

Patient Experience Research Centre

Public Involvement Newsletter

Welcome to the October 2022 issue of the Imperial College, London Patient Experience Research Centre Public Involvement Newsletter.

In this issue we share upcoming opportunities to get involved in health research, an exciting research funding update as well as upcoming events which you might be interested in joining.

Latest research news



£95 million investment for research to improve patient care

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Imperial College London have been awarded more than £95 million to develop and improve care for patients.

The five-year award from the [National Institute for Health and Care Research](#) (NIHR) is for the NHS hosted NIHR [Imperial Biomedical Research Centre](#) (BRC), a partnership between the two organisations, and will begin in December 2022.

The NIHR Imperial BRC was first established in 2007 and the latest award of £95.3 million represents a £5.3 million increase on the previous award of £90 million made in 2016.

The award will be used to support research that translates scientific discoveries into new treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies, benefitting patients and communities locally and internationally.

The NIHR Imperial BRC's successful funding application is focused on 14 themes responding to the most pressing local health needs. These include existing research themes – such as cardiovascular, cancer and infection and antimicrobial resistance – as well as new areas of work, such as pregnancy and premature births, respiratory and biomedical engineering.

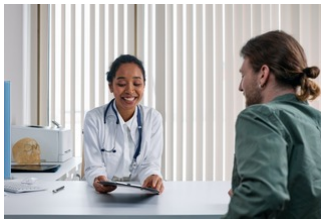
Supporting each Theme going forward will also be a group of up to 6 community partners, who will ensure the research remains aligned to the priorities and views of the local community. Further information about the community partner role will be shared shortly.

Learn more:

- [Read the full Imperial news article here](#)

Upcoming opportunities

Share your experience of hospital discharge to improve handover between hospitals & primary care



Researchers at Imperial are planning a co-design workshop with patients, carers and healthcare professionals to design an intervention to enhance patient safety following discharge from hospital. The intervention will focus on improving the quality of information transferred between hospital and primary care teams.

Who can take part?

Adults (18 years and over) who:

- Have had personal experience of discharge (within the last five years) from hospital back to their own home; and/or
- Have cared for someone discharged back to their own home (also within the last five years).

What is involved?

The co-design process involves two half-day online workshops and an online questionnaire where you will be able to share your views and experience. Each workshop will involve reviewing some online background materials ahead of the workshops themselves. These materials may include written text, online videos or PowerPoint presentations, and should take no more than 30 minutes.

When and where?

Online via Zoom or MS Teams.

First workshop: 17th November 2022 1-5pm

Second workshop: 13th December 2022 2-5pm

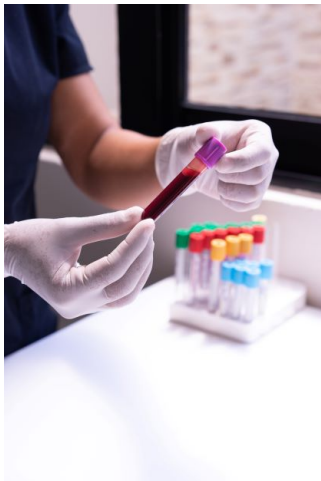
Payment?

All participants will receive £50 as a token of thanks for their participation in each workshop (plus a £5 contribution to Wifi/data).

How do I apply?

To find out more about the opportunity and to apply, please click the button below. The deadline to apply is 5pm on 3rd November.

[Get involved](#)



Share your views on the use of routinely collected blood samples during pregnancy in a short survey

Blood samples are given by every woman having NHS pregnancy care and are stored for 2 years in case women are exposed to infection which may affect the mother or baby. If this happens, the samples can be tested for existing antibodies to determine if the woman is protected.

Researchers at Imperial want to explore how these samples, which would otherwise be thrown away, can be used to benefit the women who give them, their families and their communities. However, it is critical that women giving these samples are central in determining how these samples might be best used.

To capture the views of women, the research team have developed a short online survey which will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Who can complete the survey?

The survey is open to any woman or person planning pregnancy or

who has been pregnant.

Deadline: 31st December 2022

[Go to the survey](#)



Share your views on the future of cancer research

Are you interested in influencing the future of cancer research? Would you like to know more about how microbiome engineering could be used to develop future cancer treatments?

Who are we?

We are researchers from UCL's [Computational Systems & Synthetic Biology \(CSSB\) group](#). As a group we work at the intersection of engineering and biology. Our research is looking at how we can use modern microbiome and biological engineering techniques, to produce novel cancer treatments.

Why we need the views of the public?

Microbiome engineering is a field that holds great potential for developing new cancer therapies and treatments. However, much of the research in this field is still relatively new. As such, we are excited to give members of the public the chance to provide their views, to help shape the direction of future work in this area at an early stage. We hope that this will allow us to design our future research in a way that will tackle the needs of those who may need these technologies the most.

We'd therefore like to ask you to take part in our survey about current cancer treatments and potential future therapies.

The survey should take no more than 10 minutes of your time to complete, and we are grateful for any input you provide

Who can complete the survey?

The survey is open to anyone 18 years or older

Deadline: 31st December 2022

For any queries about the survey please contact Kimberley via: kimberley.owen@ucl.ac.uk

[Go to the survey](#)

Join the VOICE Global community



VOICE is an online platform which brings together members of the public, patients and carers who want to influence and inform UK health research and innovation.

Imperial joined VOICE in January 2019, with the ambition to improve the way we involve patients and members of the public in our research. The public are at the heart of what we do, so ensuring your involvement, engagement and participation in research is a key priority for us. Through VOICE, we hope to capture the wealth of experience and valuable perspectives that individuals and communities can offer on the way our research is designed and delivered.

On the VOICE platform you will find opportunities for involvement, engagement and participation as well as upcoming events relating to health and social care.

To keep updated with the latest VOICE opportunities and help to

influence and inform our research, sign up today via the button below

Join VOICE

Upcoming events



Community Cancer Awareness Evening Monday, 7 November (from 17.30pm GMT)

Chalkhill Community Centre, HA9 9FX

Learn, and ask your questions, about bowel cancer screening and prostate cancer testing. The session will be run by local patients and experts.

[Click here to find out more and register for your free place](#)

Half-Term Activities at the Invention Rooms (White City Campus)

Monday 24 October - Fri, 28 October

Online/In-person

Across the half-term week the team at the Invention Rooms will be putting on a series of activities for local children aged 5–11 and their families. This half-term the team will be running a range of hands-on science experiments and making activities where we'll be discovering dyes, exploring atoms, making bath bombs and hosting our brand new Amazing Molecular Science Show.

[Click here to find out more and register for the free activities](#)

Can we trust the statistics in the media

Wednesday, 26 October 2022 (17:30 – 18:30 BST)

Online/In-Person (South Kensington Campus)

The current pandemic has emphasised the key role that statistics play in understanding what is going on in the world. But how do we decide whether to trust the numbers that get put in front of us? Are they being used to inform or persuade us? In this lecture Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter will look at the way that statistics can be used to try and persuade audiences to think or act in a certain way.

[Click here to find out more and register for your free place](#)

Imperial Lates: Tiny Science

Thursday, 10 November 2022 (18.00 - 21.00 GMT)

South Kensington Campus

Shrink down to explore the little discoveries changing the world with a fun evening of tiny talks, small stands and wee art workshops delivered by Imperial's life-size scientists.

[Click here to find out more and register for your free place](#)

Artificial Intelligence in the Intensive Care Unit

Thursday, 24 November 2022 (18.00 - 19.30 GMT)

Online

Join an online event to hear more about, and share your views, on the use of AI in intensive care.

[Click here to find out more and register for your free place](#)

White City Community Campus Tours

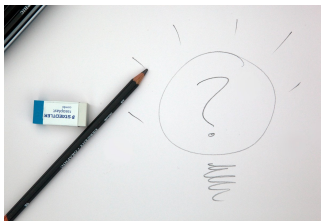
Ongoing (running on the second Wednesday of every month at 1pm; tea & coffee from 12.30pm)

Tours include a visit to one of the White City research teams, The Invention Rooms (our community engagement and Makerspace) and to Scale Space (our new space for innovative business). The tour lasts 1 hour and follows an accessible step-free route.

[Click here to find out more and register for your free place](#)

You can keep up to date with upcoming Imperial events on the [What's On page](#) and catch up on previous events on the [Imperial YouTube Channel](#)

Other updates



Catch up on our latest blogs

Our PERC blog showcases public involvement and engagement activity across Imperial College London. You can click the links below to take you to each of our recent blogs:

[People's Research Cafe Blog Series: Developing an alternative to blood tests for health investigation through a microneedle biosensor device](#)

Dr Damien Ming (Clinical Research Fellow) and Dr David Freeman (Research Associate), from the Centre for Antimicrobial Optimisation, Imperial College London

[People's Research Cafe Blog Series: Understanding the impact of digital technologies on patient safety](#)

Dr Bharadwaj Chada, Harvard HealthTech Fellow, former National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow, NHS Transformation Directorate



Want to learn more about public involvement in research?

Sign up to our online course on [Public Involvement in Research](#) on Coursera. The course is aimed at researchers but is also suitable for patients and the public to complete.

The course is set over four weeks (although you can go at your own pace) and introduces the concepts of public involvement and co-production in health research as well as discussing in more detail the role of public involvement across the research cycle.

[Find out more](#)

Keep up-to-date with our COVID-19 and Long COVID Research

There is now a national, and global, commitment to enhance our scientific understanding of Long COVID, as well as improve the care, support and treatment available to those affected. Imperial College London is one of the groups that have been awarded funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to research Long COVID.



To keep up to date with our ongoing research, you can:

- Join the '[REACT: COVID-19 Community Network](#)' on the [VOICE-global.org platform](#), an online platform for public involvement and engagement in health research. As part of this group you will receive updates on any new findings from REACT/REACT-Long COVID, as well as invites to public engagement and involvement activities.
- By signing up to VOICE, you will also have access to [our Long COVID Research Involvement Hub](#) (make sure you select 'Long COVID' as one of your interest areas when signing up to VOICE). The hub provides a space for patients and researchers to connect to influence, co-create and share ongoing research into the long-term effects of COVID-19. We are currently inviting research teams across the UK exploring long-term effects of COVID-19 to use this hub to share opportunities to get involved or take part in their projects, as well as the latest news and events.

Contact us:
publicinvolvement@imperial.ac.uk

Our mailing address is:
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