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 – Attendees will dive into the transformative potential of AI in the research context covering from remarkable benefits to challenges and ethical considerations.

Facilitator: Dottie Goble (NIHR, UK)
- 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).
- Tbc

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: Dottie Goble (NIHR, UK)

- **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**
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)
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.
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
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 members to our forum and facilitate connections with existing members.

- Health Research Board Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB-TMRN)
  – Sandra Galvin (HRB-TMRN, Ireland)

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: Dottie Goble (NIHR, UK), 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
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)
- EViR communications and engagement
15:30 – 15:50* Reflections on how the EViR plan priority areas feature in the Guiding Principles
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-convener 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.

**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.

**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)**

NIHR REPAG Co-Chair and founding member, Lead co-creator of Framework, Senior Public Involvement Manager, NIHR

**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.
Josie Jackson (Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) UK)
Head of Prioritisation, Commissioning and Knowledge Mobilisation

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.
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.

Sarah Delaney (HRCI, Ireland)

Research Support Manager