up in the next few months.

Spotlight of the month – medical doctors survey

Medical doctors are in a unique position to embed research within daily clinical practice. We are interested in exploring what type of support you need to pursue or deliver a service incorporating health-related research. We would be grateful if you could complete our short survey (5 minutes) by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/zfm2u2chyE> or by using the QR code below.

The purpose of this survey is:

- i) to explore what skills you may have already;
- ii) what your training needs are;
- iii) how we can help trainee doctors to achieve higher learning objectives; and
- iv) identify any ideas you may have.

Only members of the R&D team will have access to your data, who have a duty to keep your information private, safe and confidential. We will not disclose any information without your permission outside of the R&D team. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact the R&D team: research@swyt.nhs.uk

Doctors - knowledge, training and support needs to help normalise research within SWYT



CAMHS research network group

The Trust's CAMHS research network group meets online approximately every quarter to discuss the work being done in CAMHS and R&D and to discuss any research and/or potential collaborations between the two regarding new studies etc. The next meeting is in January 2025. If you would like to be involved in these meetings, please email: debby.walker@swyt.nhs.uk to add you to our distribution list.

Sign up for our newsletter, email
research@swyt.nhs.uk