Exeter SPCR internship projects 2025

Name & email supervisor(s): Dr Aseel Mahmoud a.mahmoud@exeter.ac.uk Dr Jane Smith jane.smith@exeter.ac.uk
Length and dates of internship: Flexible June-August on full or part-time basis
Host department: Exeter Collaboration for Academic Primary Care, University of Exeter
How will the internship be conducted: ☐ In person at the university ☐ Virtual/ from home ☒ Both are possible, depending on preference of student
Title internship project: Systematic Review Assessing the Role of Digital Health Technology in Optimising Medication Adherence in Older Patients with Asthma or COPD
Summary of the internship project: *(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)* This systematic review is examining studies that have evaluated digital health interventions for older people with asthma or COPD (see protocol for the review here: https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?RecordID=575924). Literature searches have been performed in six databases to identify relevant articles published since 2000 and up to Dec 2024, and screening of titles/abstracts and full texts is underway. The student will be involved in extracting data (e.g. study setting, study design, sample characteristics, type of intervention, findings) from included studies using a pre-developed data extraction table/tool and applying checklists to assess the quality of included studies. The student may also have the opportunity to contribute to synthesising quantitative and/or qualitative findings from across included studies and contributing to the write up of aspects of the review for journal publication. The findings from the review will inform the development of a proposal and funding application for future research to explore integration of digital technology into a pharmacist-led service to support medication adherence amongst older people with asthma and COPD in primary care.
Learning objectives: • Develop knowledge and practical experience around the methods and conduct of systematic reviews, particularly steps related to data extraction, data synthesis and quality assessment. • Gain experience in using EndNote for reference management and Excel for data management. • Develop academic writing skills and gain insight into expectations around publishing research findings and preparing research grant applications. • Gain experience in working as part of a multi-disciplinary research team.

- Develop knowledge, contacts and networks to facilitate future involvement and engagement in research, for example related to primary care, digital health technologies, respiratory conditions, pharmacy etc.

Any further information:
The published protocol for this review was developed in summer 2024 as part of a previous SPCR internship project, with the intern named as an author.