

# Research Engagement Newsletter

## February 2023

### International Clinical Trials Day 2023

Each year, May 25<sup>th</sup> plays host to International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD). Commemorating James Lind and his inaugural clinical trial to identify lemons and oranges as a cure for scurvy, ICTD is a celebration of clinical trials and research. Last year's event '**Research Matters: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Healthcare Research**' highlighted how at Barts Health and Queen Mary, we are committed to ensuring our research practice is inclusive, offering equality of opportunity and access to healthcare research and working better to engage with people and groups from all backgrounds. We would like to mark this year's event with a celebration of all the excellent work we have done in the past year to further demonstrate our commitment to inclusive research. Several exciting new projects have emerged during this time, and we would love to showcase them at ICTD23. The PPIE practitioners who were present in our meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> liked this proposal, although it has not been finalised as the theme just yet. As such, we would like to hear more thoughts and ideas from you, including potential venues for the flagship event! Please contact James or Neeta with suggestions at [patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net](mailto:patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net)

Additionally, we want to know if you have any questions regarding ICTD. Do you want to be a speaker at the flagship event? Do you have a participant you would like to feature? Do you need help planning a fun, interactive researcher-led activity? We are here to help you and ensure that this year's event is a huge success!

### Patient Research Experience Survey (PRES) Update

The annual cut-off date for PRES is fast approaching. Our PRES target for 22/23, based on 3% of recruitment in 2021/22 is 455 survey responses. At present, we have recorded a total of 330 responses, meaning we need 125 more to reach our target. All surveys must be submitted **before Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**. Whilst this does not provide us with a great deal of time to make up the difference, we are confident that we can do so. This will require a big final push from all our research teams who are administering PRES to their patients. Please be aware of this deadline and ensure that all surveys are uploaded well in advance. If you have a number of completed surveys and you are concerned that you and your team does not have time to upload them, please let us know as soon as possible. We have excellent PRCs who are on hand to help you with PRES as part of their role. This could be as a one off to upload a backlog of surveys, or on a more regular basis between now and the end of March.

### Patient Research Champions (PRCs) Update

Since our current crop of PRCs have been active in their placements, the feedback we have received from both staff and patients has been overwhelmingly positive. We recently met with two new PRCs who thoroughly impressed us. Both individuals showed enthusiasm for the role and offer varied skillsets, which would be of great benefit to researchers and patients alike.

### Ashwika

Ashwika is a sixth form student driven by the prospect of volunteering within the NHS. With experience of working in a local GP practice, she is now looking to further her skills and capabilities in a healthcare research setting. Outside of her studies and work experience, Ashwika has competed



in two consecutive world robotics championships, in Kentucky, USA. She is available to volunteer on Monday afternoons at the Royal London Hospital.

### **Patrick**

We were thoroughly impressed by Patrick's enthusiasm and overall manner when we met him for an introductory chat. A student at the University of Chicago, Patrick is currently on a study abroad exchange at Kings College London. During this time, he has embarked on St. Thomas' Hospital Cultural Competency Project, where he analysed and identified problems within their A&E department and made a presentation on proposed changes. Patrick is also trilingual and has a lot of qualities to offer any research team. He is available to volunteer at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Thursday afternoons.

If you are interested in having a PRC volunteer with your department, please get in contact with the Research Engagement team via: [patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net](mailto:patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net). Both Ashwika and Patrick are currently undertaking their statutory mandatory training ahead of beginning their placement and will be DBS checked.

### **Local PPIE events**

#### **CPE Festival of Communities**

The Tower Hamlets **Festival of Communities** returns this June, and the call is now open for Queen Mary staff and students and community organisations and projects to take part! Bringing together hands-on demonstrations of Queen Mary research and teaching, information about community projects, games and activities - the festival offers something for all of our local residents. The activities at the festival are designed for local families to learn something new or try something different, and to provide an opportunity for everyone involved to meet and interact with people.

The call for activities and funding is now open and will close on **Thursday 30th March**. To register your activity, please complete the form on the [QMUL website](#). If you would like to run an activity but are unable to think of an idea, the Centre for Public Engagement (CPE) team are on hand to help. In the run up to the festival, they are delivering a variety of helpful support services – including information webinars, 1-1 advice sessions and activity design workshops – to ensure you are prepared for the day. More information on these sessions can be found [here](#).

### **NIHR PPIE News**

[Toxic Corridors by Kwabena Kimathi](#) is a powerful poem on racial inequalities within the health and care system. The video features Kwabena Kimathi, André Tulloch and Dante Grant and was led by the NIHR's Race Equality Public Action Group (REPAG) to build awareness of the [Race Equality Framework](#), a self-assessment tool for promoting equality in public involvement in research.

The NIHR have released a new webpage on [improving how we work with patients, carers and the public](#). Here you will find all the latest updates, blogs and other relevant information on improvements in public partnerships.

In their recently published review "[Supporting equity and tackling inequality: how can NIHR promote inclusion in Public Partnerships](#)", the NIHR outline recommendations for how it can improve inclusivity and equality in public partnerships, formulating the basis of their updated strategy. The new strategy is expected to be published by the end of 2023, setting out a clear direction for the next few years.

