

## Agenda 25 and 26 April 2024 EViR Meeting

This will be a virtual event delivered around 12:00-18:30 BST on Day 1 and 12:00-16:00 BST on Day 2, and we hope you can join us on Thursday for the EViR social too. The meeting will take place in Zoom.

### Thursday, 25 April 2024

**1.1 12:00 – 12:15 Welcome to the 16th EViR meeting:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, UK)

**1.2 12:15 – 13:15 Panel Session: Associate members** – Participants will learn more about some of our associate members and understand how EViR membership aligns with and enhances their mission and objectives.

**Facilitator:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

- Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC, UK), Catriona Manville
- ESSENCE on Health Research (Switzerland), Garry Aslanyan
- Representing small funders in the context of EViR - Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI, Ireland), Avril Kennan

**1.3 Plenary sessions:**

**13:15 – 14:15 – The Benefits and Dangers of Artificial Intelligence in Research**

There will be a prerecorded interview session from Paul Glasziou followed by a brief summary of a review led by the NIHR on the potential use, utility and considerations of AI use, capability and implementation. We will then open up a conversation with the group to contribute on their experience/activity/challenges, where they think the priorities are and if there is any further opportunities for collaboration or activities we would want to pursue or engage with other experts / networks in this field.

**Facilitator:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

- **AI for improving research the good, the bad, and the hallucinatory** – Paul Glasziou (Bond University, Australia), Enrico Coiera (The Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI), Australia), Oyuka Byambasuren (Bond University, Australia), Karin Verspoor (RMIT University, Australia).
- **What is and how could AI inform our funding management systems to work better for us, what factors need to be considered and what are the risks of its use and implementation?** Amanda Jane Blatch-Jones (NIHR, UK)

**Break 15 mins**

**14:30 – 15:10 – Consulting EViR: what do other funders do??** Next to taking part in the steering committee, working groups, Roundtables, webinars and other EViR activities, members can use EvIR to contact other funders on any topic that relates to their own work. As EViR steering committee member from ZonMw, Barbara van der Linden will share a few examples of the questions colleagues have reached out to her on and how we followed up on those. Also we will discuss with you topics that you could raise within EViR.

Heleen van der Meer will update you on the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network dedicated to advancing Drug Repurposing initiatives ([Funders - REMEDI4ALL](#)) network that she started and recruited for within EViR.

**Facilitator:** Barbara van der Linden (ZonMw, The Netherlands)

- **Presentation on connecting with EViR member colleagues on topics of shared interest** – Barbara van der Linden (ZonMw, The Netherlands)
- **REMEDi4ALL Funders Network** – Heleen van der Meer (ZonMw, The Netherlands)

**15:10 – 16:30 – Shining a Light: Promoting Research Transparency** – This engaging session will allow attendees to hear about two impactful projects: "Make it public" and an update from TranspariMED. Learn about the latest initiatives driving transparency in research and how research funding organisations can contribute to fostering openness and integrity.

**Facilitator:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

- **Make it Public, HRA transparency project** – Naho Yamazaki (HRA, UK) and Derek Stewart (HRA, PPI).
- **Improving Clinical Trial Transparency** – Marguerite O'Riordan (TranspariMED, UK)
- Open discussion Q/A

**Break: 10 minutes**

**16:40 – 17:10 EViR updates**

**Speaker:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear any updates on ongoing EViR initiatives, discuss key findings, and outline future plans. Additionally, details on the 2024 Autumn roundtable meeting including hosting organisation, will be shared.

**17:10 – 17:55 NIHR Race Equality Framework: Partnership in action** – Fay Scott (NIHR, UK)

**Facilitator:** Staffan Arvidsson (Forte)

Join us for an insightful session where attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the Race Equality Framework self-assessment tool designed to help organisations improve racial equity in health and care research.

**1.4 17:55 – 18:30 EViR Social Circle - Mixing, Mingling, Making Memories** (optional but encouraged).

Connect with other EViR members in a relaxed and informal setting to network and forge new friendships. Whether you are a longtime member or new to the forum, this is the perfect opportunity to build relationships and share experiences with fellow colleagues.

**Friday, 26 April 2024**

Day 2 is limited to member leads and relevant colleagues. Day 2 of our event will be dedicated to providing an in-depth update on our guiding principles, and other important areas highlighted in the [EViR Strategic Workplan](#).

**2.1 12:00 – 12:10 Welcome to Day 2:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

**2.2 12:10 – 12:40 Welcome to new members**

**Facilitator:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

Join us for a warm and inclusive session dedicated to welcoming our newest members to the EViR community. This session is designed to introduce new member to our forum and facilitate connections with existing members.

- **Health Research Board Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB-TMRN)** – Sandra Galvin (HRB-TMRN, Ireland)
- **Science Advancement and Outreach** – Dr Emily Trunnel (SAO)

**2.3 12:40 – 14:45\* Evolving the Guiding Principles: Fit for the Future**

Join us for a forward-thinking session which will focus on evolving our guiding principles to ensure they remain relevant and effective in shaping the future of EViR. As we navigate an ever-changing landscape, it is crucial to adapt and refine our principles to stay aligned with emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities.

**Chair:** Anne Cody (HRB, Ireland)

**Co-presenters:** Avril Kennan (HRCI, Ireland) and Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

**12:40 – 13:30 Guiding Principles – New approach**

The guiding principles working group will share a new approach to the EViR guiding principles, one that reflects our evolving values, aspirations, and commitment to excellence.

**Break 15 mins**

**13:45 – 14:45 Group Discussion – Reflection of the Guiding Principles**

In this interactive session, participants will have the opportunity to share their insights and perspectives regarding the proposed updates on the Guiding Principles.

**Break 15 mins**

**15:00 – 15:30\* EViR Strategy Working Groups Updates**

**Facilitator:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

This session will provide insights into the ongoing initiatives, achievements, and future plans of each working group as they work towards advancing our EViR's strategic goals.

- Sustainability
- Low and middle-income countries (LMIC)
- Research on Research (RoR)
- Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

- Dissemination and implementation (D&I)

**15:30 – 15:50\* Reflections on how the EViR plan priority areas feature in the Guiding Principles**

**Facilitator:** Michael Bowdery (HCRW, Wales)

Through reflective discussion, we will delve into how EViR priority areas are embodied within the proposed new guiding principles. This session offers a valuable opportunity to gain deeper insights into the alignment between our overarching goals and core values.

**2.4 15:50 – 16:00 Meeting Closure**

\* The timings of Day 2 sessions may change based on the progression of discussions.

## Speakers

### Amanda Jane Blatch-Jones (National Institute for Health and Care Research (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.

### Avril Kennan (Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI) Ireland)



Dr Avril Kennan serves as the CEO of Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI), an organisation dedicated to supporting a thriving a community of more than 45 charities to engage in all aspects of health research, while also acting as their national advocate.

Under her leadership, HRCI runs the Irish Health Research Forum, bringing together all stakeholders to improve health research in Ireland. She also oversees HRCI's management of the Joint Funding Scheme, in a partnership with the Health Research Board, which to date has funded 154 research projects aligned with the missions of HRCI's member charities. Avril plays a leading role nationally in patient and public involvement (PPI), research impact, health data, research funding, genetics and genomics and rare diseases.

Avril's academic background includes a PhD in genetics and subsequent years working as a molecular biologist. In previous roles in DEBRA Ireland and DEBRA International, she drove a range of patient-centric global initiatives. She's a passionate advocate for the transformative power of research to improve lives.

**Barbara van der Linden (ZonMw, The 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).

**Catriona Manville (Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) UK)**



Director of Research Policy. Catriona leads on responsible research funding and policy issues relating to the research landscape.

Prior to joining AMRC, Catriona was a Research Leader at RAND Europe, an independent not-for-profit research institute whose mission is to help improve policy and decision making through research and analysis. At RAND, Catriona led a large portfolio of research evaluation and research into societal impact, with a particular focus on evaluating national assessment systems. Clients included UK government departments, charities and industry, European institutions and other overseas governments. In addition, she has worked for NIHR in business intelligence, and the pharmaceutical industry in genetic toxicology. She holds a doctorate in biochemistry and genetics from Newcastle University.

**Derek Stewart (Make it public campaign)**



Derek Stewart is involved with research projects mainly in Ireland with the Health Research Board - Trials Methodology Research Network and Evidence Synthesis Ireland as a Strategic Advisor and is co-chair of the Make it Public campaign group.

Derek was treated successfully for throat cancer in 1995. A former teacher, Derek worked with young people experiencing difficulties in education in Glasgow then Nottinghamshire where he now lives. He subsequently became actively involved in numerous aspects of patient involvement and advocacy at a local, national and international level being the founder Chair of the Consumer Liaison Group for the National Cancer Research Institute.

In 2020 Derek was appointed Honorary Professor at National University of Ireland, Galway and in 2022 he joined the board of ISRCTN Registry.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Emily Trunell (Science Advancement & Outreach – A division of PETA)**



Dr. Emily Trunell earned a B.S. in nutrition science and a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Georgia. She is currently the director of PETA's Science Advancement & Outreach division. She leads the team in its work to improve science policy and publishing and to replace the use of animals with superior research methods. Her peer-reviewed papers, letters, and opinion pieces have appeared in numerous publications, including *Advanced Science*, *Drug Discovery Today*, and *Scientific American*.

**Enrico Coiera (Centre for Health Informatics, Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Australia)**



Professor Enrico Coiera is Director of the Centre for Health Informatics, Australian Institute of Health Innovation, and Foundation Professor in Medical Informatics, Macquarie University. Trained in medicine with a computer science PhD in Artificial Intelligence (AI), he has a research background in industry and academia, with a strong international research reputation.

**Fay Scott (NIHR, UK)**



Currently, Senior Public Involvement Manager in the NIHR's Centre for Engagement and Dissemination, leading innovation projects focused on diversity and inclusion to improve public involvement in research. My work primarily involves building public partnerships to eliminate health inequalities in research. This includes providing advice and guidance on how to best engage diverse communities.

**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.

**Heleen van der Meer (ZonMw, The Netherlands)**



Heleen van der Meer (Pharm D, PhD) is a senior programme manager on international drug repurposing at ZonMw, the Dutch Organization for Health Research and Development.

On behalf of ZonMw, Heleen is workpackage leader in the EU-project REMEDI4ALL - the research initiative that is building a sustainable European innovation platform to enhance drug repurposing by 2027. In REMEDI4ALL she has the lead in creating a funders network and 'think tank' with the aim to discuss policy issues, share best funding practices, co-ordinate (new) funding streams, promote joint calls and develop innovative co-funding models for drug repurposing.

Heleen is a pharmacist and holds a PhD in the field of pharmacotherapy and -epidemiology in older people. She has worked as a pharmacotherapy advisor at the Dutch HTA organisation for a couple of years before she joined ZonMw in 2022.

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



Head of Research Prioritisation, Commissioning, and Knowledge Mobilisation in Health and Care Research Wales. She is interested in improving how research and evidence meets the needs of the public and 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/social care about what worked (and what didn't) to bring in new ideas to minimise research waste. Her background is in environmental evidence and she is the co-lead of the EViR Sustainability Working Group. She strongly believes that we must work together to play our part in tackling our current dual crises, the nature crisis and the climate crisis.

#### **Karin Verspoor, Australian Institute of Health Innovation**



Professor Karin Verspoor is Dean of the School of Computing Technologies at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. Karin's research primarily focuses on the use of artificial intelligence methods to enable biological discovery and clinical decision support, through extraction of information from clinical texts and the biomedical literature and machine learning-based modelling.

#### **Marguerite O'Riordan (Aston Medical School, UK)**



Marguerite is a final year medical student from Aston University, Birmingham; and is about to start working as an academic doctor in Southampton this August. She recently took charge of TranspariMED, having previously been its advocacy officer with extensive experience engaging with research funders and institutions. She also works with the British Medical Association and the Healthcare Leadership Academy

#### **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.

**Naho Yamazaki (HRA, UK)**



Deputy Director of Policy and Partnerships at the HRA. Naho is Deputy Director, Policy and Partnerships at the Health Research Authority (HRA), where she is leading on a range of policy and engagement initiatives for the HRA to make it easy to do research that people can trust. This includes implementing the HRA's Make it Public Research Transparency Strategy and pushing for change to increase diversity and inclusion in research. She joined the HRA in Sep 2019, having worked on developing and influencing a range of health and biomedical research policy at the Wellcome Trust, NSW Ministry of Health in Australia and the UK Academy of Medical Sciences.

**Oyuka Byambasuren (Bond University, Australia)**



Dr Oyuka Byambasuren is a general practitioner whose research explores the potential of smartphone health apps in improving effectiveness of behaviour change interventions, self-management of chronic conditions, healthcare accessibility and personalisation.

**Paul Glasziou (Bond University, Australia)**



Paul Philip Glasziou AO is an Australian academic general practitioner known for his research in evidence-based medicine. He is Professor of Evidence-Based Medicine at Bond University, and co-led the 2014 Lancet series on Increasing Value, Reducing Waste in research.

**Sandra Galvin (HRB-TMRN, Ireland)**



As National Programme Manager for the Health Research Board –Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB-TMRN) Dr Galvin is responsible for the development, maintenance and expansion of an energetic, adaptive, and innovative network.

Along with the Executive Management Committee, Sandra is responsible for shaping the strategic direction of the Network as well as delivering on the core activities of the network. Sandra is responsible for the Networks initiation and expansion, strategic development, coordination of events and for running the Trials Methodology and Reporting Advisory Service (TMRAS), as well as promoting the Network via social media and attendance at conferences and events.

Sandra has led on creating a number of key collaborations with national organisations to improve and build on the current randomised trial support infrastructure in Ireland.

### **Sarah Delaney (HRCI, Ireland)**



In her role as Research Support Manager, Sarah is responsible for strengthening the research capacity of HRCI members, managing the HRCI/HRB Joint Funding Scheme, supporting patient and public (PPI) involvement in research and engaging with relevant bodies and organisations on all aspects of health research in Ireland.

Sarah has many years' research experience working in the field of health and social care for older people, family carers, and people with chronic illness. She worked with the Royal College of Surgeons conducting research on public and patient participation in health care, and care and case management for older people. Later, as Senior Research Consultant with the Work Research Centre, she gained valuable experience in research at National and European levels, focusing on evaluating health service users' experiences of health technologies. She was awarded a PhD on self-management in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in September 2020.

### **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.

### **Violina Sarma (HCRW, Wales)**



She 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.