

CUH Patient and Public Involvement Spring/Summer 2025 Newsletter

News and updates on PPI in the East of England



Welcome to the late Spring/early Summer 2025 edition!

Get the latest news! Your quarterly update is here, featuring essential news on upcoming events, webinars, and gatherings. Stay informed about local and national events, PPI developments, insightful research articles, and more.

To update your subscription choices or unsubscribe, email cuh.ppi@nhs.net.



Research Information talks 2025

We host research information talks where researchers share updates on their work with CUH PPI panel members. These talks are later made available on our YouTube channel for wider viewing.

Invitations with links will be shared with CUH PPI panel members, public involvement and engagement (PPIE) staff across our network, and the wider public.

We'd love to hear what research topics you'd like us to feature this year.
Please send your ideas and suggestions to cuh.ppi@nhs.net.

Some of our earlier talks on YouTube:

- **Clinical Academic Posts – Value for Research and the NHS?**

<https://youtu.be/nE2tiTukmsQ>

Professor Christi Deaton, Professor Emerita and capacity building lead for BRC. Much of the research in healthcare is led by physicians, nurses, midwives and allied professionals who are also practicing clinically. Balancing these dual clinical and academic roles can generate tension within the NHS, which is under-staffed and struggling to deliver services and address long waiting lists. Professor Christi Deaton discusses the challenges and benefits of clinical academic posts, and how the inherent tensions might be resolved.

- **Ageing well in the community - how can we make it happen?**

<https://youtu.be/ub-YfPvV-ew>

Dr Louise Lafortune, is a Principal Research Associate at Cambridge Public Health and leads its Lifecourse and Ageing research. Across the world, cities and communities aim to become 'age-friendly'. This means they are trying to become places that help older people stay well and active, and enjoy fulfilling lives. Dr Lafortune will outline how research and older adults actively help shape the places we live to foster healthy ageing.

Our YouTube channel link

www.youtube.com/@nihrcambridge6564

If you are a researcher who would like to contribute to this series, or if you have public contributors who may wish to attend, please get in touch at cuh.ppi@nhs.net



Online PPI training for researchers - Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre

Our Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) team run online training sessions for researchers. Sessions are free for students and staff from the NIHR, NHS, UK universities, public sector institutions and registered charities based

Read more [here](#)



Help Shape Tomorrow's Research Join the CUH PPI Panel Today!

We're always keen to welcome new members to the CUH PPI Panel, where you can help shape research at Cambridge University Hospitals and the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre.

Joining is free and open to anyone aged 16 or over living in the East of England—no experience needed. As long as you're not employed in health research or the media, you're welcome to get involved.

Click [here](#) to read more

Our Strategy Lead, Dr Amanda Stranks, and panel members discuss their experiences of being involved in research.

<https://youtu.be/x3ZaCdXLVJs>

Researchers' feedback to CUH PPI panel members



We greatly appreciate the ongoing support from our panel.

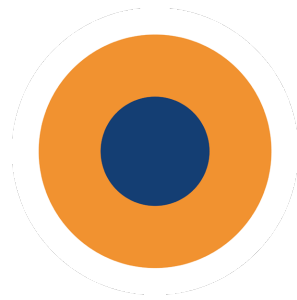
Check out the feedback they've provided on various research projects [Click here](#).

Feedback from projects conducted in 2025 is now available. Please note, these files are password-protected and accessible only to CUH PPI panel members.

NIHR Training for Reviewing Course

We rely on reviewers to ensure funding goes to the most impactful research projects. By reviewing proposals, you'll gain valuable experience, expand your knowledge, and help shape the future of healthcare.

Their interactive [online course](#) for new and experienced reviewers of health and social care research.



Upcoming Events

Get involved in regional PPI events

Regional PPI Week: don't miss out on six days of action! From 09 to 14 June.

Join in on the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre free Regional Patient and Public Involvement week activities, taking place. Last year more than 200 people attended events during the week – and this year promises to be even bigger.

[Get details of events and book your place now.](#)

NIHR | Cambridge Biomedical
Research Centre

 UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Cambridge PPI Showcase

Highlighting the best of local Patient & Public
Involvement in research



Free event for members of the public and researchers

Thursday 12 June 2025 from 10.00am to 3.00pm

Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre, Cambridge Biomedical Campus

Come and explore the difference public involvement makes to our research.



- Scheduled talks from 10am-12pm and 1-3pm
- Poster exhibition in the Atrium
- Light lunch provided
- Networking opportunities, drop-in possible
- Book tickets for the morning, afternoon or both
- Plus, **PPI in Discovery and Pre-Clinical Research panel discussion** from 3.30pm to 4.30pm

To view the agenda for the day and book tickets, visit:

<https://bit.ly/CambPPIshowEvents> or scan the QR code above



www.cambridgebc.nihr.ac.uk

Click this [Link](#) to view agenda and book tickets



East of England Secure Data Environment

NHS Staff attitudes to research use of NHS patient data

The NHS in the East of England has built a Secure Data Environment (SDE) to allow researchers to access depersonalised NHS patient data for research, without the data leaving the

NHS environment.

We are creating a communications toolkit and materials to support NHS staff to have conversations about patient data and to help patients make their own choices about the use of their data for research. To help us understand what information and resources need to be in the toolkits, we first want to hear from NHS staff to understand what they already know about how NHS patient data is used and what their preferences for resources would be.

The survey is anonymous and should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. You can choose to participate in a draw to win a £25 Amazon voucher for your participation.

Thank you for your time!

You can complete the survey using this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/BQkxvwhAx>

The Public Involvement Front Door: a new online resource for researchers

The Public Involvement Front Door has recently been launched: www.publicinvolvement.co.uk. It was funded through the NIHR Patient Safety Research Collaboration (PSRC) Network "SafetyNet" and led by the North West London PSRC. The site has a patient safety lens and aims to combine a values-based approach with practical tips and resources to empower researchers of all experience levels to meaningfully involve public members in their work. I understand they worked closely with a designer (Pip Batey), public partners, researchers and public involvement practitioners to build the site and have placed emphasis on making the content as concise and user-friendly as possible. You can read more about the site and how it came to be in this blog: <https://psrc-network.nihr.ac.uk/inclusion-and-involvement/public-involvement-front-door/>



Articles

Throwing a ‘spanner in the works’ of our cells’ machinery could help fight cancer, fatty liver disease... and hair loss

Fifty years since its discovery, scientists have finally worked out how a molecular machine found in mitochondria, the ‘powerhouses’ of our cells, allows us to make the fuel we need from sugars, a process vital to all life on Earth.

Click [here](#) to read more

Government’s tech reform to transform cancer diagnosis

Cancer 360 brings patient data into one central system, so clinicians can prioritise those most in need and see patients quicker.

Click [here](#) to read more

Accessible information encourages ovarian cancer patients to have genetic testing

Experts and patients from Cambridge and Birmingham co-created multilingual, accessible info on genetic testing for ovarian cancer to improve uptake.

Click [here](#) to read more

Cambridge leads governmental project to understand impact of smartphones and social media on young people

Cambridge researchers are leading the first phase of a new research project that will lay the groundwork for future studies into the impact on children of smartphone and social media use.

The project is aimed at improving policymakers' understanding of the relationship between children's wellbeing and smartphone use, including social media and messaging. It will help direct future government action in this area.

Click [here](#) to read more

Significant gaps in NHS care for patients who are deaf or have hearing loss, study finds

A majority of individuals who are deaf or have hearing loss face significant communication barriers when accessing care through the National Health Service (NHS), with nearly two-thirds of patients missing half or more of vital information shared during appointments.

Click [here](#) to read more

Handheld device could transform heart disease screening

Researchers have developed a handheld device that could potentially replace stethoscopes as a tool for detecting certain types of heart disease.

Click [here](#) to read more

The Cambridge view on

memory

By tying together more than a century of memory research at Cambridge, the Memory Lab gives us tangible ways to improve, preserve and understand our memory.

Click [here](#) to read more



Are you using MyChart?

You can set your research preferences

Patients at Cambridge University Hospitals can now use the patient portal MyChart to set their preferences about hearing about research opportunities.

Patients who give their consent for contact can be contacted by research teams at CUH about research opportunities that may be relevant for them.

MyChart is free to [sign up](#) for and available to all CUH patients. You can change your preferences about research contact at any time in MyChart.



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