

Research and Development

Winter 2023 newsletter

Season greetings from the Director of Research and Development

“A huge thank you to all those who have worked tirelessly to promote and deliver research at RPH in 2023. Your dedication and hard work are very much appreciated. We hope that you have a peaceful Christmas Holiday and come back rejuvenated and raring to go for a bumper year of research in 2024. Merry Christmas to all!”

Dr Patrick Calvert



Welcome to Winter edition of the Royal Papworth Hospital R&D newsletter.

Please circulate this to colleagues who may be interested in receiving it. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list please email [Katrina Hobson-Frohock](mailto:Katrina.Hobson-Frohock@nhs.uk).

ERS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN PULMONARY VASCULAR DISEASES

Dr Joanna Pepke-Zaba

Each year, European Respiratory Society (ERS) presents a number of prestigious awards to recognise the achievements of a select group of leaders in the field of respiratory medicine. Dr Joanna Pepke-Zaba, PhD, FRCP, consultant respiratory physician at Royal Papworth Hospital, Cambridge UK, director of Pulmonary Vascular Diseases Unit 2003-2019. She was instrumental in organization of pulmonary hypertension (PH) service in UK specifically the National Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension (CTEPH) program. She is affiliated with University of Cambridge and her research is concentrating on the translational programs in the field of PH with focus on CTEPH and PAH. She has trained generations of research fellows, serves on various scientific, educational, international boards and societies, is section editor of The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation. She has published over 200 papers.



Cambridge Clinical Research Training Fellowship

Jo Oliveira was awarded the Cambridge Clinical Research Training Fellowship, funded by the by the Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust and the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre. This grant, with the duration of one year, will cover salary costs and consumables, providing protected time and resources to gain further research experience and develop a competitive doctoral application.



Global first for Royal Papworth First two patients recruited to new international heart surgery trial that could reduce blood loss

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has become the first centre globally to recruit to a new groundbreaking international research study for patients who are undergoing complex cardiac surgery and are at a higher risk of bleeding.

The study, led locally by consultant anaesthetist Dr Andrew Klein, will assess the efficacy and safety of an experimental study drug, called fibrinogen concentrate in the management of bleeding in patients undergoing complex cardiac surgery and whether it reduces the need for blood products (red blood cells, platelets and plasma) transfusion after surgery.



Precision Health Innovation Competition Dr Joe Newman wins first prize

Dr Joe Newman won first prize in the 2023 Precision Health Innovation Competition for his entry entitled "Novel digital & decentralised biomarkers in pulmonary hypertension. A collaborative patient-centred precision health initiative".

The judging panel commended the submission's "outstanding originality, creativity, practicality, and potential impact in the dynamic field of precision health"..

Precision Health Initiative is a virtual network in Cambridge aiming to enable the collaborative research in precision health that is instrumental in the transition to preventative medicine.



Introduction to Research skills

On Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 of November we hosted the Introduction to Research Skills, this is the first time we have run the event since 2018. This event gives staff the opportunity to learn and develop their skills in research. Staff members expertly shared their insights on, literature review, study design, patient and public involvement, health economics, applying for a grant and much more.

We received some fantastic feedback from the participants including: 'I will definitely recommend for everyone who is starting in research or as a refresher course', 'having the ambassadors there really brought the work R&D do in studies and trials more to life' and 'a good mix between presentations and quiz/exercises'.



Then and now

On Tuesday 17th May we had our first away day since COVID. The day started with ice breakers, listening to stories of how long everyone has worked in research, which for some was over 30 years! This was followed by photos around the pond, a lovely lunch and then finishing the day with team games. It was lovely to see everyone together, the team has grown so much over the years it gave everyone the chance to get to know each other.



On the right is the R&D Away day in 2009 with around 35 staff members and there are now over 90 members of staff.



Staff awards

On Thursday 14 December, colleagues and guests of honour were invited to celebrate the achievements of our talented and committed staff at the Royal Papworth Staff Awards 2023. The ceremony, held Homerton College, was a chance to recognise the hard work in the last year and for us to say a big 'thank you' to you all.

A total of 512 nominations were received, and only 15 shortlisted.

Congratulations to Kim Giraud and our Patients Research Ambassadors who were highly commended and to Sarah Fielding on winning the Excellence Award - This award recognises staff who role model through their behaviour and actions the Trust value of Excellence - Makes a difference with each small improvement and by being open to new ways of working.



NIHR East of England Celebration Awards 2023 Research Volunteer Award

Ron Flewett and David Smith, our Patient Research Ambassadors both won the Research Volunteer of the year Award.

The Research Governance Team were runners up in the 'Breaking Boundaries' category for their collaboration with North West Anglia Foundation Trust. Chris Tippell, Emily Hodge, Lauren Patman, Kim Giraud and Marlene Taveira, plus our counterparts in the North West Anglia team who were also part of this nomination; Hannah Wroe, Eleanor Smith and Aaron Woods.

