

# Research and Innovation Newsletter

March 2025 | Issue 50

## A note from the Head of R&I



It is nearly April! The daffodils are out, and spring has sprung. We have had another great month and been in the news of on TV yet again! DAISY, our AI triage system has begun and achieved 11 accruals in its first week. This is an impressive 11% of the target within the first week.

We had another first this month with the ColoCap study, recruiting their first patient at North Tees. A huge well done to the entire team for setting up this study. The patient, Elaine (right), stated she felt *"it was important to help with research in general"* and that being in the study was a *"double test for herself"*.

The Switch study also had a strong start this month, with four patients recruited in just two days. This is a fantastic achievement, and well done to all involved. A massive thank you to everyone who has worked on RESPOND. It has been a difficult study to coordinate, but we have now hit the target. This is a great example of collaborative research, helping to improve patient outcomes.

Just a reminder to block out your diaries for November 19th for our Annual Celebration of Research Event which we have begun planning.

Finally, a reminder that our Research & Innovation team encourages staff to develop their own research ideas. If approached by colleagues interested in starting a project, please direct them to our website for guidance.

**- Lydia Harris**

### Institute of Health and Care Improvement

YSJU's IHCI are hosting their second annual Research Showcase which takes place on the 15th July 2025. If you wish to submit an abstract and showcase your work please complete this [form](#)

[Click here to register your attendance](#)



## Care Group Research Leads

**Medicines York** - [Dr Luke Bridge](#) ([Deputy Dr Chris Hayes](#))

**Surgery and Family Health** - [Dr Joe Carter](#) & [Dr Michael Lim](#) (Surgery) [Dr Dominic Smith](#) & [Dr Leila Fahel](#) (Family Health)

**Cancer, Specialist & Clinical Support Services** - [Mr Pouya Alaghband](#) & [Dr Bhavani Rengabashyam](#)

**Head of AHP Research** - [Dr Fran Butler](#)

**Lead Research Nurse and Head of Nursing Research** - [Cate Laven](#)

**Clinical Lead for SHARC** - [Dr Phil Dickinson](#)

**Clinical Director of Research & Innovation** - [Professor James Turvill](#)

01904 726996

[yhs-tr.research.governance@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.research.governance@nhs.net)

[www.research.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/](http://www.research.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/)

[@YorkResearch](#) [YSTHNHSFT LinkedIn](#)

[@uorkresearch.bsky.social](#)

Contact Us



# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, GRANTS, AND SCHEMES

**THRIVE i4i Funding Stream** – THRIVE offers up to £150,000 over 9 months to support the development of the technology and a structured programme of entrepreneurial training, mentoring, peer support and networking. Through the programme the innovators will explore the market for their innovation and identify potential routes for commercialising (spin-out vs licensing) or sustaining their innovation (Intrapreneurship). The programme supports innovations that can reduce health inequalities and meet needs in underserved communities. For more information follow this [link](#). The closing date for this is 16th May 2025 1 PM.

**Transformative and disruptive innovations to reduce waiting lists and waiting times** – The NIHR [Invention for Innovation](#) (i4i) programme invites applications to enhance timely access to care through the development, clinical validation and/or real-world evidence generation of transformative and disruptive technologies. This funding opportunity, therefore, supports the development of innovative health technologies aimed at reducing waiting times and waiting lists for individuals in need of care, in any setting. Applications close May 7th 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

**Population Health Career Scientist** – The NIHR wish to develop and enhance research expertise in the most important areas affecting population health by supporting the next generation of independent public health research leaders. As the need to tackle wider preventable risk factors and determinants of health receives wider recognition, there is an expectation that the research supported through this award will be of importance and relevance to local government, ideally with explicit support from local government colleagues. For more information please click [here](#).

**Greenspace and natural environments** – is looking to fund research which evaluates the health impacts of the interventions which change access to green and blue space. The programme supports innovations that can reduce health inequalities and meet needs in underserved communities. For more information follow this [link](#).

## TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT, AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**University of York Biomedical Research Institute Research Away Day** – Colleagues are invited to attend the York University Research Away day which is hosted by the Biomedical Research Institute. The day will focus on the collaborations we have fostered with the university as well as the outputs of the projects from the institute. To register your interest in attending on the day please use this [link](#).

**Unlock Your Research Apprentice Nursing & Midwifery** – This session is aimed at all nursing and midwifery staff, at all levels and from all areas. It is an informal afternoon with introductions, presentations, and updates highlighting potential opportunities, from local to national, for all staff to become involved in research at any stage in their career. Please contact [Cate Laven](#) Directly to register your interest and find out more information about the day.

**Academy of Medical Sciences Clinical Academic Conference** – CATAC is a free cross-specialty event designed to bring together clinical academics from a range of backgrounds. The event provides clinical researchers an opportunity to present their work to peers and senior academics, and to build their professional network. The conference will take place at Leeds City Museum on Thursday 8 May 2025. More information and booking for this conference can be found by following this [link](#).

**NIHR Career Development Award** – Open to registered clinicians from under-represented groups (namely nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, pharmacists, paramedics, clinical scientists) working in health care in the NHS or in university, or social care (local authority/public health) settings in the Yorkshire and Humber region to help them prepare and submit an NIHR career development funding award application. It's also open to academic researchers (e.g., data scientists, statisticians) who are not clinicians but working in health and social care research who wish to gain specific research methodology expertise in patient safety research.

The award provides individuals with protected time to develop an application for NIHR Career Development Funding. To find out more about the award please follow this [link](#). The award will close to applications on Friday 25th April 2025.

# Research Grant Submissions

**Predoctoral Fellowship Application** - Diabetes and shoulder pain in BAME groups, Mrs Reena Tweddle.

**Predoctoral Fellowship Application** - Implementation of Virtual Reality for lower back pain, Mr Samuel Hudson.

**Predoctoral Fellowship Application** - Breastfeeding attitudes in areas of health inequality, Mrs Clare Panaser.

**Communities Innovating Yorkshire Fund YPIP-** Population cohort data collection to support breastfeeding initiation and continuation in urban, rural and coastal North Yorkshire. Dr Dominic Smith and Dr Beverley Waterhouse. £49,620.51

**Bowel Cancer UK** Optimising the impact of colon capsule endoscopy in bowel cancer diagnostics. Professor James Turvill and Dr Cameron Stockwell £159,438.79

## Innovation Grants

**MPS Foundation** - Evaluation of the YoGi Dataset. Prof James Turvill, Mrs Liz Johnson. £23,548.00

## Elsie May Sykes

The department has released this years call for Elsie May Sykes funding to support trust staff to develop their own research projects. We have released £15,000 to support one or more research projects. The deadline is May 2nd and collaborative projects are encouraged. Applications may only be submitted by those with a permanent contract with the Trust in this time. Please request guidance notes and application forms directly from Ellis Bramall.

The guidance notes can be viewed and downloaded through the button below.



**DOWNLOAD**

## DAISY Study Begins

DAISY, which stands for Diagnostic Artificial Intelligence System, has begun recruiting this month. The triage algorithm by Dr Ol'Tunde Ashaolu and supported by colleagues from the University of York seek to investigate the social, legal, ethical, and cultural concerns surrounding the use of artificial intelligence and social robotics in healthcare, while working closely with both clinicians and patients to address the challenges associated with the integration of this technology.

Within the first week of the study opening DAISY has recruited 15 participants which has surpassed the recruitment goals at this early stage in the project. The study is believed to be one of the first of its kind and represents the growing portfolio of innovation projects which are being support by the Research and Innovation Department.

The feasibility study has already made a splash and has featured in the [local press](#) and Tunde has had a television interview to discuss the project and the benefits that may arise. This project was funded by the Elsie May Sykes award, which is now open for applications (left).





# SHARC Launch

On April 1st we are officially launching our Scarborough Coastal Health and Care Research Collaborative (SHARC). SHARC aims to better address the health and care needs of our coastal populations through high quality collaborative research with community involvement. This project is a collaboration co-funded between York St John University and York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that bring both academic and clinical expertise in health research

The launch day is set to feature a talk from SHARC's clinical research Lead Dr Phil Dickinson, on narrowing the gap on health inequalities and a talk from Prof. Garry Tew from YSJU on academic partnership in tackling multimorbidity in coastal and rural areas. Scarborough Community Engagement Officer, Bex Blakey, from SeeChange (a local VCSE) will also be speaking alongside Lisa Ballantine on the importance of community engagement in research.

The Trust, in partnership with the University of Birmingham and University of York, has been awarded £1.2 million in funding from the National Institute of Health Research to improve urgent and emergency care in rural coastal areas across the United Kingdom. This is a joint project supported by SHARC and is joint led by Dr Arabella Scantlebury and Prof. Joy Adamson. Dr Scantlebury will be presenting an overview of this research project at the launch. You can find out more about this research project [here](#).

For any information about SHARC or if you have any ideas which you believe are relevant to the aims of SHARC please e-mail [yhs-tr.sharc@nhs.net](mailto:yhs-tr.sharc@nhs.net)

FOR HEALTHCARE, FOR ACADEMICS,  
FOR COMMUNITY, FOR PATIENTS,  
FOR SCARBOROUGH



## Three Peaks

Research and innovation's very own Mark Fearnley, and Cate Laven are raising money for our Research and Innovation Department. They will be taking part in the Three Peaks Challenge with the Trust charity. This is a 24 mile round trip including a 1585 meter ascent of Pen-y-Ghent, Whernside, and Ingleborough.

The R&I Department conducts anywhere from 80 to 100+ studies each year and has a wide portfolio of research from quality of life questionnaire studies, randomised control trials exploring new treatment methods, drugs or equipment, sponsored commercial studies looking at introducing new medications, all the way to collaborative research projects in earlier phases exploring new novel therapies.

All donations are much appreciated, to help support Cate and Mark raise funds and research awareness. Should you wish to make a donation please visit the Y&S Hospitals Charity fundraising page by following this [link](#).



# Publications

Prabhsimran Singh, Charles Millson, and Robert Driver from the Department of Hepatology have recently published in the BMJ alongside colleagues from University of Hull. This study developed novel algorithms to identify patients with hereditary haemochromatosis (HH) from electronic health records using a combination of ICD-10 and OPCS-4 codes. The researchers focused on patients with C282Y homozygosity, the most common genetic mutation associated with HH. By analysing over 9,000 patient episodes, the study demonstrated that the algorithms significantly improved the accuracy of detecting HH compared to the standard ICD-10 code for iron metabolism disorders. The best-performing algorithms, which included venesection data, achieved a positive predictive value of over 74%, offering a more reliable method for identifying HH patients in large administrative datasets.

To read the article please follow this [link](#).

To view the full list of publications please click on the boxes below. Papers can be read by following the individual DOI of each paper within the documents.

To access the list of authors please click on the below boxes. Note that access may occasionally need to be granted to open these files.

[January 2025 Publication List](#)

[December 2024 Publication List](#)

[November 2024 Publication List](#)

[October 2024 Publication list](#)

[Our Research Strategy](#)



## Research and Innovation Ideas

If you have a research or innovation project in mind and would like to find out about funding please contact either [Lisa](#) or [Cameron](#), our dedicated Grant Writers, who will help you fund find, facilitate your application. This includes original research ideas, career development awards aimed at starting a research career, as well as helping to link you up to the appropriate academics at our partner organisations to start building your wider research and innovation network.

## Have something you want to include?

If you have something you wish to include, such as an award you have won, a research spotlight article, or a research event you think would like to include in the staff newsletter please contact Cam either by e-mail or drop him a message over teams.