

Oxford Diversity in Research Group

Impact on research and researchers 2021- 2023 – a snapshot



Reaching diverse communities workshop: March 2022



Creative solutions workshop: June 2022

Some researchers have provided feedback about how the Diversity in Research (DiR) Group has made a difference to them and/or their research. We have collated this below.

Project: The management of mouth care in hospital

Researcher: Bhumika Patel

Event: Creative Solutions Workshop at the Old Fire Station, June 2022

- The DiR group changed how this research was conducted:

“I hadn’t considered a multitude of factors before. They made me think about patient fears and language I was using. I hadn’t quite written my proposal in the form that I wanted to portray my research.”

- The DiR group influenced the researcher and changed the way they will conduct research in future:

“It made me consider what factors may influence a patient’s decision to participate in research – a small thing could be misleading and put off a potential participant. It made me realise any piece of work I do, I will need PPI to inform the final outcomes.”

Project: Supporting GP practices in recruiting people from South Asian origin to research

Researcher: Clare Arnison-Newgass

Event: Creative Solutions Workshop at the Old Fire Station, June 2022

- The DiR group had a positive impact on the researcher, encouraged her to share learning and set up new ways of working with colleagues:

“The project I brought to discuss unfortunately didn’t go ahead for various reasons; however the learning I took away I have used:”

- *Started a new Primary Care Strategy group with the aim of engaging appropriately/effectively with communities particularly underserved in research, especially via GP practices, in order to highlight Healthcare Research in general & relevant studies in particular. We’ve had a couple of invites already to do talks and are looking for more*

opportunities. A goal is to ask the questions about barriers to recruitment / who we can engage with from the start of every study set-up.

- Shared learning & tips with colleagues via regular meetings and those supporting a newly research-active GP Practice in Reading engaging with their local populations especially South Asian.

“Top takeaways were – go out to communities and ask questions first!”

“It was a really useful and interesting day, especially being able to chat directly with & learn so much from the PPI contributors.”

“If any of the [DiR] contributors would like a speaker on Primary Care Research for their own [community] group we would be delighted! We may not be the top experts in specific conditions but we can do lots of signposting, encouraging and answering questions in a friendly way.”

Project: The Diabetes Adaptive Weight management Network (NewDAWN)

Researchers: Sarah Wane & Nicola Guess

Event: Creative Solutions Workshop at the Old Fire Station, June 2022

“The Diversity in Research Group was part of extensive PPI we carried out last year and contributed to quite a few changes in our research project.”

“If it's helpful, I have attached a summary of the outcome of the PPI work we did - and certainly the Diversity in Research Group event was a key part of that. And reassuringly, we heard similar themes across all of the PPI we did.” (A copy of the summary is available on request – please note that it does not distinguish between input from the DiR Group and input from other PPI groups or activities.)

Project: Technical development projects on deeply technical aspects of biomedical measurement methods (researcher prefers to remain anonymous)

Event: Creative Solutions Workshop at the Old Fire Station, June 2022

- The group made a difference to how the research was conducted:

“It has informed us on how to organise a patient group for our internal PPI sessions.”

- The group had a positive impact on the researchers:

“This has prepared us for and guided us towards internal PPI efforts, helped us to better communicate with participants and understand how they interact.”

Project: Prostate Cancer Study

Researcher: Monica Dolton

Event: Meeting with DiR group in 2021 to discuss study proposal

“Please do let the PPI contributors know that their involvement in the initial stages of the project was of huge value to us and we credit their involvement when we are giving presentations about the study.”

“The project is going very well and we are very excited to be making these great strides in evaluating AI in the real life workflow.” See news article for more information:

<https://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/prostate-cancer-ai-diagnosis-tool-begins-evaluation-in-oxford/>

Project: Use of antibiotics

Researcher: Aleksandra Borek and Sarah Tonkin-Crine

Event: Meeting with DiR group in 2022 to discuss study proposal

- The group made a difference to how the research was conducted:

“Overall, the PPI meeting and the feedback from the group was very helpful in shaping our thinking about the new project that we were designing. It helped us to identify the questions that were important to people. We included these questions in our funding application. We are still waiting for the decision from the funder whether they will fund this research but have received positive comments from reviewers so far.”

“The interaction with the group was helpful in shaping the research aims for our study and in thinking about study design”.

“The meeting was quite rewarding for us because it reassured us that the research we were thinking of doing was interesting and important to the wider public and patients as well. It was also a very positive experience because the group was so generous and willing to share their feedback and engage with the topic”.

“We would like to approach the group again. If we are successful with the funding for this research, we will set up a PPI group for the project. We would also be happy to join this group to update the group on the planned study and to have more discussion about it”.

Joanna Crocker, Angeli Vaid, Rachel Taylor April 2023, Oxford Biomedical Research Centre