

Centre for Health and Care Research (CHCR)

Newsletter, July 2026

Introduction from the Deputy Director

I am delighted to be writing this introduction as the new Deputy Director for CHCR; newly re-named as the 'Centre for Health and **Care** Research'. For those who may not know me, I am an Associate Professor in Emergency Care and have been part of CHCR through the Emergency Care theme for almost seven years. I am really pleased to be taking on this role and to have the opportunity to support our brilliant Director, **Professor Fiona Cramp**, as well as the theme leads and colleagues across CHCR. I am looking forward to helping showcase the work of CHCR, strengthen connections across the Centre, and support our shared ambitions around collaboration, inclusion, innovation and impact.



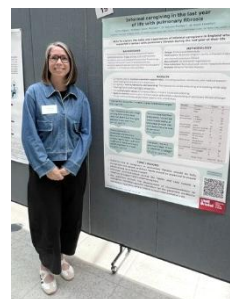
What better way to start my new role than chairing the Doctoral Showcase session at the excellent CHCR Annual Showcase, held on the 8 July 2026. It was wonderful to see so many colleagues and external partners come together for the event, with record attendance and abstract submissions, and a brilliant range of presentations. This session also built on the

success of CHCR's annual Doctoral Showcase, held earlier in the year, where **Tanya McGrath** was awarded the winning presentation and **Charlie Gerlis** and **Dr Alyesha Proctor** were named as runners-up. It was lovely to see Charlie and Alyesha sharing their work again at the Annual Showcase, while both were on maternity leave and brought their babies along with them. This was a very welcome reminder of the commitment, generosity and collegiality that sit at the heart of CHCR.

The theme presentations showcased the breadth, quality and impact of research taking place across the Centre, and we saw the formal relaunch of the ACTioN (Assessment, Care, Treatment in Neurology) theme and a refresh of the Emergency Care theme, now renamed Urgent and Emergency Care to reflect its evolving focus. The keynote lecture, delivered by Dr Angie Logan, offered an inspiring account of her clinical academic career journey and her important work to advance evidence-based stroke rehabilitation.



Congratulations to our poster prize winners; **Professor Nikki Cotterill** (pictured left) won the non-student category, and the student category was won by **Kathy Rogers** (pictured right). Many thanks to **Professor Fiona Cramp**, **Dr Alison Diaper** and **Dr Zoe Anchors** for all their hard work in organising such a successful and enjoyable day!



Alongside the Showcase, CHCR has also hosted a number of other events over the past six months. In May, **Professor Nikki Cotterill** chaired a lunchtime seminar focused on Patient reported Outcome Measures (PROMS), bringing together colleagues with interests in PROMS

to hear about projects underway across CHCR and the local area, and to network with others working in this field.



Dr Julie Armoogum, Dr Chloe Place and Dr Leah Morris (pictured left) also organised a series of CHCR postgraduate and early career researcher writing days; four writing days have been held at the Arnolfini, open to all postgraduate research students and early career researchers. Each day includes a series of focused 25-minute writing sessions, based on the Pomodoro technique, with time for short breaks and lunch. Please [contact Julie](#) if you would like to take part in future sessions.

We are also delighted to congratulate colleagues across CHCR who have recently been promoted. Professorial promotions were awarded to **Faatihah Niyi-Odumosu, Alison Llewellyn, Jo Robson, Mary Cramp** and **Mwidimi Ndosi**, while **Ilhem Berrou, Jacqueline Mullan, Jen Pearson, Julie Armoogum** and **Julie Woodley** were promoted to Associate Professor. We look forward to profiling colleagues' work in more detail in the January newsletter.



We are delighted to congratulate **Professor Nicola Walsh (Nicki)** on her appointment as an NIHR Senior Investigator. This is one of the highest honours in applied health and social care research and recognises Nicki's outstanding contribution to primary health care research, research leadership and mentoring. Nicki is internationally recognised for her work in musculoskeletal health, including the ESCAPE-pain programme, and now co-leads major NIHR-funded research exploring urgent and same-day care workforce challenges.

Finally, we say a very fond farewell to **Professor Richard Cheston** (Rik; pictured right), Professor of Dementia Research, who is retiring from UWE Bristol. Rik has been a much-valued member of CHCR and has made an enormous contribution as lead of the ACTIoN theme, as well as through his wider leadership in dementia research across Bristol. Rik's expertise, generosity and commitment to improving care for people living with dementia and their families will be greatly missed by colleagues across the Centre. We are delighted that **Dr Praveen Kumar** will be taking over from Rik as the ACTIoN theme lead.



I hope you enjoy reading about the work of the Centre over the past six months and encourage you to share this newsletter with your colleagues. To find out more about our research, please [visit our website](#), and [follow us on LinkedIn](#). For additional queries, please [contact us by email](#) or telephone (Fiona: 0117 328 8501 or Laura: 0117 328 6961).

Dr Laura Goodwin

Associate Professor in Emergency Care and Deputy Director of CHCR

News from the Urgent and Emergency Care theme

Theme Lead: Professor Sarah Voss



Summer 2026 has seen a refresh of the Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) theme (previously the Emergency Care theme). This adjustment reflects the breadth of research that is being delivered under the theme umbrella and the increased alignment with the UEC system that underpins the organisation of services and the delivery of care in the NHS. The UEC theme is divided into four research areas:

1. Out-of-hospital and community care

This area focuses on the care delivered by the ambulance service, and urgent care teams within general practice and community based urgent care services, including virtual wards, hospital at home and acute frailty and respiratory services. Current projects include a PhD (**Peter Danihel**) investigating paramedic assessment and management of pain for people with dementia and research aimed at improving outcomes for babies born before arrival at hospital (**Dr Laura Goodwin**).



2. Emergency care

The theme has a long-standing reputation for delivering high-quality research in the Emergency Department setting. Current research includes a PhD exploring workforce sustainability of Advanced Clinical Practitioners working in Paediatric Emergency Medicine (**Charlotte Clay**). We also continue to collaborate with the [Trainee in Emergency Research Network \(TERN\)](#) and Emergency Medicine colleagues working with us as part of the [Research in Emergency Care Avon Collaborative Hub \(REACH\)](#), which is co-directed by UWE Bristol and University of Bristol.

3. Critical care



This research area covers two key settings: Prehospital critical care, including that delivered by Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) and Intensive Care Units in acute hospitals. Current projects include collaborative work to investigate the introduction of prehospital critical care response units in Toronto, Canada (**Dr Kim Kirby**) and a PhD focused on optimising the dispatch of critical care resources in the ambulance service (**Pete Owen**).

4. Workforce and service delivery

The UEC theme retains a strong focus on research to optimise the organisation and delivery of healthcare services. One example of research in this area is the [Same Day and Urgent Care \(SURGE\) Workforce Research Partnership](#) which sits across both the UEC and Workforce Research themes within CHCR.

As part of the refresh, the UEC theme are reinforcing links with the Paramedic Science academic team at UWE Bristol. A joint meeting was held in June 2026 to discuss existing collaborations and the potential for new ones, focussing on areas of common interest and complimentary expertise. As well as sharing updates on existing research projects, we explored emerging areas of mutual opportunity for clinically directed research and research informed teaching and learning. The UEC theme will be offering research placements to paramedic students and scheduling regular joint meetings to develop collaborative funding proposals.

Research highlights

Funding: Recent successes include funding from National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Health and Social Care Delivery Research Programme (HSDR) programme to understand how ambulance services can contribute as partners in the effective delivery of Hospital at Home (HaH) services, supporting safe, responsive, and patient-centred care in collaboration with wider health and care systems: Ambulance Services and Hospital at Home (ASHaH). This project is being led by Swansea University with collaboration from the UEC theme at UWE Bristol.

We are also delighted to share the news that **Dr Kim Kirby** will be co-leading a project with funding from NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme (£4.3 million) to conduct: 'Prehospital point-of-care troponin testing in ambulances: a randomised controlled trial (PREPARE)'. This is in collaboration with the University of Manchester and work is due to start in the autumn.

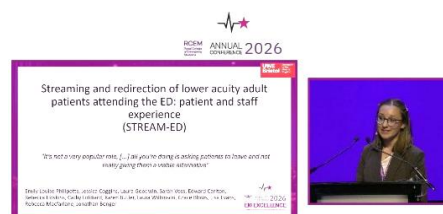


Impact: In March 2026, **Dr Laura Goodwin** reported on outcomes for babies born before arrival at hospital and under the care of the ambulance service. This followed the initiation of several service level changes that were implemented during the course of UWE Bristol-led research and knowledge exchange activities. The evaluation showed that hypothermia rates have halved in babies born before arrival at hospital since the changes were introduced. These findings were [reported by UWE Bristol](#) and the funder, and presented at the College of Health, Science and Society Impact Showcase in April 2026.



Other impact highlights include a blog post by **Dr Kim Kirby** (pictured left) on careers in health technology research, published in March 2026; a presentation by **Dr Behnaz Schofield** on the potential for health promotion and inequality

reduction in urgent and emergency care settings at the National Prevention Research Conference in March 2026; and an invited presentation by **Emily Phillpotts** (pictured right) on streaming and



redirection of patients attending the Emergency Department at the Royal College of Emergency Medicine Annual Conference in April 2026.



We are also delighted that **Dr Helen Nicholson** (pictured left), who divides her time between the UEC theme and the Paramedic Science team, has secured a Knowledge Mobilisation Fellowship with Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board. The fellowship will focus on falls prevention and frailty; an area that is directly aligned with Helen's research and teaching interests.

This is a unique opportunity to improve the transition of knowledge across research, implementation and teaching and learning to support evidence-based practice.

Staff updates



We were delighted to welcome **Charlotte Clay** (pictured left) to the team in January 2026. Charlotte is undertaking a PhD on the workforce sustainability of Advanced Clinical Practitioners working in paediatric emergency medicine and is supported by the [Same Day and Urgent Care \(SURGE\) Workforce Research Partnership](#).



Finally, we would like to congratulate **Dr Alyesha Proctor** (pictured left) on completing her PhD, which aimed to develop an intervention to support Paramedics in safely assessing and managing children with minor head injury, and **Dr Philip Braude** on his doctoral graduation based upon his research exploring frailty and serious injuries.

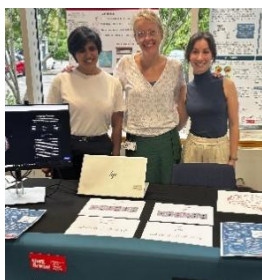
News from the ACTIoN (Assessment, Care, Treatment In Neurology) theme

Theme Lead: [Professor Richard Cheston](#) (outgoing) / [Dr Praveen Kumar](#) (incoming)

ACTIoN theme members come from many different research and clinical professions and work across many different areas of neurological research, bringing their research experience to bear on a range of issues related to assessment, care and treatment.

Cognitive neuropsychology

Hajira Mumtaz passed her PhD viva with corrections. Hajira's PhD examiners (Professor Puneet Plaha and [Dr Kris Kinsey](#)) were impressed with the impact of the work within the space of neurosurgical patient care, as well as the clear and cohesive narrative presented throughout the thesis. Congratulations, Hajira!



Some of the wider ACTIoN research team are engaged in projects supporting neurosurgical care pathways and providing a deeper understanding of language and cognition in the brain. They presented their work at UWE Bristol's Festival of Research at one of the Expo Stands (pictured left).

Dementia

The EMPATHY study (co-led by **Professor Rik Cheston**) finished at the end of May with a bang!

An event held at the Vassal centre was attended by 60 participants, including commissioners, dementia care workers and members of local communities (pictured right). The project team



distributed printed copies of the [study report](#) and showed an initial draft of a film about the project, which was made in collaboration with Latent pictures – a local Bristol based film production company. The report includes six recommendations for improving local dementia services for people from Chinese, South Asian and African-Caribbean communities.

Stroke rehabilitation

Dr Praveen Kumar and his team have co-developed an AI-powered personalised stroke rehabilitation app to enhance community-based rehabilitation, funded through the NIHR Investment for Innovation Funding At the Speed of Translation Programme (2025–2026). Through a visit to Australia, funded by an NIHR Pre-Award Scheme, Praveen met with leading international researchers and was invited to present his work on the co-design of the AI app, showcasing how collaborative design and artificial intelligence can support stroke survivors in their recovery.



Dr Praveen Kumar also participated in the Royal College of Physicians -funded GIRFT (Getting it Right First Time) Stroke-Specific Leadership Programme, where he was recognised with the Best Dedicated Attendee Award and was also a finalist in the prestigious 'Leader's Leader' category, acknowledging his commitment to leadership development and excellence in stroke care (pictured left).

Relaunching ACTIoN

Finally, at the CHCR conference in July, theme leadership passed from **Professor Rik Cheston** to **Dr Praveen Kumar** who presented a summary of the work to relaunch the theme over the last six months.

News from the MAMBO (Musculoskeletal Management, Measurement, Behaviour change and Outcomes) theme

Theme Lead: Professor Emma Dures



MAMBO

It's been a busy conference season!

The British Society of Rheumatology Conference (BSR) took place in Glasgow in April, with plenty of representation from MAMBO. **Dr Caroline Flurey** presented 'It almost means forgetting you've got a disease: what does independence in the context of rheumatoid arthritis remission mean to patients and how can we measure it?' **Dr Jen Pearson** presented 'Looking to the future: developing services to meet the needs of people with fibromyalgia syndrome'. **Dr Mwidimi Ndosi** gave his top tips on how to publish your research as a nurse or allied health professional and **Dr Jo Robson** gave two invited talks on 'The use of Avacopan in ANCA associated vasculitis: are we utilising its full potential?' and 'Utilising Patient Reported Outcome Measures effectively to improve patient care'

Dr Jo Robson also attended the 22nd Annual Vasculitis Workshop in Melbourne, Australia in February. She co-chaired a session on 'Better vasculitis research and care: patient-centred research and health systems innovation' and presented 'Patient reported outcomes in Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) and in glucocorticoid use'.



Jo was not the only one representing MAMBO internationally this spring. **Dr Mwidimi Ndosi** was invited by the Australian Rheumatology Association to deliver a keynote at this year's Annual Scientific Meeting in Queensland. Mwidimi presented the latest recommendations for non-pharmacological management in rheumatology and the scientific evidence underpinning non-pharmacological interventions. He also spoke on advancing healthcare professional-led interventions in rheumatology, focusing on the strategic deployment of multidisciplinary teams and the importance of investing in workforce development and training.

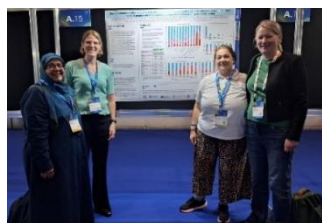
Professor Emma Dures (pictured right) presented 'Energy and fatigue management' online at the Spondylitis Association of America's Annual Summit in and 'Fatigue and intervention in inflammatory rheumatic disease' at Cutting Edge Rheumatology in Lund, Sweden in May. The season rounded off with the annual European Congress of Rheumatology (EULAR) which took place in London in June.





Professor Emma Dures also gave an invited presentation on ‘When is ‘being tired’ pathological?’ as part of a symposium on fatigue. The talk focused on defining features of fatigue in inflammatory rheumatic conditions and recommendations for measurement, based Arthritis UK-funded work undertaken by members of MAMBO. She also chaired a session on ‘Inflammatory arthropathies and mental health: bridging the gap’.

As part of the ‘Side effects suck: minimising and managing treatment risks’ panel, **Emily Barnes** gave an oral presentation describing the patient and parent involvement in the study design of her PhD project. This is exploring the impact of steroids on wellbeing and the development of a paediatric patient reported outcome.



The RAISE team; PI **Dr Jo Robson**, patient research partner **Zoi Anastasa** and research fellow **Dr Sadia Janjua** were on hand to celebrate Sadia’s poster which reported the results of a national survey to determine support needs of people with rare autoimmune rheumatic diseases in the UK (pictured left).

Funding

In January, **Dr Jenny Lewis** secured funding through an NHS South West Accelerator Award to establish a Secure Data Environment for the Complex Pain Outcomes Platform at the Bath National Pain Centre, Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust. This infrastructure will provide a secure digital pipeline to facilitate data sharing and linkage with external datasets, including primary care records. It creates significant opportunities for more comprehensive analyses of clinical outcomes and supports collaborative research with regional and national partners.

Our Health Inequalities and Chronic Pain Collaborative in Weston-Super-Mare continues to expand, supported by additional BNSSG Integrated Care Board Research Capability Funding (RCF). This funding will support the development of an evaluation of Pain Cafés delivered in areas of high socioeconomic deprivation across Weston-Super-Mare and South Bristol. As part of this work, **Mahira Budhreja**, Wallscourt Research Associate, will work with marginalised communities to better understand their experiences of chronic pain, barriers to care, and priorities for support, ensuring future services are co-designed with those most affected.

Dr Jenny Lewis has recently been awarded a five-year NIHR Senior Clinical and Practitioner Research Award. This nationally competitive award will enable her to expand the programme of research into chronic pain and health inequalities, advance computational approaches using the Complex Pain Outcomes Platform, and develop research focused on Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) in young people.

Welcome new MAMBO members



Dr Avril Rea (pictured left) has joined the PACT-AAV study team as research associate. PACT stands for Patients and Clinicians Together and is looking at shared decision making in ANCA-Associated Vasculitis. Avril is a second year student on the UWE Bristol professional doctorate in health psychology, having completed an MSc in health psychology in 2024. Her research interests centre on understanding the attitudes and barriers underlying self-management behaviours and understanding the psychosocial impact of living with chronic illness.

Kim Oakes (pictured right) is a learning disabilities nurse who is undertaking a scoping review into the reasonable adjustments that help people with a learning disability and people with autism to go to hospital appointments. She is currently mapping the learning disability services and teams for Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and establishing patient and public involvement links with existing groups, such as service user meetings, to remove barriers to involvement. Kim is working with **Katie Fishpool** on the review.



Fresh from submitting her doctoral thesis, Research Fellow **Rachael Simms-Moore** (pictured left) has joined the INSIGHT Study, led by **Dr Alice Berry**. Rachael will be undertaking qualitative research and process evaluation for the NIHR-funded research project exploring the clinical and cost-effectiveness of digital technology for low back pain in primary care. Rachael is covering **Dr Abbie Jones'** maternity cover and, with that in mind, a big welcome to new MAMBO member - Arabella Flora Davies, born in early May. Congratulations Abbie! Final congratulations go to **Dr Ruben McNeil-Walsh** on his doctoral graduation.

News from the Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care theme (SPACE)

Theme Lead: [Dr Alison Llewellyn](#)

SPACE (Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care) is a multidisciplinary research theme dedicated to understanding and improving the supportive, palliative and end of life care experiences of adults, as well as those who care for and support them.

Highlights, grants, and awards

We have been delighted to celebrate a series of funding successes over recent months, including no less than four NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) awards on a diverse range of topics:



Dr Michelle Griffiths received RfPB funding to test an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Programme to support children and young people attending NHS “Complications of Excess Weight” Clinics (the Aim2Change study). **Dr Ali Llewellyn** was the lead applicant on a successful RfPB funding

bid to develop recommendations to improve end of life care for people with Parkinson’s (the PEACEFUL study), and **Dr Kate Sugar** led a bid from Dorothy House Hospice and has been awarded RfPB funding to co-produce a hospice intimacy support toolkit to enable intimacy needs conversations in England (the IN-TALK study). **Dr Ilhem Berrou** was awarded funding for work building on the successful PolyPILL2 study, originally funded through an award secured by the late **Dr Nicky Harris** and later led by **Dr Toity Deave**, which explored how children and young people with life-limiting illness manage polypharmacy.

Beyond NIHR successes, we were also delighted to see **Dr Alison Diaper**, along with UWE Bristol co-applicants **Professor Fiona Cramp** and **Dr Ali Llewellyn**, secure funding through a Marie Curie commissioned call. Alison will lead this important work to explore whether Urgent Community Response services are meeting the needs of people nearing the end of life.



Dr Jac Fennell is continuing her excellent programme of research, extending the reach of the HUG therapeutic comforter across a variety of sectors and settings including end of life, dementia care and people living with anxiety.

Testament to this outstanding work was the selection of the HUG by Universities UK as part of a case study campaign to demonstrate how universities are contributing to the UK government’s industrial strategy priority growth sectors in the life sciences sector.

Dr Julie Armoogum has been nominated for a University Alliance Industry Partnerships Award for her exceptional leadership in co-founding and implementing the Aspirant Cancer Career and Education Development (ACCEND) Programme, creating a national educational framework for cancer training and education. The Awards will be announced in September – good luck Julie!

Dissemination activity

Alongside all the grant bidding activity, colleagues within the SPACE theme have been sharing their research with audiences across the UK and internationally. Just some of the activity so far in 2026 includes showcasing work at: the national Sawubona Conference (Sawubona is a national research forum focused on equity in palliative care); the Belgian Society of Medical Oncology; the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) Annual Meeting in Australia; the International Society for Gerontology conference in Canada; and the International Dementia Conference, also in Australia. SPACE was also very well represented at the online Marie Curie conference at the start of the year and at the UK palliative care congress in Brighton in March.

From work on the training needs of blood cancer clinical nurse specialists led by **Dr Julie Armoogum** last year for Blood Cancer UK, it was wonderful to see a report published by the charity on National Cancer CNS Day in March.

Our SPACE colleagues from Dorothy House Hospice have also been busy with **Dr Kate Sugar, Dr Sharon Grieve, Claire Prendergast** and **Professor Candy McCabe** invited to speak at a NIHR Palliative and End of Life Care National Forum webinar on “What does a research-active hospice look like”.

New appointments and networks

Kathy Rogers (pictured right) was invited to join in the European Respiratory Society task force on caregiving in respiratory illness. This opportunity aligns closely with Kathy’s PhD research on caregiving in non-malignant respiratory disease and enables her to both build international collaborations and contribute to future policy and practice in the field.



Dr Julie Armoogum (pictured left) is co-leading the writing of a position statement on cancer related pain for the United Kingdom Association of Supportive Care in Cancer. On the back of the success of the ACCEND programme and her ongoing research portfolio, this is a further channel by which awareness can be raised about chronic pain in people living with or after cancer.

The NIHR Palliative Care Research Incubator, co-led by **Emerita Professor Candy McCabe** continues to go from strength to strength, with many SPACE theme colleagues attending and contributing to its excellent workshop in February. **Kathy Rogers** is a member of the Incubator’s steering group and co-hosts the very well-received programme of “connect and share” events. We are also very pleased to report that the Incubator was recently awarded Research Capability Funding to host another workshop, and we are very much looking forward to supporting this work and helping to progress some very exciting research proposals.

And finally...

We could not finish without reflecting on the wonderful CHCR conference in early July, which provided a fantastic opportunity to meet up with colleagues to celebrate the breadth and quality of research across CHCR. The SPACE theme was very well represented, with successful abstract submissions leading to several poster presentations. We also very much enjoyed **Rachel Simms-Moore’s** oral presentation of on the training needs of Blood Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialists and **Dr Annie Bellamy’s** presentation about architectural thinking to accommodate end of life; both were fascinating and insightful.



Special congratulations also go to **Kathy Rogers**, whose excellent contribution was recognised with the Best Student Poster award. Well done, Kathy!

One of the things we value most in SPACE is creating a welcoming and supportive community for researchers at all career stages and from within and outside UWE Bristol. If you have an interest in any aspect of supportive, palliative or end of life care research, we would be delighted to hear from you. To find out more, please contact [Alison Llewellyn](#) or our theme administrator, [Charlotte Spence](#).

News from the Workforce Research theme

Theme lead: [Professor Nicola Walsh](#)

The Workforce theme is one year old! Thanks to everyone who has supported the theme to grow and achieve the success it has in a short space of time. The highlights include a membership of almost sixty people from within UWE Bristol and across our key health, care and VCSE (Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise) partners; we have established two special interest groups in Education and Inclusivity; we've run two learning seminars on the 'rainbow badge scheme' and 'achieving research funding success'; and we've secured further funding to continue to drive our work forward in this important area of research.



Over the next year, we seek to grow our membership further, establish a workforce research mentoring scheme, and host a regional event highlighting our work and connecting with other groups from research, education and service delivery. If you want to hear more about the theme, please [contact Neen Nedder](#).

Cancer workforce research

Congratulations to **Dr Julie Armoogum** who, along with UWE Bristol co-applicants **Professor Fiona Cramp** and **Tom Cave**, has received funding from Cancer Research UK to undertake a programme of research, in partnership with co-applicants from Skills for Health, to define the UK cancer workforce across the bowel and gynaecological cancer pathways.

The project comprises a scoping review to identify and critically examine existing workforce definitions, alongside a national survey and qualitative interviews to gather insights from those working across these pathways to better understand who constitutes the cancer workforce. Findings will inform the development of workforce definitions, which will then be mapped against existing UK workforce data sources. The resulting definitions will provide Cancer Research UK with a robust foundation to support workforce policy, planning, advocacy, and future research.

Research prioritisation



The [Same Day and Urgent Care \(SURGE\) Workforce Research Partnership](#) completed a year-long priority-setting project with the James Lind Alliance in May. The project brought together 561 urgent and emergency care professionals, patients, and carers through surveys, WhatsApp voice notes, and focus groups to identify the most important unanswered questions about the urgent and emergency care workforce. The team had fantastic support and engagement from over 150 networks and organisations, supporting inclusivity and ensuring that we heard from people underserved by current workforce research. We ended up with a total of 45 questions capturing a range of topics and issues important to the workforce. The final prioritising workshop was held online and finalised the top 10 list of questions which will be published soon. For more information about the James Lind Alliance or running a priority setting partnership, please [contact Dr Beth Jones](#).

Nursing Associate News



Members of the theme are currently involved in a variety of projects investigating the role of Nursing Associates (NAs) across primary and secondary care services. NAs bridge a gap between health and care assistants and registered nurses. Building on UWE Bristol-based expertise in the area, **Dr Zoe Anchors** (co-lead of the INSERT Study alongside **Dr Laura Goodwin**) was invited to contribute to a national meeting in London, hosted by NHS England, bringing together nursing clinical leaders, university educators, workforce leads, and other key informants involved in shaping the future of the NA role. The meeting focused on exploring the opportunities and challenges facing the current and future NA workforce, with discussions centred on strengthening role clarity, supporting early career NAs, improving workforce retention, and enhancing career development opportunities. Through collaborative breakout sessions, delegates co-designed potential solutions to these challenges, with all feedback being collated by NHS England to inform future national policy and workforce development initiatives.

Staff news



Welcome to our new staff members! **Dr Lorna Flintham** (pictured left) who has recently completed her PhD at the University of Bath. Lorna joins the INSERT study as a Research Associate, investigating the Nursing Associate role in secondary care.



Dr Josie Morley (pictured left) has also joined UWE Bristol after completing her PhD at the University of Bristol. Josie has joined the PCN-Teams project investigating the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme in General Practice.

Natasha Wynne (pictured right) commenced her PhD in January working with the SURGE team. Natasha is investigating the role of Advanced Practitioners in Urgent Care at home services.



Finally, many congratulations to **Dr Zoe Anchors** who has been promoted to Senior Research Fellow, and to **Dr Rachel Thomas** (pictured below, left; second from right) and **Dr Simon King** (pictured below, right) for their doctoral graduations.

