

# Institute for Excellence in Healthcare Annual Conference



## Embedding Research into Clinical Practice

Tuesday 2nd September 2025  
Sir Bob Burgess Building  
University of Leicester

# Welcome

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It is our great pleasure, on behalf of the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust and the University of Leicester, to welcome you to the Second Annual Conference of the Institute for Excellence in Healthcare. This year's theme is "Embedding Research into Clinical Practice" and brings together colleagues from our two organisations, our clinical and academic partners, and the wider health and care community to share knowledge, ideas, and inspire change.

Last year, we set out to establish the Institute as a joint endeavour; a place where the strengths of a leading academic institution and a major NHS Trust could combine to drive innovation, improvement, and evidence-based practice. This year, we are proud to see that vision taking shape, thanks to the growing number of clinicians, academics, and leaders who are embedding research into everyday care. Today's programme will highlight how our partnership is helping to build a vibrant research culture through:

- Developing Clinical Academic roles that bridge research and patient care.
- Launching our suite of Research Experience Programmes to give clinicians a first step into inquiry and evidence generation.
- Extending our Chief Nurse Fellows Programme to support more Nurses and Midwives in leading quality and research projects.
- Evaluating future opportunities to broaden the scope of the Institute for Excellence in Healthcare, including partnerships with other Universities and Trusts.

**Together, we are committed to ensuring that research is not just produced, but translated rapidly into better outcomes for our patients, our staff, and our communities. We look forward to the discussions, collaborations, and ideas that will emerge today, and to seeing how each of you will help shape the next chapter of our shared research journey.**



**Julie Hogg, Group Chief Nurse**  
University Hospitals of Leicester Trust and University  
Hospitals of Northampton Group

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie".



**David Wright, Head of the School of Healthcare**  
University of Leicester

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David".



# Speakers



**Professor David Wright** is Head of the School of Healthcare at the University of Leicester, with research expertise in the development and evaluation of complex interventions, feasibility studies and delivery of definitive trials. David chaired the East of England NIHR RfPB panel for five years and was an original member of the NIHR national PCAF panel. He has secured over £8M in research funding as principal investigator, operating as a lead or co- applicant on 12 NIHR grants, 2 MRC grants and 1 EPSRC grant. He has secured 2 NIHR DCAF and PCAF studentships and published over 100 peer- reviewed papers.

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**Julie Hogg** is a Registered Nurse and Midwife and has 20 years of experience in the acute sector. She has worked in a broad range of Nursing & Midwifery roles in district general and major teaching Trusts. Julie joined UHL in May 2022 from Sherwood Forest Hospitals (SFH), where she served as Chief Nurse from 2019. In that time, the Trust has been voted the Health Service Journal's Acute and Specialist Trust of the Year, has become a recognised centre for best-practice in women and children's care and has laid the foundations for the Nursing and Midwifery Pathway to Excellence accreditation scheme.. Prior to her role at SFH, she held the role of Deputy Chief Nurse at University College London Hospitals for five years. Julie is the Chief Nurse Advisor for the CNO Safer Staffing Fellowship Programme and is currently Vice Chair for the refresh of the National Quality Board improvement resource for maternity services. Julie is also a Trustee for the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Obstetric Hospital Charity, which supports the safe care of women, birthing people and their babies globally. In March 2024, Julie was appointed as an Honorary Professor with the School of Healthcare at the University of Leicester.

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**Dr Lisa Ledger** was appointed as the first NIHR Assistant Director of Allied Health Professions in June 2024, with a key focus on developing national initiatives to drive research career opportunities for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs). Lisa is a qualified Occupational Therapist having worked in a range of health and care settings spanning 26 years, including rehabilitation, specialist seating and posture management. Dr Ledger has an MSc in Rehabilitation Science and a PhD in Health Sciences. Her areas of research are focused around pressure ulcer prevention and person-centred practice. Her leadership experience includes senior leadership positions within NHS organisations and across integrated care systems, quality assurance roles working on behalf of professional bodies, and comprehensive HEI experience. Lisa is particularly passionate about embedding research within practice and the vital role that AHPs contribute to person-centred practice.

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# Speakers

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**Professor Roxanne Crosby-Nwaobi** is a Clinical Academic Ophthalmic Nurse and Professor of Ophthalmic Health and Care at University College London's Institute of Ophthalmology. She is an NIHR Clinical Lecturer, and the Programme Director for the NIHR Senior Research Leader Programme. She has a particular interest in population health for underserved communities. She is the recipient of numerous national and international awards including the RCN Researcher of the Year Award 2023 and the ARVO Advocacy in Eyes and Vision Research Award, and is a Fellow of the RCN.

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**Jennifer Syson** is an NIHR Senior Research Leader and Research Matron and Senior Research Midwife at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She is the chair of the NIHR Reproductive Health and Childbirth (RH&C) National Research Champion Group and works with a national network of Champions across the country and devolved nations to support RH&C research. She has worked in clinical research delivery for the last 15 years and currently leads the clinical research workforce across the Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She is a passionate advocate for research and ensuring opportunities are offered to all who are eligible.

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# Conference Agenda: Morning

Time	Activity/Speaker
8:30am	Registration & Coffee
AM Plenary	Chair: Clare Pheasant
9:00am - 9:30am	Introduction and outline of work and strategy - Julie Hogg & David Wright
9:30am - 10:00am	Key note speaker 1 - Lisa Ledger - Growing, Embedding and Sustaining NMAHP Research - NIHR Updates
10:00am - 10:20am	Key note speaker 2 - Roxanne Crosby-Nwoabi
10:20am - 10:40am	Key note speaker 3 - Jennifer Syson - Integrating Clinical Research into Everyday Healthcare
10:40am - 11:15am	Break
11:15am - 11:45am	Questions from the morning - Seth O'Neill, Lisa Ledger, Roxanne Crosby-Nwoabi & Jennifer Syson
AM Oral Presentations	Chair: Linzy Houchen-Wolloff
11:45am	Oral presentation 1 - Emma Robery - Enhancing Patient Recovery through Early Mobility: Reducing Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcers following Fractured Neck of Femur Injury
12:00pm	Oral presentation 2 - Michael Reeve - Chief Nurse Fellow Senior HCA - My Journey
12:15pm	Oral presentation 3 - Nicki Ruddock
12:30pm	Oral presentation 4 - Jennifer Jones - My Experience of being part of the Chief Nurse and Allied Healthcare Professional Fellowship 2024-2025 Intake
12:45pm	Oral presentation 5 - Helen Fort - Acute Shoulder Clinic - UHL
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Lunch and poster judging: People's group favourite (online vote) and Steering Group's favourite.

# Conference Agenda: Afternoon

Time	Activity/Speaker
2:00pm - 2:40pm	Workshop Session 1
Simultaneous sessions	Workshop 1: Research Culture - LEAD: Debi Bhattacharya & Dalvir Kandola
	Workshop 2: Strategically Developing my Clinical-Academic Career - LEAD Joseph Manning
	Workshop 3: Local & Regional Funding Opportunities - Top Tips for Application Success LEAD Nigel Brunskill & Eleanor Meldrum/Clare Pheasant, Kate Westlake & Seth O'Neill
2:45pm - 3:30pm	Workshop Session 2
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Comfort Break
PM Panel	Compares: Ganesh Baliah & David Wright
4:00pm - Panel	What the IEH can offer you with Q&A - all Steering Committee members
	Prize giving for posters and oral presentations - presented by David Wright
4:30pm	Finish and feedback forms

# Workshops

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## **WORKSHOP 1: SHAPING FUTURE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW RESEARCH AND ACHIEVE EQUITY IN HEALTHCARE**

The Department of Health and Social Care has highlighted inequity in opportunities for healthcare staff to contribute towards generating evidence for improving care provision. This workshop will provide an overview of the key factors that are driving inequity. Participants will be organised into small groups and allocated a factor driving inequity, plus a range of theory and evidence-based potential solutions. Each group will be facilitated to select one or more solutions for their allocated factor and to design a local approach to address inequity.

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## **WORKSHOP 2: STRATEGICALLY DEVELOPING MY CLINICAL ACADEMIC CAREER**

This workshop introduces delegates to the IDEAs Framework, a strategic tool for developing integrated clinical academic careers. Through a mix of presentation, guided reflection, and group discussion, participants explore four key domains: Influencers, Drivers, Enablers, and Ambitions. They assess their own career journeys, identify strategic priorities, and define actionable steps to advance their goals. The session fosters personal insight, peer learning, and practical planning, empowering delegates to navigate their unique paths with clarity and purpose.

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## **WORKSHOP 3: LOCAL AND REGIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - TOP TIPS FOR APPLICATION SUCCESS**

This workshop outlines relevant funding opportunities for Healthcare Professionals at a local and regional level. You will hear from leaders of the schemes around the practicalities of eligibility and how to apply. Alongside this, those who have benefitted from funding will discuss top tips for application success.

**DELEGATES MAY CHOOSE TO ATTEND TWO OF THE THREE WORKSHOPS ON OFFER, AS TWO OF THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD DURING SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS.**



# Conference Feedback

2025



**Please scan the  
QR code above to  
access the  
'people's choice'  
poster vote.**



**Please scan the  
QR code above to  
access the  
Conference  
feedback form.**

**CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE  
SENT DIRECTLY TO DELEGATES VIA EMAIL  
AFTER THE CONFERENCE HAS TAKEN PLACE**