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CRPs in the Team

Clinical Research Practitioner Directory Bulletin | Issue 04 | December 2019



**Warmest Seasons' Greetings to Everyone
from all in the team at AHCS & NIHR**



***Message from Janet Monkman, CEO and Registrar,
Academy for Healthcare Science***

A year on from the first edition of your CRP Bulletin, there are now 565 CRPs listed on the CRP Directory and the community is continuing to grow.

register has now reached the crucial point where a formal application for accreditation has been submitted to the Professional Standards Authority. The process involves proposing a Notification of Change to the Authority which sets out the reasons for and benefits of the new part of the register.

The PSA Accreditation Team will undertake a rigorous assessment of the application, including taking feedback about the applying organisation from third parties including patients, service users, professional and representative organisations. It will carry out a documentary review related to the change and decide whether a visit or interviews are required to assess the proposed change. The Accreditation team will submit a summary report to the Moderator (a member of the Authority's Director-level staff) with its recommendation on whether to accept the change.

The timescale for the assessment and approval process for the change to the register is being managed by the Professional Standards Authority. Meanwhile the NIHR and AHCS team continues to finalise the trialing of the online application processes in readiness to receive the first applications and the publication of the inaugural register of Clinical Research Practitioners.

Making the CRP Accredited Register a reality

To mark submission of a formal proposal to the Professional Standards Authority (PSA), we would like to thank everyone who has helped us to reach this point by attending workshops, providing feedback, replying to surveys on experience and education and responding to the consultation on the draft Scope of Practice and Standards of Proficiency. We are hugely grateful and will keep you updated on the PSA's response.

We will also soon be able to share guidance on preparing an application for accredited CRP registration and will do this through the new NIHR Learn CRP Community Space.

So much has already been achieved in developing the professional identity of CRPs. We are now finalising the requirements to register as a CRP and how evidence should be collected, presented, verified and held. These processes will move to piloting in the New

online system and this will be extended in the next stages to confirm that everything will run smoothly. Pending approval from the PSA, registration will be open Spring/Summer 2020. Roll on 2020 when we can make the CRP Register a reality!



*Janice Paterson | NIHR CRN Workforce Intelligence
Manager & Delivery Lead for the accredited CRP register*

Just for you: dedicated CRP Community space on NIHR Learn - make sure you get access!



Bulletins

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CRP Stories

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Forums

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Learning & Development

[DeLVE](#)[Integrated Workforce Framework](#)

A CRP community space to support learning and development will soon be up and running on NIHR Learn. This is an exciting new development which will allow you to network with CRPs anywhere and support CRP networking in your area. The CRP Community space can help you to find learning relevant to your role and stay informed on issues relating to Clinical Research Practitioners. Please complete the form below so that we can add you to the NIHR Learn CRP Community Space. **If you don't already have an NIHR Learn account, please create one, using your professional email address by following the link below.**

[Create your NIHR Learn account](#)

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?

[Tell us today, complete our Q&A.](#)

Here are some highlights from Amy Cooney's story...

What is your professional and/or academic background?

I have a BSc in Psychology from the University of Sheffield but had decided not to pursue clinical psychology as a career. I knew I still wanted to work in healthcare in some guise, but wasn't sure how to get there without expensive retraining.

How did you get into research?

I found a clerical role in the University's Cancer Clinical Trials Centre (CCTC) a year after graduating, which introduced me to the world of clinical research. I quickly realised this was the place for me and knew I wanted to play more of an active role. Within 2 years I had secured a secondment to the position of Research Coordinator (now rebranded as a Clinical Trials Assistant) for the breast, lung and rare tumours research teams. Happily, I was made permanent, and moved into the Haemato - Oncology team 4 years ago, which I love.

What type of setting do you work in?

I'm employed by the University of Sheffield and am based in their Medical School at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, as our haematology patients are seen and treated here on an inpatient and outpatient basis. I have an honorary contract with the NHS.

What does a typical day look like for you?

I get in at 9am, change into my uniform then check my emails and workload for the day. Most of our clinics are in the afternoon, so mornings are spent on admin. I coordinate all the Haematology team non-CTIMP studies, so this includes things like screening MDT minutes, clinic or inpatient lists for new patients; creating proformas and other documents required for our pending studies; requesting tissue blocks from histopathology; answering queries from trial sponsors; entering data onto CRFs; seeking out potential new studies; tracking patient appointments; and arranging questionnaires, bloods/bone marrow

various studies. Trial blood samples are often done the same day, so I'll arrange these, then collect, package and send them to the trial labs. Getting them in the first class post on time can require a bit of running about! I finish at 5pm, clinics permitting.

What is the best part of your job?

Getting to work with my lovely team, and helping to support patients to make informed decisions about participating in clinical research.

What will CRP Registration mean to you?

As my role was originally created to fill a niche area between administrative and caring duties, this has evolved organically with the needs of the unit, it has often felt a little like a 'made-up' job, which wasn't automatically respected by other members of the clinical staff. The standardisation and accreditation of the CRP role will allow us to finally achieve recognition and respect for the skills and fairly specialist knowledge bases we acquire and provide opportunities to take things forward with appropriate training and development.

CRPs around the regions

There have been several CRP events around the regions, with CRN Eastern holding a well-attended CRP Networking event on the 10th October. Clare Meachin opened the day which included sessions looking at a competency framework for CRPs and feedback on the Scope of Practice and Standards of Proficiency for the CRP Accredited Register. On 13 November, CRN: Kent, Surrey and Sussex workshop day "Coming together/the road to recognition" brought CRPs together from across the region to share and hear updates on progress towards introducing the CRP Accredited Register.



Wherever you are in the UK, why not let us know what is happening in your region? Share your story via email to carolyn.duff@nihr.ac.uk

Consultation on draft Scope of Practice and

heard...

Thank you if you were one of the 112 people who offered us direct feedback as part of the recent consultation on the draft Scope of Practice and Standards of Proficiency proposed for CRP accredited registration. The consultation was open for 8 weeks and is now closed. We will be posting a full response on the [CRP Directory website](#) in January 2020.

At the present time, we've noted that almost 70% of respondents saw no significant disadvantages in relation to the introduction of accredited registration for CRPs.

However, some respondents remain unsure and around 11% felt that there may be some disadvantages. Key points learnt from these consultation responses are being translated into action, including:

- improving broader understanding of rigour in the AHCS registration process
- highlighting the distinct contribution of different roles in clinical research delivery
- saying more about CRP clinical skills and recognition of professional boundaries
- clarifying that a CRP is not a new role and registration can help to standardise
- sharing information on existing education and training provision

If you have any further comments about the initiative at the moment, please do contact Carolyn Duff carolyn.duff@nihr.ac.uk

Twitter

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

Caroline Walker [@CHWalker0](#)

*Informative and interactive session today networking with the CRP community
[#CRPractitioner](#) [@NIHRresearch](#) [@NIHRcommunity](#) [@NIHRCRN_kss](#)
[@BSUHresearch](#) Exciting times ahead, raising awareness of the role, on the road
towards professional accreditation and registration*

Nicola Hall (Watson) [@nikjwatson](#)

*Brilliant presentation and update about the Clinical Research Practitioners (CRP)
role and the NIHR CRP register [@TeamNUH](#) [@ResearchNuh](#), they are a hugely
valuable part of our research delivery workforce. [@mkoufali](#) [@samjj74](#)
[@NIHRCRNEastMids](#)*

Sign up to the Directory

access the new CRP community on NIHR Learn. Sign up [here](#).

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

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