



ENSURING VALUE IN RESEARCH

Ensuring Value in Research (EViR) Funders' Forum

Spring 2023 Round Table Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, 30 March 2023

Virtual meeting.

Welcome to the 14th EViR meeting

Michael Bowdery (HCRW) welcomed all members from 41 different organisations to the EViR Funders' Forum Roundtable. An overview of the meeting agenda was presented, and attendees were invited to come together at the networking session at the end of the day.

Day 1 was open to everyone from the broad EViR global community with an interest in the EViR agenda, regardless of the membership status of their organisation.

EViR Strategic Workplan – Issues that matter

Chair: Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

Panel members: Each panel member provided their view on the value of the EViR membership, followed by a discussion. The panel consisted of the following:

- Steven Mitchell (Acting Director-General of Science Policy, CIHR, Canada)
- Garry Aslanyan (Manager of Partnerships and Governance, ESSENCE/WHO, Switzerland)
- Steven Smith (Grants Manager, Fight for Sight, UK)
- Barbara van der Linden (Implementation and Innovation, ZonMw, Netherlands)
- Josie Jackson (Head of Prioritisation, Commissioning and Knowledge Mobilisation, HCRW, Wales)

Purpose of the session:

The panel members had the opportunity to introduce themselves and tell attendees about their association with EViR. They also shared their views on the following:

- [Strategic Plan](#), and the areas on which it focuses
- Which areas matter or have particular importance to them or their organisation?
- What challenges do they face in this area and why are they challenges for them?
- How can being part of EViR and implementing the Plan help them meet the challenges?

Discussion:

It was widely agreed that the EViR strategic plan aligns with the membership priorities and demonstrates the evolution and focus of the EViR work. The panel acknowledged different areas they had a particular interest in and shared examples of some of the work already ongoing in their organisations to support and address them. It was agreed that the EViR Strategic Workplan delivery would be achieved by extending involvement within the member organisation to draw the relevant voices to the discussions.

Funding organisations face similar challenges regardless of their size or remit. The Forum's collaborative work will enable them to support each other, achieve meaningful development, and drive change.

Relevant links:

- Session recording¹

TranspariMED/EVIR on clinical trial transparency

Chair: Dottie Goble (NIHR, UK)

Presenters:

- Comparing strengths and gaps in funder policies worldwide (Marguerite O’Riordan, researcher, and Elise Gamertsfelder, researcher)
- Using a policy self-assessment tool & achieving easy wins (Till Bruckner, TranspariMED, UK)
- How RCN created a strong transparency policy (Henrietta Blankson, Research Council of Norway, Norway)
- How ACF is communicating and implementing its policy (Kristine Beckers, Anti-Cancer Fund, Belgium)
- Monitoring and enforcing grantee compliance Creating a strong policy II (Rachel Knowles, Medical Research Council, UK)

Purpose of the session:

- Overview of the EU and US TranspariMED study results on clinical trial reporting.
- Hear examples of funders' approach to clinical trial reporting:
 - Policy
 - Communication and implementation
 - Monitoring
- Funder-to-funder exchange of best practices and lessons learned in promoting clinical trial transparency.

Discussion:

Attendees had the opportunity to overview the results of the EU and US TranspariMED studies on clinical trial reporting. While several research funders globally failed to adhere to the WHO's recommended best practices, the data revealed a positive trend in the EU from 2021 to 2022.

During the discussion, various initiatives related to trial reporting policy, its communication, implementation, and monitoring were shared. It was widely acknowledged that adopting a trial reporting policy can enhance the overall practice. The panel suggested that clear guidelines, community engagement, and monitoring activities could effectively bring about a change in practice. The research community responded positively to incentives such as phased funding or sanction measures.

The difference between a contract and a grant was discussed, and it was agreed that this is a distinction made in the UK but typically not elsewhere.

The group acknowledged that although trial registration can be encouraged and monitored, registries may not be consistently updated throughout or after trial completion. An advantage of trial registries over other alternatives is that they allow uploading results or linking to a publication to ensure all findings are accessible. To address delays in results publication, pre-prints could be made available to the public while awaiting the official final publication.

During the discussion, the group raised concerns about the barriers to trial registration and publication. It was noted that some of these barriers arise from:

- Lack of clarity among researchers on what qualifies as a clinical trial,
- Occasionally, changes in team membership and the failure to transfer responsibilities.
- Plans for the commercialisation for non-regulated trials – in this instance, some funders allow for commercialisation, and it was suggested that this aspect should be considered when looking into trial registration requirements from funders.
- Unsuccessful or "neutral" trials, which show no statistically significant difference between the intervention and comparator, can be difficult to publish in mainstream journals. Some funders have demonstrated their commitment to transparency by publishing full reports on all research funding, including such trials, or are providing routes to publishing all outcomes for grant holders.

The limitations of funders in performing checks on the reporting history of principal investigators were highlighted. It was observed that most funders can only check their own portfolio. In case of any issues, feedback can be given through the funding committee while also considering the implementation date of the trial reporting policy.

Several other transparency-promoting practices were acknowledged, including the implementation of a pre-prints policy. Notable examples of organizations that have or are considering adopting a policy or approach to preprints include NIHR, MRC, and the EU (<https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/>). PCORI's standard contract template was shared as a specific example of full results registration and dissemination contractual requirements ([section VI A](#)).

It has been recognised that open science policies tend to prioritise clinical research, while requirements for other types of research are less frequent and may not be mandatory or closely monitored. Animal trials can be recorded in the International Register of Preclinical Trial Protocols at preclinicaltrials.eu. Registries for other types of research, such as health services, population health, basic or aetiology research, are still hard to find.

It has been unanimously agreed that registering all types of research at all stages is advantageous, not just for funders to track progress, but also for researchers and the public to stay informed about ongoing research, its current stage, and opportunities for participation.

During the meeting, the participants shared their strategies for data sharing. It was observed that some organisations promoted data sharing among researchers. In contrast, others had a more prescriptive approach that involved submitting a data sharing and management plan during the application process, which would be continually updated throughout the study's duration.

Relevant links:

- Session recording¹
- **Presentation:** The development of the transparency policy in the Research Council of Norway¹
- **Presentation:** How ACF is communicating and implementing its policy¹
- **Presentation:** Monitoring Clinical Trials Transparency¹

¹ Only available to EViR Members, please contact the secretariat if you would like to learn more about the [EViR Membership](#)

- [Medical research funders across Europe tighten rules on clinical trial reporting.](#)
- [Why is uploading clinical trial results onto trial registries so important?](#)
- [Measurement challenges and causes of incomplete results reporting of biomedical animal studies: Results from an interview study](#)

Other relevant links:

- [MRC data reports and collections](#)
- [MRC data management plan template](#)
- [Challenges for funders in monitoring compliance with policies on clinical trials registration and reporting: analysis of funding and registry data in the UK](#)
- [Major German research funder launches audit of clinical trial portfolio](#)
- [Canada's CIHR: Publish your clinical trial results or we will cut off funding](#)
- [World's top medical research funder finally starts to chase up missing clinical trials](#)
- [New Zealand: Clinical trials audit finds high reporting rates but slow reporting speeds](#)
- [Promise kept: PATH monitors whether clinical trial results are made public](#)
- [Major research groups urge US government to support WHO clinical trial resolution](#)

RoRI: Are we all metascientists now? Future priorities for research on research

Presenter: James Wilsdon, FAcSS FISC, Director, Research on Research Institute (RoRI, UK)

Purpose of the session:

- Overview and understanding of the Research on Research landscape.
- Outline recent developments and reports.
- Outline RoRI Phase 2 Projects Roadmap.
- Opportunity to share and learn from other members.

Discussion:

There is a huge scope to strengthen the RoR landscape and funders are key players. The group were asked to reflect on to what extent is the core task of RoR fixing or correcting things in science that have 'gone wrong' or to what extent is it about helping science to confront, understand and come to terms with its inherent post-normality?

RoR collaboration works by doing collaborative projects with all their members, an open process, and every partner are encouraged to provide input in their agenda for project consideration.

The group wondered whether interdisciplinary research is a part of the RoRI agenda. They were informed that one of the current projects is focused on transdisciplinary work. However, they discussed the challenges of asking the right questions as the funding structures often are not prepared to meet the needs of such work.

Relevant links:

- Session recording¹
- **Presentation:** Are we all metascientists now? Future priorities for research on research¹
- [RoRI website](#)

EVIR updates

Presenters:

- Anne Cody (HRB, Ireland)
- Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)
- Barbara van der Linden (ZonMw, Netherlands)
- Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga (Utrecht University, Netherlands)
- Julia Menon (Netherlands Heart Institute, Netherlands)
- Barbara van der Linden (ZonMw, Netherlands)

Purpose of the session: Attendees had the opportunity to hear about:

- EVIR Self-Audit Tool
- Pre-clinical Survey
- Dissemination and Implementation Interest Group
- Autumn Roundtable Meeting

Discussion:

- **Self-Audit Tool** – The Self-Audit Tool for research funders was created as a response to the need to foster transparency and public accountability. It builds on the 2014 Lancet recommendations which indicated areas for all actors in the research ecosystem to consider reducing research waste. It can benchmark current practice, allow exploring common challenges or gaps, and identify areas for meta-research.

Two members, HCRW and ZonMw, shared their insights on using the tool. Both funders agreed that the tool had allowed them to open provocative discussions within their organisations, acknowledge areas that could be improved and recognise good practice. As a result, the audit allowed HCRW and ZonMw to draw plans to drive change. Feedback from HRCW and ZonMW has been used to refine the tool.

- **Pre-clinical Survey** – An update on the pre-clinical survey was provided. The study's primary goal is to gather information on funders' opinions and experiences with the [10 Guiding Principles](#). The results will allow a better understanding of the implementation of the Guiding Principles for preclinical research.

The survey has been closed and a summary of the results was provided. Results consistently showed that most of the Guiding Principles are relevant to the pre-clinical community. The group were informed that phase two of the project will start shortly, where follow-up interviews will be arranged to gain a deeper understanding of the relevance of the Guiding Principles.

- **Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) Interest Group** – An overview of the D&I working and interest group was provided. The [survey](#) run by the D&I working group was published in 2022 and indicated that dissemination and implementation of research findings is a priority. However, models of dissemination and implementation differ across organisations. The D&I interest group was created to allow funders to discuss D&I activities and challenges and has met five times since its inception. A new D&I working group with D&I leads from Forte, HCRW, NIHR, CIHR, AHRQ, and ZonMw will be incepted in 2023 to develop the D&I topic files further.

- **Autumn Roundtable Meeting** – It was announced that the next EViR meeting will take place on 27-28 September in the Hague and virtually. Furthermore, attendees will have the chance to join the Implementation Symposium on 26 September, organised by ZonMw as part of their celebrations of their 25 Year Anniversary.

Relevant links:

- **Session recording:** Self- Audit Tool¹
- **Presentation:** EViR Self-Audit tool¹
- **Session recording:** Pre-clinical Survey Update¹
- **Presentation:** Preclinical funders survey – are EViR’s principles relevant and applicable?
- **Session recording:** D&I Activities Update¹
- **Session recording:** Invitation to Autumn Roundtable Meeting¹
- **Presentation:** Updates on D&I working group, Implementation symposium and Autumn Round Table¹
- [Health funders’ dissemination and implementation practices: results from a survey of the Ensuring Value in Research \(EViR\) Funders’ Forum](#)

<p>Knowledge Mobilization at CIHR – Towards a Framework and Action Plan</p>
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Speakers:

- Sheena Chan, Senior Advisor, Knowledge Mobilization Strategies, Science Policy (CIHR, Canada)
- Charlotte Ryder-Burbidge, Analyst, Knowledge Mobilization Strategies, Science Policy (CIHR, Canada)

Purpose of the session: This presentation introduced the Knowledge Mobilisation Framework and Action Plan developed by CIHR. It aims to breach the evidence in the research gap and will allow them to play a leadership role in funding and advancing the science and practice of knowledge mobilisation.

The objectives of the session were:

- Provide a summary of What We Heard from Phase 1 of external engagements of the draft of the Knowledge Mobilisation Framework and Action Plan for CIHR.
- Share examples of key activities that CIHR may pursue to meet the objectives of the draft Knowledge Mobilisation Framework and Action Plan.
- Invite reflections on proposed key actions in the Knowledge Mobilisation Framework and Action Plan draft.

Discussion:

The discussion began acknowledging that the issues and challenges presented resonate with other funders’ efforts in engaging with stakeholders effectively. CIHR’s knowledge mobilisation plan was commended, and its extensive engagement efforts were highly praised.

The group explored the difference between knowledge mobilisation and implementation. In particular, it was noted that in Canada, knowledge mobilisation encompasses a variety of practices, with implementation being just one of them. The distinction between knowledge

¹ Only available to EViR Members, please contact the secretariat if you would like to learn more about the [EViR Membership](#)

mobilisation and implementation was clarified as more about focusing on using knowledge in practice versus policymaking.

It was highlighted that knowledge mobilisation spans from engagement to implementation based on the presented information. There was a question about whether knowledge mobilisation research is part of the RoR process, to which it was clarified that RoR encompasses broader research practices. Furthermore, there was an understanding that knowledge mobilisation is more about realising the impact in disease areas or interventions, while RoR is more focused on improving research practice.

The CIHR has outlined the upcoming phases of the plan and the evaluation procedures. Currently, the initiatives are being worked on and resources are being assigned. Input from stakeholders is being collected to establish priorities. Evaluation is crucial, emphasising monitoring the impact without creating more work for stakeholders. The group will receive updates on the evaluation process.

During the discussion, there was a consideration of incorporating other players in knowledge mobilisation initiatives, specifically in science communication and critical thinking. The suggestion was to train journalists and involve a wider group of stakeholders. CIHR also expressed a desire to develop capacity and provide training to upcoming generations in partnership with researchers. However, concerns were raised about the workload of peer reviewers and the possibility of extra work due to critical requests. It was recognised that establishing the ability for independent peer review and evaluation in knowledge mobilisation will require considerable time.

Actions:

- EViR secretariat to reach out to CIHR to address queries and discuss future work, including capacity building for independent peer review and assessment in knowledge mobilisation.
- CIHR to provide updates on the evaluation process and progress with the group.

Relevant links:

- Session recording¹

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Virtual meeting.

Welcome to Day 2¹

Day 2 focused on EViR work programme development and was thus limited to EViR member leads and relevant colleagues. The sessions focussed on developing the work around the different priority areas identified in the EViR Strategy Workplan.

Purpose of the day: Development of the future EViR work programme following the September 2022 strategy meeting.

Prior to the meeting, EViR members received an updated version of the [EViR Strategy Workplan](#) to facilitate the discussions. The following areas of interest were discussed:

- i. Review and evolution of the Guiding Principles
- ii. Research on Research (RoR)
- iii. Sustainability
- iv. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- v. Low and middle-income countries (LMIC)

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Appendix A – Meeting Registrations

Registrations – 30 March 2023

Steering Group:

Anne Cody	Health Research Board Ireland (HRB, Republic of Ireland)
Barbara van der Linden	The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw, Netherlands)
Dottie Goble	National Institute of Health Research (NIHR, UK)
Michael Bowdery	Health & Care Research Wales (HCRW, Wales)
Staffan Arvidsson	Forte, Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte, Sweden)

Registrations:

Alex Hills	HCRW, Wales
Amanda Blatch-Jones	NIHR, UK
Amanda Crupi	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Canada
Amanda Farrow	HCRW, Wales
Amie Regan	HRB, Ireland
Bas de Waard	ZonMw, Netherlands
Beatrix Schumak	German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Germany
Caroline Whiting	James Lind Alliance (JLA), UK
Catriona Manville	Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), UK
Charlene Maria	Hartstichting / Dutch Heart Foundation, Netherlands
Charlotte Coates	The Scar Free Foundation, UK
Charlotte Ryder-Burbidge	CIHR, Canada
Chiara Ciccarelli	Ministry of Health, Italy
Cindy Thamrin	Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, Australia
Connie Wu	CIHR, Canada
Doreen Tembo	NIHR, UK
Dympna Mulroy	Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI), Ireland
Elaine Williams	NIHR, UK
Eleri Quayzin	Welsh Government, Wales
Elise Gamertsfelder	Northwestern Memorial, USA
Elise Radtke	DLR, Germany
Ellie Monks	University of Southampton, UK
Fiona Power	HRB, Ireland
Fiona Manning	HRB, Ireland
Frances Drummond	Breakthrough Cancer Research, Ireland
Gary Hickey	Southampton University, UK
Hazel Church	NIHR, UK
Helen Kennelly	HRB, Ireland
Henrietta Blankson	The Research Council of Norway, Norway
Jacqueline Maschino	ZonMw, Netherlands
James Wilsdon	Research on Research Institution (RoRI), UK
Janet Diffin	Public Health Agency, UK

Jaydene Davies	Welsh Government, Wales
Jess Glen	Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC), New Zealand
Jillian Harrison	Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre (KCE), Belgium
Josie Jackson	HCRW, Wales
Jozefien de Groot	Dutch Cancer Society (KWF), Netherlands
Julia Menon	ZonMw, Netherlands
Julie Simpson	Chief Scientist Office (CSO), Scotland
Karen Robinson	John Hopkins University, USA
Karl Egan	National Children's Research Centre (NCRC), Ireland
Katarina Buhr	Formas, Sweden
Katie Court	University of Southampton, UK
Kelly Dunham	Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), USA
Kristine Beckers	Anticancer Fund, Belgium
Lesley O'Hara	Saint John of God Research Foundation, Ireland
Marc Boggett	HCRW, Wales
Marguerite O'Riordan	Aston Medical School, UK
Marie Bernard	National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA
Michiel van der Vaart	Hartstichting, Netherlands
Monica Busse	HCRW, Wales
Nancy Mason MacLellan	CIHR, Canada
Natalie Andrews Wright	CIHR, Canada
Nicole Beard	Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, Australia
Oonagh Ward	HRB, Ireland
Natascha Drude	Center for Responsible Research, Germany
Peter Henley	Cancer Research Wales, Wales
Phoebe Kitscha	British Heart Foundation (BHF), UK
Rachel Knowles	Medical Research Council (UKRI), UK
Raliza Stoyanova	IAMHRF, Ireland
Renata Klop	ZonMw, Netherlands
Sandra Enright	HCRW, Wales
Sarah Delaney	HRB, Ireland
Shannon Amoils	BHF, UK
Sheena Chan	CIHR, Canada
Simona Bifulchi	Ministry of Health, Italy
Sjahnaaz Bholai	Hartstichting / Dutch Heart Foundation, Netherlands
Sofia Dimitropoulou	General Secretariat for Research and Innovation (GSRI), Greece
Sónia Pereira	HRB, Ireland
Sophia Lentzos	NIHR, UK
Stella Jacobson	Forte, Sweden
Steven Mitchell	CIHR, Canada
Steven Smith	Fight for Sight, UK
Susan Patrick	University of Southampton, UK
Till Bruckner	TranspariMED, UK
Ulrich Dirnagl	QUEST Center for Responsible Research, Germany
Veda Muppavarapu	HRB, Ireland
Virginia Minogue	Health Service Executive (HSE), Ireland
Wendy Reijmerink	ZonMw, Netherlands
Yvonne Hetteema	Nationaal MS Fonds, Netherlands

Honorary Members:

Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga Utrecht University, Netherlands
Garry Aslanyan ESSENCE/WHO (Switzerland)

EViR Secretariat:

Cristina Lujan Barroso EViR Funders' Forum Head of Secretariat
Kathy Drust EViR Administrator

Registrations – 31 March 2023**Steering Group:**

Anne Cody Health Research Board Ireland (HRB, Republic of Ireland)
Barbara van der Linden The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and
Development (ZonMw, Netherlands)
Dottie Goble National Institute of Health Research (NIHR, UK)
Michael Bowdery Health & Care Research Wales (HCRW, Wales)

EViR Forum members:

Alex Hills HCRW, Wales
Amanda Blatch-Jones NIHR, UK
Amie Regan HRB, Ireland
Beatrix Schumak German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Germany
Charlotte Coates The Scar Free Foundation, UK
Charlotte Ryder-Burbidge CIHR, Canada
Doreen Tembo NIHR, UK
Elaine Williams NIHR, UK
Eleri Quayzin Welsh Government, Wales
Elise Radtke DLR, Germany
Ellie Monks University of Southampton, UK
Fiona Power HRB, Ireland
Gary Hickey University of Southampton, UK
Jacqueline Maschino ZonMw, Netherlands
Jaydene Davies Welsh Government, Wales
Josie Jackson HCRW, Wales
Katie Court University of Southampton, UK
Marc Boggett HCRW, Wales
Monica Busse HCRW, Wales
Oonagh Ward HRB, Ireland
Renata Klop ZonMw, Netherlands
Sheena Chan CIHR, Canada
Sónia Pereira HRB, Ireland
Sophia Lentzos NIHR, UK
Stella Jacobson Forte, Sweden
Steven Mitchell CIHR, Canada
Steven Smith Fight for Sight, UK
Susan Patrick University of Southampton, UK
Wendy Reijmerink ZonMw, Netherlands

Invited attendees:

Katarina Buhr	Formas, Sweeden
Kelly Dunham	Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI, USA)
Marie Bernard	National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA
Nicole Beard	Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, Australia

Secretariat:

Cristina Lujan Barroso	EViR Funders' Forum Secretariat Lead
Kathy Drust	EViR Administrator

Appendix B - Presenters

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 (HRB, Ireland)



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

Anne has been working with the Health Research Board in a variety of roles for over 20 years. During this time, she has gained experience across a wide spectrum of health research and funding instruments from infrastructures over interventions to knowledge translation awards .

Anne is currently responsible for the HRB's Investigator-led Grants, Research Careers and Enablers. She is the driver behind the HRB's systems approach to Public, Patient and Carer Involvement (PPI). She 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 (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).

Charlotte Ryder-Burbidge (CIHR, Canada)



Analyst for Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Strategies at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, supporting the development of a new KM Framework and Action Plan.

Before joining CIHR, she worked in the department of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research at Alberta Health Services. Charlotte has an M.Sc. in epidemiology and has worked in multiple research roles within the fields of rehabilitation science, neuroscience, and cancer.

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.

Elise Gamertsfelder (researcher, USA)



Elise is from the US, where she worked as a nurse in A&E for 7 years. She recently completed her MSc in International Health Policy at the London School of Economics. Her previous work as a clinical trial nurse sparked her interest in pharmaceutical policy Researcher (MSc).

Ellie Monks (NIHR, UK)



Ellie Monks joined the University of Southampton in 2011 and is Senior Commercial and Contracts Manager within the School of Healthcare Enterprise and Innovation, Faculty of Medicine. In her current role, Ellie is responsible for growing and managing the School's portfolio of healthcare enterprise activities, managing high-profile government contracts with the National Institute for Health and Social Care (NIHR) in excess of £150million. Prior to this Ellie was a Programme Manager for the NIHR's Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) Programme. As a University of Cambridge graduate, Ellie brings over 10 years' experience in environmental and health-related project and programme management, with former roles including the Director of the Steppe Forward Programme at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). Here, Ellie worked closely with the World Bank and the Mongolian Government to develop and manage a programme to empower Mongolians to create sustainable in-country conservation programmes.

Ellie is a strong advocate for sustainability, having completed the Future of Sustainable Business at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford. She is a Trustee of the Borneo Nature Foundation as a result of her previous work in supporting and

delivering research into orangutan behaviour and habitat protection/regeneration in Indonesian Borneo.

Gary Hickey (SHEI, UK)



Gary is a Senior Public Involvement Manager at the School for Healthcare Enterprise and Innovation, University of Southampton. He is leading on the development of the Agora Digital Centre: The online centre for connecting people with research. We aim to create online opportunities and learning for patient and public participation, involvement and engagement throughout the health and social care research process. He is also a Senior Research Manager at National Institute for Health and Care Research.

Gary's background is in patient and public involvement in health and social care research and he provides advice, guidance, training and writes and podcasts on these issues.

He is also a founding member of the International Patient and Public Involvement Network and has been involved in a series of webinars designed to share information and knowledge about effective patient and public involvement in research.

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.

Henrietta Blankson (The Research Council of Norway, Norway)



Henrietta has long experience from the Research Council of Norway within R&I policy and funding. She has been responsible for the management and development of policy-orientated programmes within clinical research and research-based evaluations of political reform. She currently leads the secretariat for the Health&Care Advisory Board, a board whose tasks is to create a targeted and holistic national effort for research and innovation within

health and care.

Before joining RCN, she worked several years in a Norwegian CRO (Contract Research Organisation) with coordinating clinical trials activities.

Henrietta is educated as a civil engineer in biophysics and medical technology from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and holds a PhD in cell biology from the Norwegian Radium Hospital.

James Wilsdon (UCL, UK)



In January 2023, I joined UCL's Department of Science, Technology, Engineering & Public Policy (STeAPP) as Professor of Research Policy, from where I'm also Director of the Research on Research Institute (RoRI), which I co-founded in 2019 with a mission to accelerate transformative research on research systems, cultures and decision-making. RoRI's consortium now includes research funders and scholarly communication organisations from 15 countries, who between them invest over US\$25 billion each year in R&D.

In my work, I've advanced concepts such as upstream public engagement, science diplomacy, responsible metrics and responsible research assessment; and I've co-founded or led initiatives such as People & Planet; the Campaign for Social Science; the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA); the UK Forum for Responsible Research Metrics; the Royal Society Science Policy Centre; and the Research on Research Institute (RoRI).

Josie Jackson (HCRW, Wales)



Head of Prioritisation, Commissioning and Knowledge Mobilisation

Julia Menon (ZonMw, Netherlands)



Julia Menon is the Daily Director of Preclinicaltrials.eu (a preregistration platform dedicated to animal studies) and a research fellow at The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development.

She graduated in biomedical sciences, but has evolved in her career through meta-research, particularly systematic reviews and qualitative studies. Her research focuses on tools and methods to improve animal research's transparency and robustness.

She is also a PROSPERO administrator and a section editor for the journal *Laboratory Animals*.

Kelly Dunham (PCORI, USA)



Kelly is a Senior Manager, Strategic Initiatives at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

In this role, she manages the operational aspects of the Science portfolio to meet PCORI's strategic goals, including research strategy, portfolio development, and portfolio synthesis and communication. As part of PCORI's efforts to maximize the impact of research, she represents the organization in the Ensuring Value in Research (EViR) Funders' Forum, a collaborative effort with other US and international funders to improve efficiency in biomedical research. Dunham received a BA in anthropology from Indiana University and an MPP from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

Kristine Beckers (Anticancer Fund, Belgium)



Kristine is a Trial Manager and Scientific Illustrator. As trial manager of the Anticancer Fund, Kristine oversees all clinical trials funded by the organisation. As a scientific illustrator, Kristine creates scientifically accurate and aesthetically sound illustrations to help conveying (complex) scientific/medical processes.

Marguerite O’Riordan (Aston Medical School, UK)



Marguerite is a Medical researcher at Aston Medical School in Birmingham. She has a keen interest in health policy, medical politics and global health; having been a member of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) UK National Committee, as well as the British Medical Association’s Medical Student Executive Committee. She endeavours to bring about impactful change in healthcare by engaging with the systemic factors that influence health, policy-making and addressing health inequities.

Marie A. Bernard (National Institutes of Health, USA)



Dr Marie A. Bernard is NIH’s Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity. In this role, she leads NIH’s effort to promote diversity, inclusiveness, and equity throughout the biomedical research enterprise. She was the Deputy Director of the NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA) from 2008 – 2021 and has been involved in a broad variety of NIH activities to further diversity. Dr Bernard has been recognised with multiple awards for her leadership, including the 2020 NIH director’s Award for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Dr Bernard also serves as a cochair for the NIHR UNITE Initiative, which seeks to identify and address any structural racism that may exist within NIH and throughout the biomedical and behavioural workforce.

Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga (Utrecht University, Netherlands)



Professor in Evidence-Based Transition to Animal-Free Innovations since June 2022 at Utrecht University. Honorary SKOU professorship at Aarhus University.

Since her graduation as a vet in 1986, she has been committed to the goal of improving the quality of science and animal welfare, aiming to obtain results that are more translatable to the human patient. From 2005-2017 Merel became the head of the Centraal Dierenlaboratorium at Radboudumc and was appointed professor in Laboratory Animal Science. She founded SYRCLE (Systematic Review Center for Laboratory Experimentation) in 2012. From 2017-2022 she was professor in Evidence-Based Laboratory Animal Science at Radboudumc. Together with Bas de Waard from ZonMw, she co-chairs the preclinical working group within EViR.

Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)



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.

Matt Westmore (HRA, UK)



Matt joined the Health Research Authority (HRA) as Chief Executive in February 2021. He has a background in research funding, policy and practice and was previously Director at the Wessex Institute at the University of Southampton and professor of enterprise with a focus on improving the relevance, transparency and quality of research.

Matt has held roles with the [National Institute for Health Research](#) (NIHR) including as an executive director of the Evaluation Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC). He was also Interim Director of [INVOLVE](#) and as a member of the [HRA's Research Transparency Strategy Group](#), he supported the development of the organisation's Make it Public strategy for research transparency.

Matt has also worked internationally to help improve research funding practice around the world; this included being a founding member of the Ensuring Value in Research Funders' Forum.

Paul Glasziou (Bond University, Australia)



Professor Paul Glasziou is Professor of Evidence-Based Medicine at Bond University was a part-time General Practitioner for 20 years. He is currently the Director of the Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice at Bond University and previously the Director of the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine in Oxford from 2003-2010. He has authored over 300 peer-reviewed journal articles, and his key interests include identifying and removing the barriers to using high quality research in everyday clinical

practice and more specifically on improving the clinical impact of publications by reducing the more than \$85 Billion annual loss from unpublished and unusable research (Chalmers, Glasziou, Lancet 2009).

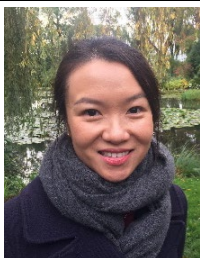
Rachel Knowles (Medical Research Council, UK)



Rachel is an Honorary Consultant at NHS England & Improvement (NHSE&I), where she is Clinical Advisor to the Newborn Blood Spot screening programme. She is Chair of the Antenatal and Newborn Screening Research Advisory Committee at NHSE&I and Rachel is employed part-time by the Medical Research Council (MRC) as Programme Manager for Clinical Research. She sits on the steering committees for Understanding Patient Data and the Global Forum for Bioethics in Research.

Since 2015, Rachel has been a member of the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) which advises the Health Research Authority (HRA) and Secretary of State on Section 251 support. Prior to this, she was a member of the London-Bloomsbury Research Ethics Committee.

Sheena Chan (CIHR, Canada)



Senior Advisor for Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Strategies at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), leading the development of a new KM Framework and Action Plan.

Prior to joining CIHR, she worked on knowledge translation at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), focusing on integrated knowledge translation. In her previous career, she was a foreign service officer with the Singaporean foreign ministry working on multilateral and regional security issues.

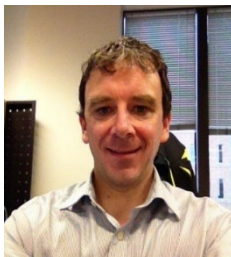
Staffan Arvidsson (Forte, Sweden)



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.

Steve Mitchell (CIHR, Canada)



Steve Mitchell is the a/Director General, Science Policy at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). In this role, Steve helps to support CIHR's commitments related to research excellence and ethics, knowledge mobilization, and training and career support.

Previous to joining CIHR Steve worked to support community-based research, which provided him the opportunity to collaborate with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in Canada, and with colleagues and communities in South Africa, Botswana, Pakistan and Nigeria.

Steven Smith (Fight for Sight, UK)



Grants Manager at Fight for Sight where he is responsible for overseeing the grant portfolio, which involves tasks that include the monitoring and application and review processes.

Steven joined Fight for Sight in 2017, moving into the charity sector after completing a PhD in Biochemistry at the Leibniz Institute on Aging in Jena, Germany.

Sule Karamik (Formas, Sweden)



Sule is an analyst at Formas – a Swedish research council for sustainable development. Formas was established by the Swedish government to meet societal challenges. The programmes are broad, ten-year initiatives, that will contribute to solving prioritized challenges in the areas Climate, Sustainable Spatial Planning, Food and Oceans and Water. The programmes fund research and innovation and contribute to strengthening collaborations between those performing the research, those funding the research and

stakeholders in society.

Till Bruckner (TranspariMED, UK)



Till Bruckner is the founder of TranspariMED, a campaign that works to end evidence distortion in medicine. Over the past five years, TranspariMED has successfully driven improvements in clinical trial reporting in the UK, European Union and United States through research and analysis, coalition building, political advocacy, and public pressure.

Till recently published an overview of major [European funders' transparency policies](#).