

Speakers

Angela King, Patient advocate and public collaborator

I have been an active patient advocate and PPIE collaborator for over 30 years, have personal experience of long-term illnesses (spanning most of my adult life), and of end

of life caring for three loved ones. During over a decade in the voluntary sector I undertook a variety of roles, among which were crisis helpline volunteer, Trusteeships and CEO of a national charity. I have undergone and co-delivered leadership development courses to Senior NHS and Social Care staff and I currently co-create and deliver PPIE workshops for students at the University of Exeter Medical School as well as the NIHR Southwest's Summer School.

I am involved in research studies in a variety of roles and serve on advisory committees and commissioning boards/panels, including the NIHR Strategy and Engagement Board. I co-author articles and papers and present at conferences. I Chair PPIE advisory groups in studies and am especially interested in facilitating PPIE in more 'challenging' methodologies, such as analysis of patient data sets and evidence synthesis.

Beccy Summers, Postgraduate Research Associate and Patient and Public Involvement team member, PenARC

Beccy is a member of the Patient and Public Involvement team at PenARC. She comes from an adult nursing background, and as such is passionate about making sure that the care provided to people is in keeping with their, and their family's, values, believing in involving patients, the public and carers in the development of care. It was this drive to listen to, and act upon, the voice of healthcare service-users which led her to join the PenARC team.

Kristin Liabo, Associate Professor, University of Exeter

Deputy Director and Strategic Lead for Research Inclusion and Public Involvement for PenARC

Kristin is qualitative researcher with experience of systematic reviewing and multi-methods studies. Her background is in childhood studies where she developed an interest in how research priorities are determined and the extent to which public perspectives shape research agendas.

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Phil Ruthen, Independent public collaborator

Here as an independent public collaborator, Phil's various public member roles include those with NICE, CQC, NHS, charitable organisations, and NIHR - including PPIE training development and delivery, being a Summer School planning group member since 2023. Currently employed as p/t Associate Lecturer, Lived Experience Coordinator, DClinPsy/PGR Portfolio and Cedar, Psychology, University of Exeter, he is additionally co-applicant on now-funded NIHR research project as PPI lead 'Building Bridges' (SW region, exploring how men at risk of suicide are supported by community initiatives and their links with primary care), and a public member of NIHR-funded Team Science project developing public involvement in health and care economics research (PIHER). Retaining an interest in 'survivor research' from his mental health system 'service user' years, he is also a poet, writer and editor, primarily with Waterloo Press, and is a former Chair of Survivors' Poetry.

Annie Hawton, Associate Professor in Health Economics Research

Annie has a strong track-record of both quantitative and qualitative research in health, social, and wider care services, and distinctive expertise in public and patient involvement (PPI). She has provided the first UK course on PPI in Health Economics research and has a keen interest in bringing Health Economic approaches to the heritage sector and social prescribing.

Leon Farmer, Public Collaborator

Leon is passionate about involvement, finding it to be immensely rewarding, satisfying and worthwhile. He has maintained a keen interest in science all his life, but also holds a degree in music and is a PGCE Secondary Music Teacher, so has some experience of the academic world which he finds helps. He has suffered with ill health most of his life so has personal experience of a number of conditions and is currently considered to have a number of multi-morbidities.

Lauren Asare, Graduate Research Assistant and Patient and Public Involvement team member, PenARC

Lauren is a Research Assistant working as a part of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPIE) Team. Her role entails supporting patients and members of the public in their involvement and engagement during the ongoing process of conducting research into healthcare services.

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Naomi Morley, Research Fellow, Patient and Public Involvement team member and Operational Lead for Research Inclusion for PenARC

Naomi's background is in dementia care and stroke rehabilitation within the NHS. She also has experience working within the voluntary sector with underserved communities.

In her current role, she leads patient and public involvement across a range of research projects, mostly focused on ageing and dementia. She has a particular interest in addressing health inequalities and developing inclusive approaches to involvement.

Shahla Bahmanyar, Public Involvement Coordinator and Patient and Public Involvement team member, PenARC

I work in the PenARC PPI and MHRI teams as an involvement co-ordinator. I promote the active and meaningful involvement of patients and members of the public from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities in health research, starting from the earliest stages of the research cycle. I also help facilitate and evaluate PPI initiatives, including Research Cafés and the PPI Café, to foster inclusive and collaborative engagement.

Julia Burton, Public Collaborator

Mary Fredlund, Public Collaborator

This will be my fourth year contributing to the summer school and I am sure I am going to learn something new. I have been involved in research with Exeter medical school in different ways over the last 15 years and I think the summer school combines my lived experience with the facilitation skills I use in my professional life. It also combines my passion for making involvement meaningful with my love of being creative. The importance is respectfully working together and the value of including different perspectives is so tacit that it really needs talking about. This summer school lets me be part of that conversation in a way that brings me and I hope others growth and awareness of these important methods.

Speakers

Susanne Hughes, Community embedded researcher, PenARC

Amy Cardrick, Public Collaborator

Emma Potter, Public Collaborator

Jess Smith, Patient & Public Involvement Engagement Manager Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

Jess is the Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Manager at the NIHR Exeter Biomedical Research Centre, and the PPIE lead for the NIHR Exeter Health Technology Research Centre. Jess came to involvement through the charity sector, working at research funders who placed a strong emphasis on involvement in their research programmes. She has also led PPIE at an asthma research centre. Her experience is mostly in involvement in lab-based and related basic research, and building supportive structures for involvement.

Isabelle Hawsworth, Community Engagement and Involvement Administrator, PenARC

Isabelle manages the payments for the Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Team and provides general administrative support to PenARC. She has worked in administration at the University of Exeter for the past 5 years and has recently completed an MA in International Heritage Management with a focus on social prescribing and wellbeing.

Faye Doris, Public Collaborator, Chair for the Health and Care Professions PPIE advisory group, University of Exeter

Doris is a retired healthcare professional and strongly believes in evidenced based healthcare and strong role models in nursing, midwifery, and the health and care professions. Doris was a Public Governor at the RD&E NHSFT for six years and provided a lay/user voice in this capacity. She was a member of the Trust's Patient Experience Committee and their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group. An inclusive patient voice is important to her.

Doris has also been a Lay Executive of the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) since 2019 and a Public Contributor in the Stakeholder Group of the NIHR Southwest Peninsula Regional Research Delivery Network (SWP RRDN).

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Kate Boddy, Research Fellow and Co-lead for Public Involvement for PenARC
Kate has a background in health service research and previously worked as an information specialist on numerous systematic reviews. She has a particular interest in methods of engaging service users in research prioritisation and involving the public in systematic reviews.

Ali Wills, Research Engagement Officer, Cornwall VSF
Ali brings over 30 years experience across the private and public sectors in change, programme management and systems thinking. She is passionate about ensuring all voices are valued and about helping remove barriers that prevent people and communities from achieving their potential.
In her role, Ali focuses on building collaborative approaches that help communities, organisations and systems listen, connect and work more effectively together. Ali brings a broad perspective shaped by leadership, facilitation and partnership work across a range of settings.
She also brings a strong interest in environmental sustainability and long-term systems change.