

Welcome to the December issue of the Patient Experience Research Centre newsletter.

It has been a while since we have been in touch. We have been working hard to put together a brand new newsletter which will keep you up to date with the latest research, events and engagement and involvement opportunities from the Patient Experience Research Centre (PERC).

2020 has been a busy year for our centre. Following the COVID-19 outbreak, PERC launched a series of [community involvement activities](#) to rapidly capture the opinions, experiences, preferences and unmet needs of communities in the UK during the pandemic. Alongside this, researchers from PERC have also been involved in a number of collaborative [COVID-19 research projects](#). You'll hear more about some of these activities below.

We want to say a big thank you for all your continued support and involvement this year. We wish you all a wonderful, safe and restful festive period, and are looking forward to working with you in 2021!



Public Involvement Updates

Diversifying Research Podcast



A new podcast which brings together underrepresented individuals who are either involved in research themselves or engage other underrepresented groups in research has been launched.

Over the course of this podcast series, Fola Afolabi, Graduate Management Trainee with the Imperial PERC and her guests critically consider how to improve the inclusion of underrepresented voices in research.

You can find out more about the series and listen to the podcasts [here](#).

New Video Series: COVID-19 Research Meets Performance



Over the course of the summer, Imperial College London partnered with the Burnt Orange Theatre Company to engage 20 young creatives between the ages of 14-20 in COVID-19 research.

The project was funded by the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Northwest London and was initiated and managed by Fola Afolabi Graduate Management Trainee with Imperial PERC.

Each group of young people created a short film which incorporated some of their personal experiences during the pandemic, and elements of [Imperial College London COVID-19 research reports](#).

See the full series of videos on the [Imperial College London YouTube](#).

Fola and the Burnt Orange Theatre Company were also invited to present their approach to involving young people in research at the annual National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement conference [Engage 2020](#).

Public Involvement Opportunities



Help inform research on health, air pollution and climate change in the UK

Researchers at the School of Public Health, Imperial College London are inviting individuals (age 16 and over) to be involved in a research project investigating the impact of the strategies to meet the Government's target to bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The researchers are looking for 2 individuals to join their steering committee and up to 12 individuals to join a focus group to discuss and shape the research. There is no specific experience required for either of these roles and expenses will be reimbursed in line with NIHR guidelines.

You can find out more about the project and apply for the opportunities [here](#).

Help us grow our VOICE community



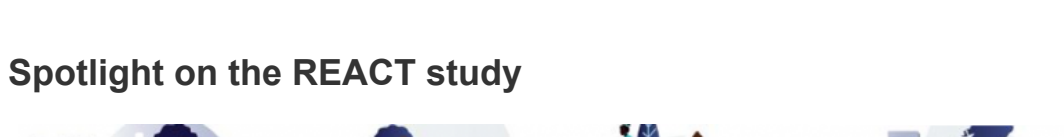
VOICE is an online platform which brings together members of the public, patients and carers who want to influence and inform UK health research and innovation.

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 at \[voice-global.org\]\(https://www.voice-global.org\)](#)

Research updates

Spotlight on the REACT study



Since May 2020, Imperial College London has been leading a major programme of home testing for COVID-19 called [REACT \(REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission\)](#). It was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care and is supported by Ipsos MORI.

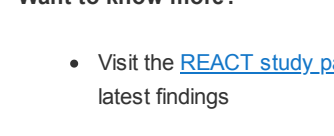
The REACT study invites random samples of the population to check for either current COVID-19 infection via a nose/throat swab that's returned to the lab (REACT-1) or past infection via an at-home finger-prick antibody test (REACT-2). Each round of data collection includes between 100,000 and 170,000 participants. To date, seven rounds of REACT-1 and four rounds of REACT-2 have been completed and over 1.5 million people have taken part. The results are reported directly to DHSC each week and have been critical in informing the actions that need to be taken to control the outbreak.

PERC, and over 15,000 public volunteers, played a critical role in the early set up of REACT-2 to ensure the at-home antibody tests were acceptable and easy to use ([more on this story here](#)). But since then, we've continued to support both sides of the programme, with immense thanks to the REACT Public Advisory Group. With the help of our eight public members, we've ensured ongoing, as well as new, plans and study material are reviewed with the public's needs, interests and perspectives in mind. Most recently, this has included exploring the possible roll out of rapid at-home antigen tests to the wider general public (to test for current infection).

The programme is still ongoing with the latest findings from REACT-1 Round 7 released this week. These were based on 168,181 swabs collected in England between 13th November and 3rd December (i.e. the final part of lockdown 2.0). While early results from this round showed the prevalence of cases falling by 30% during the second half of the lockdown. The final dataset shows that this decline was not sustained and was already starting to level off by the time the lockdown came to an end. To read more, see this [news article](#) or read the [full pre-print online](#).

Want to know more?

- Visit the [REACT study page](#) and/or follow [@Imperial_IGHI](#) to learn more and keep up to date with the latest findings
- Learn what it's like to shape the REACT Programme from [three of our public advisory group members who shared their stories in this blog](#) earlier this year



COVID-19 Resources

Since the emergence of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) December 2019, we have adopted a policy of immediately sharing research findings on the developing pandemic.

[Here](#) you can access all public resources for COVID-19 developed by the Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team.

Events

Upcoming

22nd January 2021: National Heart and Lung Institute Research and Culture Seminar Series - 'Assessment of workers' personal vulnerability to COVID-19 using 'covid-age'. [Further information and joining details here](#).

22nd January 2021: Online webinar on COVID and Behçet's Disease, co-hosted by the Imperial [Further information and joining details here](#).

3-4th July 2021: Save the date: Great Exhibition Road Festival [Further information here](#).

Catch-up online

[Shaping the post-COVID-19 world](#) - This virtual symposium marked the one year anniversary of the Abdul Latif Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics. Hear world leading experts in health, science and economics to discuss the post-COVID-19 world

[People Like You: Written Portraits](#) - The launch of 'Written Portraits' a series of poems adapted from conversations with people affected by cancer about what matters to them as part of the Wellcome Trust funded 'People Like You' research project. Read reflections from the event on the [People Like You Blog](#).

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

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