

SPCR PPIE placement project 2022-2023

Name + email supervisor:

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Location:

University of Exeter

Proposed start date and duration of the placement:

1st Sept 2022 to 31st March 2023

Name project:

- Digital and Remote Assessment and management of older people living with frailty (DREAM) funded by NIHR Programme Development grant
- National survey of Advanced Clinical Practitioner roles managing older people and those living with frailty funded by NIHR SPCR

Summary of the research the placement project is linked to:

The population is getting older. For some people this can mean having several health problems and difficulty doing everyday things.

A comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) is a process involving older people, their families, and health and social care staff to identify and help manage these problems and prevent new problems arising. This can mean that people are:

- less likely to need to go into hospital
- better able to do what is important to them.

Our research wants to see if we can improve the appointments and assessments older people have as part of their care using technology. We will also be looking at the roles of different staff in the process.

Our research wants to see if we can develop a process of remote assessment and care called enhanced CGA (eCGA). This would look at how best to meet the needs of older people and their families in the community. We are looking at research that has already been done to see where alternatives to face-to-face contact could be used (or not). This could include using telephone or video, as well as digital technology such as Apps, smart speakers or sensors. We are going to do a national survey of healthcare staff about their role. We are also interviewing older people and their families, and staff, to ask:

- what would be acceptable to them to use
- what might help or hinder eCGA
- how best to measure to see if eCGA has a positive impact on health and well being

Description of the placement project:

Our public advisory group is diverse representing those from a range of different backgrounds who are often underserved in research. The group includes those from different ethnic, LGBT, non-English speaking, geographical and socioeconomic backgrounds as well as those with multiple long-term conditions and carers. We have met with our advisory group twice to date and their input has helped shape (a) our literature searches regarding digital/remote approaches to assessment and (b) the topic guide for the qualitative research.

The advisory group conveyed the high importance regarding the characteristics of staff that would be required to undertake and interpret assessments of those with complex needs in primary care. This resulted in the (successful) application for SPCR funded to conduct a national survey of advanced practitioners working with older people.

A further nine advisory group activities are planned from July 2022 through to March 2023. This will include reviewing the potential technology we have identified, interpreting qualitative findings, planning questions for a national survey and developing a dissemination plan.

For the placement, we would support the trainee contribute to (a) planning, (b) taking notes and (c) maintaining an impact log for PPIE meetings. They will use these to create engaging outputs showcasing inclusive engagement work.

The outputs aimed for during the placement:

Creative outputs (eg infographic, report or video) showcasing (a) how the involvement has shaped the research and (b) the community work in Greater Manchester

Overview of the tasks you might undertake as part of this placement:

The trainee will work closely alongside Goodwin and Morley to plan observe and contribute to activities with our public advisory group to shape our research. The trainee will have the opportunity to develop creative methods of undertaking PPIE and communicating with older people and their families to promote meaningful and sustained engagement and collaboration.

The insights and skills that you can gain through this placement:

Effective PPIE is a cornerstone of the DREAM project and public advisory members have been involved in this project from the onset to help us lay the very foundations of the project (What is important to older people? What is independence? And what should we measure?). Whilst we are working to the NIHR's standards of good practice we appreciate that 'good' can be situational and is highly depended on context and values. The trainee will work closely with Goodwin and Morley to gain practical experience and explore creative and flexible practices that facilitate meaningful and effective involvement of the public in our research. For example, alongside our public advisory group, we work together with a community leader in Greater Manchester to involve a group of non-English speakers with their help to gain the valuable perspectives of communities that are seldom heard.

The trainee will gain an insight into effective patient and public involvement and an understanding of the common pitfalls. They will explore the use of resources, communication and building of trust and reciprocal relationships that support our work. Furthermore, we will encourage the trainee to explore methods of evaluation of PPIE and its uses and pitfalls.