

Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Role Description

Role name

Lay representative

Summary

As our research is publically funded, it is essential to encourage involvement, engagement and participation from the public, wherever we can.

The aim of Modernising Medical Microbiology PPIE is to create opportunities for patients and lay representatives to interact, engage and contribute to the research that we do. This is to:

- Improve the quality of our research
- Ensure the questions our research is designed to answer match the priorities of the wider public
- Communicate the results of publically funded research with people who may find this information relevant, useful and interesting
- Inspire adults and children and promote careers in research and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Explore novel means of communicating healthcare research with a wider group of people.

We have created a PPIE Steering Group which aims to develop and deliver our PPIE strategy. You can view our strategy here: <http://modmedmicro.nsms.ox.ac.uk/mmm-ppie-strategy/>

The Lay Representative will join our PPIE Steering Group and become an active member of the PPIE team. The Steering Group is Chaired by our Lay Member Group Lead.

Background

Modernising Medical Microbiology (MMM) is a consortium which includes several large research projects (<http://modmedmicro.nsms.ox.ac.uk/projects/>). The MMM group comprises approximately 40 researchers situated in Oxford, predominantly at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The group is one of the largest groups working in infectious diseases research in the UK.

We aim to involve the public in every level of our research activities, from how they are first thought about, to how they are planned, run and the results shared with the world. We also aim to use existing and new ways to communicate the results of our research to a wider audience, especially key public health messages which arise from our work.

The MMM group acknowledges that patients and community members bring particular insights based on their personal experiences as users of the health service. Those without personal experience of healthcare and other services can also offer a valuable perspective and involving these groups in how research is designed, run and managed can help to improve its quality and relevance, as well as make sure its results are shared as widely as possible.

Roles and responsibilities of lay representative.

Lay members play a key role in making sure that patient, carer and public views, experiences and interests inform the design and conduct of studies being planned. We would note that the MMM group has specific technical expertise in particular scientific domains which are reflected in the projects we planned and seek thoughts on; although views on studies in different areas are welcome, we may not be best placed to take other ideas forward.

Main Duties (include but are not limited to):

- To attend and actively contribute to discussions at the quarterly PPIE Steering group meetings (usually held at the John Radcliffe Hospital)
- To represent the lay views about the MMM group projects at other meetings you may be asked whether you would be willing to attend (for example, specific project Steering Group / Advisory Group meetings).
- To review the MMM PPIE strategy, outputs and policy to ensure progress
- If willing, to review lay summaries of research projects and findings and provide comments prior to content being uploaded on our website
- If willing, to review lay sections of grant applications prior to submission, and discuss your views on their goals with researchers
- If willing, to review any materials which are given directly to patients
- To brainstorm new approaches to access hard to reach groups
- To provide general advice/views from your own perspective as a non-researcher as requested by the MMM research team

Essential Criteria

Our lay representative should:

- Have the time and willingness to attend regular quarterly meetings
- Have a keen interest in medical or biological matters
- Have good communication skills

Desirable Criteria

- Have knowledge / interest in the issue of antibiotic resistance
- Have access to a computer and e-mail
- Feel confident to share your views with researchers within the MMM Group (please note that we can provide specific training on this)

Additional information

Lay representatives on this project are unpaid. However, all travel expenses and out-of-pocket expenses incurred for attending meetings will be reimbursed. Refreshments will be provided where appropriate. We will ensure that you have access to all resources that you may need, for example literature (e.g. glossaries of terminology etc).

Lay representatives are able to access support and advice from the MMM PPIE representative. All correspondence can be directed to crookpm@ox.ac.uk

Further information about MMM can be found on our website: <http://modmedmicro.nsms.ox.ac.uk/>

If you have any queries regarding this role description, or would like further information about becoming involved in our work, please email crookpm@ox.ac.uk