

Agenda 27 and 28 September 2023 EViR Meeting

This hybrid event is scheduled to take place from 10:00 to 17:00 CEST on Day 1 and 10:00 to 16:30 CEST on Day 2.

For those who can join us in person, we are pleased to announce that ZonMw will be our host in the Netherlands. As a special treat, members will have the chance to enjoy a delightful dinner together on Wednesday evening.

Wednesday 27 September 2023

1.1 10:00 – 10:15 Welcome to the 15th EViR meeting: Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

1.2 10:15 – 10:45 Plenary session from ZonMw and reflections on ZonMw's journey as the host organisation

Introducer: Staffan Arvidsson (Forte)

Speaker: Véronique Timmerhuis (ZonMw)

1.3 10:45 – 11:30 Reflections from 25 years ZonMw implementation symposium

This session will explore reflections and insights from the symposium, including Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) strategies and challenges.

Introducer: Staffan Arvidsson (Forte)

Speakers:

- Kris Pelleboer (ZonMw)
- Jos Zandvliet (ZonMw)

Break (15 mins)

1.4 11:45 – 12:30 Sustainability for Research Funding Practice

Introducer: Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

Speaker: Susan Simon, Director of Capital and Estates and Chief Environmental Sustainability Officer for the Medical Research Council (MRC)

The session explores the urgent need for research funders to develop practices that deliver the benefits of research while minimising the environmental impact on future generations. The lecture will allow us to reflect on our role in driving positive change toward a more sustainable and resilient future.

Lunch (60 mins)

1.5 13:30 – 14:15 Climate and Health: Priorities for Research Funders

Introducer: Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

Speaker: Fern Brookes (The Academy of Medical Sciences)

The session will explore the identification and prioritisation of research questions related to the health and care implications of climate events and climate change.

Break (15 mins)

1.6 14:30 – 15:30 Inclusion in research

Introducer: Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

Speaker: Lilian Hunt, EDIS Lead, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in Science and Health (EDIS), Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team, Wellcome Trust

Within the broader context of inclusivity, this session focuses particularly on sex and gender given current concerns about poorly controlled research design and prioritisation in pre-clinical and clinical research, resulting in gendered health inequalities. The session will invite reflection on the challenges and opportunities of promoting and ensuring diversity and inclusivity in research, and start to look beyond sex and gender to broader inclusive research design and intersectionality.

1.7 15:30 – 16:05 Panel reflection on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) topic lecture

Facilitator: Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

Panel Members:

- Alana Wilde (NIHR)
- Violina Sarma (HCRW)
- Carine Stroet (ZonMw)

The session offers an opportunity for further reflection on issues related to equality, diversity and inclusion. Panel members will be asked to reflect on their own experiences and the challenges they face as research funders.

Break (15 mins)

1.8 16:20 – 16:55 EViR Updates

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear any updates on ongoing EViR initiatives, discuss key findings, and outline future plans.

- **Updates on the pre-clinical working group** – Julia Menon (ZonMw)
- **EViR Membership Update** – Cristina Lujan Barroso (EViR)
- **EViR Working Groups Update** – Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

1.9 16:55 – 17:00 Day closure: Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

EViR Members' Dinner will take place at [Garuda](#), an Indonesian restaurant serving fusion-style food – 19:00

Day two is for members' leads and relevant colleagues. During this day, we will focus on activities and actions under the priority areas in our strategic plan.

2.1. 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome to Day 2: Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

2.2. 10:10 – 10:30 Welcome to new members

2.2.1. National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaborating Agency (NECA,
South Korea)

2.2.2. tbc

2.3. 10:30 – 16:20 Update on the work of the New EViR Working Groups

2.3.1. 10:30 – 11:30 Research on Research (RoR): Amanda Jane Blatch-Jones
(NIHR)

Break (15 mins)

2.3.2. 11:45 – 12:15 Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC): Garry Aslanyan
(ESSENCE/WHO)

2.3.3. 12:15 – 13:15 Sustainability: Josie Jackson (HCRW)

Lunch (55 mins)

2.3.4. 14:10 – 14:40 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI): Cristina Lujan
Barroso (EViR) and Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

2.3.5. 14:40 – 15:40 Review and Update of the EViR Guiding Principles: Anne
Cody (HRB), Dottie Goble (NIHR), Charlotte Coates (The Scar Free
Foundation) and Michael Bowdery (HCRW)

Break (10 mins)

2.3.6. 15:50 – 16:20 Communications and Engagement: Cristina Lujan Barroso
(EViR)

2.4. 16:20 – 16:30 Summary of key actions and meeting closure – Michael Bowdery
(HCRW)

Speakers

Alana Wilde (National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), UK)



Alana is a Research Inclusion Manager, in the NIHR's Research Inclusion team. She has worked in equality, diversity and inclusion for a number of years, and leads a number of pieces of work which support the delivery of NIHR's first Research Inclusion strategy.

Amanda Jane Blatch-Jones (NIHR, UK)



Senior Research Fellow for the Research on Research (RoR) programme, which is an internal programme of work contracted through the NIHR, Evaluations Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC).

She joined the RoR team in 2012 and is responsible for and provides oversight for the conduct, delivery and dissemination of the RoR programme. The RoR programme provides robust evidence to improve the efficiency of NIHR's research management processes and to contribute to the wider evidence base on research management processes from commissioning of research through to dissemination.

Anne Cody (Health Research Board (HRB), Ireland)



PhD, MSc Bus Practice. Head of Investigator-led Grants, Research Careers and Enablers, Health Research Board

Anne has a background in cell biology and spent ten years as a researcher in Germany and Ireland. She has been working with the Health Research Board in a variety of roles for 20 years. During this time, she has gained experience across a wide spectrum of health research and funding instruments from infrastructures over health research careers to knowledge translation awards and worked with many co-funders.

Anne is currently responsible for the HRB's Investigator-led Grants, Research Careers and Enablers. She has been the driver behind the HRB's systems approach to Public, Patient and Carer Involvement (PPI). She has been actively involved in tackling unconscious bias, has initiated transparency initiatives and has led a [self-audit assessing the HRB's performance against recommendations to maximising research value](#). This has led her together with Kelly Dunham from PCORI to develop a self-assessment tool specifically directed at funders, which is available to EViR member organisations.

Barbara van der Linden (The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw), Netherlands)



MD, PhD (1962). Barbara has worked at the Netherlands Health Research Funder ZonMw since 2004, first as an implementation officer for long term care and since 2008 as staff member in Implementation and Innovation.

She is responsible for ZonMw's implementation policies and leads the ZonMw implementation team. She has written reports on cost saving interventions, Choosing Wisely, and Strengthening Impact and publications on implementation and innovation in research. In 2017 she became co-convenor of the international Ensuring Value in Research (EViR) Health Funders Forum on behalf of ZonMw. She leads the EViR working group on Dissemination and Implementation. Barbara is one of the initiators of the Netherlands Implementation Collective (NIC).

Carine Stroet (ZonMw, Netherlands)



As Program Manager at The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw), Carine Stroet is responsible for the daily execution and overall development of the Gender and Health Task Program. Together with her team, she works to promote increased attention to and integration of sex and gender into health research and research programming among different stakeholders (eg. researchers, reviewers, colleagues) in the health research field. In addition, Carine is seconded at ZonMw's sister organisation the Dutch Research Council (NWO), where she works on developing thematic research programming on society's big challenges, brought together in the Dutch Research Agenda.

Charlotte Coates (The Scar Free Foundation, UK)



Head of Research Funds at The Scar Free Foundation where she is responsible for the strategic development of the Foundation's research strategy and the direction of the processes for the management of research.

Charlotte joined The Foundation in 2014 having previously been Research Manager at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for 5 years. Prior to this she worked in private office and project management positions at the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman and the BBC.

Dottie Goble (NIHR, UK)



Assistant Director for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR UK) Journals Library, with oversight on publications across the Health Technology Assessment and Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation programmes.

She has a key role in ensuring transparency and open research across the NIHR, leading the development of the Clinical Trial registration and dissemination of results and is currently implementing data sharing mechanisms across the NIHR. Before working with the NIHR, she had 15 years' experience in local government policy development and community engagement.

Fern Brookes (The Academy of Medical Sciences, UK)



International Policy Manager at The Academy of Medical Sciences.

Garry Aslanyan, (ESSENCE/WHO, Switzerland)



Dr. Garry Aslanyan is currently the Manager of Partnerships and Governance at the World Health Organization (WHO) Special Programme on Research and Training on Tropical Diseases in Geneva, Switzerland. He is responsible for managing TDR's donor relations, governance and partnerships, including ESSENCE on Health Research initiative. Dr Aslanyan joined TDR in June 2009 and has had several roles. He currently oversees governance and partnership activities, and has developed and manages the ESSENCE on Health Research initiative, a framework for harmonization and alignment for capacity strengthening activities of research funding agencies.

Trained in dentistry, public health, and health policy and systems, Dr Aslanyan previously worked at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD). He is an Adjunct Professor in international health and public health at the University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto.

Jos Zandvliet (ZonMw, Netherlands)



Senior Staff member, ZonMw

Josie Jackson (Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW), Wales)



Josie Jackson is Head of Research Prioritisation, Commissioning, and Knowledge Mobilisation in Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW). She is interested in improving how research and evidence meet the needs of decision-makers, whether they are in policy roles or in practice. She likes to consider how we can learn and share with fields outside of health about what worked (and what didn't) to bring in new ideas to minimise research waste.

Her background is in environmental evidence and she has a PhD in bird conservation. She is the co-lead of the EViR Sustainability Working Group and strongly believes that we must work

together to play our part in tackling our current dual crises, the nature crisis and the climate crisis.

Kris Pelleboer (ZonMw, Netherlands)



Kris Pelleboer has been working for ZonMw since April 2009 and has been focusing her efforts solely on implementation and impact since 2019. Prior to joining ZonMw, she was a policy advisor for the Dutch Ministry of Health from 2000 until 2009. Before that, she assisted clients with physical disabilities in acquiring services while working for the Social Pedagogical Service in The Hague. Kris began her career in the Netherlands as a researcher for the Dutch Council for People with Disabilities.

She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences from Rutgers University. Her Master of Arts degree in Speech and Language Pathology Was obtained at Northwestern University.

Lilian Hunt (Wellcome Trust, UK)



Dr Lilian Hunt is the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in Science and Health (EDIS) Lead in Wellcome's Culture Equity Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI) team. They received their PhD in Genetics from UCL whilst at The Francis Crick Institute where they helped bring together the founders of EDIS in 2016. Lilian has since developed the coalition, supporting the 29 EDIS members to deliver on their EDI strategies covering inclusive research, culture and careers. Lilian has an active research collaboration reviewing global research funders' policies to include sex, gender, and/or diversity analysis in research content.

They champion inclusive research design and practice within Wellcome and EDIS member organisations. They sit as an Advisory Board Member for The George Institute's 'MESSAGE (Medical Science Sex and Gender Equity)' research project, and the SGCI grant 'Strengthening the Capacities of Science Granting Councils (SGCs) in Gender Equality and Inclusivity (GEI)' delivered through the HSRC South Africa.

Michael Bowdery (HCRW, UK)



Currently Head of Programmes with Health and Care Research Wales and the Welsh Government's Health and Social Services Research and Development Division and Chair of the EViR Funders' Forum. His responsibilities include: cross-funder partnership working; facilitation and management of Welsh involvement in UK programmes; and overall management of the Health and Care Research Wales grant schemes and research development infrastructure.

Michael has seven years of active research experience as a behavioural psychologist in the School of Psychology, Bangor University, and has worked with children with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour in care, play and educational settings.

Prior to joining Research and Development Division, Michael worked as a Media Officer in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, with responsibility for both media relations and the management of the Chief Medical Officer's website. He also has experience in crisis

management, through secondments to the Welsh Government's Agriculture Department and Foot and Mouth Inquiries Team.

Susan Simon (Medical Research Council (MRC), UK)



Susan Simon is the Director of Capital and Estates and Chief Environmental Sustainability Officer for the Medical Research Council (MRC), which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and is responsible for all non-science projects, capital budgets, Health & Safety/physical security and oversees all infrastructure projects, ranging from small refurbishments up to major multi-million developments (for example, the New MRC Laboratory for Molecular Biology in Cambridge - £212m). With her multifaceted role, Susan plays a pivotal part in advancing the MRC's sustainability mission.

In 2020, Susan took on responsibility for driving MRC to a zero-carbon position by 2040, which entails a wide-ranging programme of transformation in the estate, operations and behavioural change. In 2021, Susan established research activity for finding practical solutions for making medical research environmentally sustainable. Initial findings will be presented at a conference towards the end of 2023.

Susan was appointed interim Director of the UKRI Environmental Sustainability Programme in 2022, which has recently become a permanent position. In this role, Susan drives key activities for the transformation of the organisation, which includes the transformation of UKRI owned research infrastructure to NetZero and implementation of carbon budgets.

Staffan Arvidsson (Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte), Sweden)



Senior Research Officer at Forte, The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare.

Staffan is the Program Manager of Forte's National Program on Implementation Research and the vice Program Manager for Forte's National Program on "Applied Welfare Research", which specifically targets the social care services. Staffan has previously been the Program Manager of Vinnvard, a Swedish National Program in Improvement Science.

Véronique Timmerhuis (ZonMw, Netherlands)



Véronique Timmerhuis has been the Director of ZonMw since 1 January 2020. Until November 2019, Véronique was General Secretary/Director of the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER). Prior to that, she was the General Secretary/Director of the Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (AWTI).

Véronique studied Sociology and Social history at Erasmus University and gained her PhD in the Social Sciences from Tilburg University.

Violina Sarma (HCRW, Wales)



Violina is Head of Health and Social Care Research Environment in Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW). She has responsibility for overseeing a range of initiatives to improve how research is undertaken in both health and care settings. She is a member of the EViR EDI working group and is currently leading on the coordination of EDI activities across HCRW and developing an EDI action plan.

Prior to this, she worked as a social researcher with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on projects like the Covid Infection Survey, Secure Data Services. Her research background is in decision-making with a PhD in Business and Management.

EViR Secretariat



Cristina Lujan Barroso
EViR Secretariat Lead



Kathy Drust
EViR Secretariat Administrator