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Research in the Spotlight

Clinical Research Practitioner Directory Bulletin | Issue 05 | June 2020

"I am delighted that the Professional Standards Authority has now approved registration for Clinical Research Practitioners within the Academy for Healthcare Science Accredited Registers Programme.

There has never been a more important time for CRPs to bring their skills and knowledge forward, as they are doing now in their vital contribution to delivering nationally prioritised Urgent Public Health COVID-19 research." **Dr William van't Hoff CEO, NIHR CRN**



The news that the PSA has approved the application for the Clinical Research Practitioner (CRP) accredited register gives a very welcome green light. As we all continue to adapt to the realities of living through the COVID 19 Pandemic, we are mindful that the pace and approach to implementation needs to be helpful and sensitive to changing situations. In a time when research is at the top of everyone's priority list, we can also use opportunities to promote the fantastic contribution of CRPs to the national research effort and how the register supports the continuing development of your profession.

The plan is to start piloting and thoroughly testing out the application process. This will include a group of around 30 eligible CRPs, their managers and a group of verifiers. CRPs will follow the application process and submit their applications into the Academy. Each application will then be assessed by two verifiers who will also provide feedback and share their learning with their peers in the verifier group. This is to ensure that there is a consistent approach to checking the evidence that applicants supply. This will be happening over the next three months and we will then identify any changes that need to be made and open the register for general applications from October 2020.

There is an agreement that the register will first open to applicants who have a degree and who have sufficient experience to meet the criteria. An equivalence route for experienced practitioners who do not have a degree has been identified and this will open in the New Year.

We encourage all CRPs who are considering joining the register to become familiar with the Scope of Practice, Standards of Proficiency and the template documentation you will need to use in providing your portfolio of evidence. While there may be some amendments recommended as an outcome of pilot activity, we would encourage you to connect where possible with colleagues involved in the pilot and approach your line managers and CRN Workforce Development Leads for support as you start collecting evidence as part of your continuing professional development and review process. We will continue to share progress with you and welcome any questions and feedback you have.

More information about the pilot can be found [here](#)



*Fiona O'Neill | AHCS Head of Registration Services for
Clinical Research Practitioners*

Research Delivery Learning Community: Engaging with your NHS

Welcome to the Research Delivery Staff Learning Community: Engaging with your local NHS!

An interactive environment that aims to support research engagement in local NHS organisations by providing a platform for networking and learning.



Success Stories

Discover a range of success stories that showcase examples of successful practice in promoting and engaging with research in order to embed research as a core component of clinical care.

[Access the Success Stories](#)



Toolkit and other Resources

Click on the Toolkit to access resources to support your development in clinical research.

Manage your own learning by taking the self-assessment quiz.

Follow the link to DeLVE to access carefully curated learning materials from a range of sources.

[Access the Toolkit](#)



Forums and Expert Blogs

Use our forum to share top tips or to ask fellow community members a question.

Read through Expert Blogs and share your thoughts or questions on the forum using the links provided.

[Access Forums](#)

[Expert Blogs](#)



News and Helpful Links

Keep up to date with the latest research news, developments and information via our useful links.

[NHS R&D Forum News](#)

[NIHR News](#)

[Twitter feed: #WeWeDoResearch](#)

Many of you will be aware that the NIHR CRN intended to create a bespoke online community space for you, within NIHR Learn. This space was created but as the COVID-19 crisis hit, we were unable to effectively train a team of community leaders to manage and moderate the community. We felt that during this crisis, your commitments and attentions were needed elsewhere at the moment.

The NIHR CRN NHS Engagement team have created a space that is also of great value and is proving to be an innovative way for NHS employees to stay connected, share stories and explore more areas of health and social care research.

Some of you have already shared your stories with our NHS Engagement team and these can be found [here](#) too!

Please click [here](#) to get involved!

Tell us about your journey into research

We would love to hear about your journey into research. Why research? What's a typical day for you? What's the best part of your job? What will CRP Registration mean to you?

CRP Engagement Event | 4th March 2020

The event to Welcome Registration for CRPs, held at the Royal Society in London on 4 March 2020, was a great success. It now seems like it took place in a very different time but we are encouraged by the fantastic feedback received and the amazing energy that was present throughout the whole day.



CRPs Kayleigh Gilbert, Angharad Williams and Imogen Sargent all spoke at the event and you will soon be able to hear their important messages captured on video [here](#) as part of outcomes from the conference.



You can hear from Imogen later on in this newsletter, where she talks about how the Directory and the CRP register has been received in her team.

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Standards Authority and Emma Lowe, Research Policy Senior Manager, Industry Relations and Growth at the Department of Health and Social Care. Emma focused on the challenges facing the NHS in terms of availability of workforce and explained why CRPs are part of the answer, saying that “the CRP role is absolutely essential if we want to realise the ambition of increasing research activity.”

The afternoon session allowed discussion of the pilot of the registration process and identification of who would be helping make this happen. Thank you to everyone who came along to the event and especially our speakers.



Carolyn Duff | NIHR CRN Workforce Development Coordinator

CRP's Paving the way: Influence of CRP registration initiative in Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership trust

Imogen Sargent, Clinical Research Team Leader for Mental Health and CRP [@ImogenBennetto](#)

As many of us are aware, CRP's make up a quarter of the research workforce and have numerous job titles across trusts and organisations. Unlike many acute NHS organisations, mental health trusts seem to have little nurse engagement in research and the workforce is often CRP led.

In the KMPT R&D department, the whole team, with the exception of one Research Nurse and one Occupational Therapist, is made up of CRP's from varying backgrounds, predominantly psychology. In addition to this, our leadership team is made up solely of CRPs. Unexpectedly; the CRP registration initiative generated a huge amount of buzz in the department.

CRP's face many challenges that come with 'not being a nurse' and hold multiple job titles leading to confusion about what they do, what they are qualified to do and who they actually work for. In addition, the job titles never truly reflect the skill base and knowledge held by these individuals. Clinicians were often confused about the qualifications of the

Delivering research is difficult and having a need to constantly prove your ability makes it even harder on a day to day basis. For many CRP's, only once they are well known by a clinician did that individual actually understand how skilled they were and what they actually were able and qualified to do.

The CRP initiative came at a very good time for us and offered something for the team to feel part of; something that recognised their role and skillset, and provided development and career progression. Within our team, there is a feeling that even though it's in its infancy, the initiative has provided a feeling of community and more of a professional identity.

Read the rest of this blog post on our [website](#)



*Imogen Sargent | KMPT Clinical Research Team
Leader for Mental Health and CRP*

Twitter



Follow the hashtag [#crpractitioner](#) on twitter to follow conversations and connect with other CRPs. Here are some recent tweets you may have missed

Imogen Sargent

[@ImogenBennetto](#)

So very excited about this huge step to acknowledge an incredible and highly skilled workforce [#CRPractitioner](#) [#loveresearch](#) [@NIHRresearch](#) [@KMPT_Research](#) [@kmptnhs](#) [@hannahherlihy](#) [@box_roberta](#) [@MHoward103](#) [@RachelS73786454](#) [@Jamie__Harper](#) [@megsetterfield](#)

Kayleigh Gilbert

[@KayleighGilber9](#)

Exciting news that the [#CRPractitioner](#) register has been approved by the [@prof_standards](#)

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[#research](#) [#WhyWeDoResearch](#)



Sign up to the Directory

The Clinical Research Practitioner Directory will continue to support the community during these challenging times.

Remember to encourage all CRPs interested in seeking registration to join the CRP Directory. There is no fee to join, or to rejoin, the CRP Directory.

[CRP News](#) | [CRP Development](#) | [Join the CRP Directory during Covid-19](#)

Individuals and organisations who want to know more can go to bit.ly/CRPdirectory or contact:

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