

Members of the patient and public group for the Modernising Medical Microbiology: supporting information

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the patient and public group for [Modernising Medical Microbiology](#). We are committed to making sure that patients and the public are fully involved in shaping local health and care research.

Please read this information pack before letting us know you are interested in order to make sure that you fully understand the role, and whether you have the time and skills needed.

The closing date to let us know is **5pm on Thursday 21st March 2024**.

Modernising Medical Microbiology (called “MMM”)

Since 2006 the [Modernising Medical Microbiology](#) group has been working to make it easier to find and treat infections, so that patients can get better care. We aim to:

- Modernise the way we work out who has an infection, bringing cutting-edge scientific methods to clinical care.
- Transform the way we study how patients with infections get treated, using large electronic databases of information from hospitals, to find patterns and work out ways we can make patient care better.
- Use methods to look at the genetic material of microbes like bacteria and viruses to find out more about how infections spread between people, how to treat them, and how to stop them happening in the future.
- Study how bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, and more difficult to treat, and how to stop this.

We have several large research projects going on at any one time,

<https://www.expmedndm.ox.ac.uk/modernising-medical-microbiology/projects>. A lot of our research is funded by the National Institutes of Health Research. Examples of the kinds of things we have done are:

- [Developing tools](#) to help give hospitals and doctors more direct access to information about microbes' genetic information, to help diagnose and treat a range of infections
- [Regularly testing random samples of the UK population](#) for infection and Covid antibodies, providing valuable information during the Covid pandemic to help inform public health policy
- Creating a [platform](#) for Public Health Agencies around the world to get equitable access to rapid genomic sequencing analysis
- [We carried out a citizen science project](#) as part of a larger project developing a new way of diagnosing infections resistant to antibiotics

You can find out more on <https://bashthebug.net/>

The MMM group includes around 30 researchers in Oxford, predominantly at the John Radcliffe Hospital. We are one of the largest groups working in infectious diseases 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 how the results are 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.

We have found 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.

Patient and public group members: role description

What are we looking for?

We are looking for 3-5 new members to join our patient and public group. The aims of the group are to:

- Improve the quality of our research
- Ensure the questions our research is designed to answer match the priorities of the wider public wherever possible
- Communicate the results of our 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 new ways of communicating healthcare research with a wider group of people.

You can view our strategy through the link here: <https://www.expmedndm.ox.ac.uk/modernising-medical-microbiology/patients-and-public>

The role of the patient and public group members

The members will join the existing MMM patient and public group. The group's role is to:

- Attend and actively contribute to discussions at the group meetings (usually held online every 4 months)
- Help make sure that patient and public perspectives on the research we want to do are considered
 - The MMM group has specific technical expertise in particular scientific areas which are reflected in the projects we plan and seek thoughts on; although views on studies in different areas are welcome, we may not be best placed to take other

- ideas forward.
- In particular, to look at lay summaries of research proposals, grant applications and findings and give views them.
- Help ask questions about or decide the ways we put our results to use
 - In particular, to review and comment on other public-facing documents related to the group (e.g. websites, materials directly for patients).
- Help think about how we share the results of our research with others: this can be done in many ways, in person and over the internet, in Oxford and around the world.
- Provide ‘critical friend’ challenges and hold us to account for how we manage our research.
- Respect the views of other group members at all times, and respect the confidential nature of discussions when it is made clear that this is needed.

Skills and experience required

- Interest in infections and the microbes which cause them, and/or in antimicrobial resistance
- Interest in research going on to work out how to treat people with infections better in the NHS
- Comfortable with speaking in groups, online and in person, and one to one
- Time and willingness to attend and contribute to regular meetings (mostly online)
- Access to a computer and e-mail
- Ability to understand and assess a range of information
- Ability to display sound judgement and objectivity
- Experience of interacting with a variety of people from differing backgrounds
- Awareness of, and commitment to, equality, diversity and inclusion
- An understanding of the need for confidentiality
- Commitment to the [seven principles of public life](#) - sometimes known as the Nolan Principles: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership

Note: Members do not need to have a long-term condition or be a regular user of health or care services but should be interested in infections and the microbes that cause them, and/or in antimicrobial resistance. We are particularly interested in talking to young people, people with young families, and people who might think that scientific research is “not for them”. You can choose to try attending a meeting to get a feel for what is involved.

Time commitment

- Membership of the group is for one year in the first instance, at which point membership will be reviewed
- The time commitment averages no more than half a day every 4 months
- Group meetings will be once every 4 months. Meetings will usually take place online and normally last for 2 hours with a break. Slots will be offered during and outside working hours to accommodate members’ preferences.

- There may be papers to read for these meetings, and additional time for preparation is included in the role.

Support & payment

- We will meet with all the new patient and public members online to provide background information about the group.
- Pre-meeting briefing documents will be provided where needed.
- Patient and public members will be paid for time spent in meetings, and preparing for them, on a pro-rata rate of £150 per day i.e. £18.75 per hour. You do not need to accept this money if you prefer not to.
- Any reasonable out of pocket expenses e.g. local travel costs will be paid in addition to this.

How to let us know you would be interested

Please complete the separate form to register your interest and return it to crookpm@ndm.ox.ac.uk by **5pm Thursday 21st March 2024**. We cannot guarantee a place on the group if the number of people interested is more than 3, but we will be in touch with everyone who lets us know they are interested to discuss both current and future opportunities

If you have any questions regarding the role, please contact us on crookpm@ndm.ox.ac.uk