

Research team achievements AY 2022/23

Introduction

As we reflect on our 2-year anniversary (Sept 2023) we would like to outline what we have achieved over the past 12 months. Many of these initiatives came with a steer from the WIPH Research Committee and we are very grateful to the membership of that group for their time and energy. We have highlighted the primary targets for each of these initiatives.

1. Research Seminars

ECR

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Seniors

The team delivered thirteen research seminars (+3 on 2021/22) for which the presenters have been a mix of WIPH (69%), QMUL (8%) and external (23%). The seminar series have largely been delivered online, with a few in the hybrid format. The series has been chaired by Belinda Nedjai and supported by Patrick Mullan. The series has not had an active committee throughout 22/23, but this is being revived for AY 23/24. There are plans to move towards a higher proportion of non-WIPH and External speakers for 23/24 now that WIPH is well established and strong connections have been made between Centres.

2. How I got my Fellowship series

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With significant input from Prof Trevor Sheldon, the team has delivered sessions on three different Fellowship schemes and one surgery. Attendance has been good:

- September 9th 2022: Ashwin Karla, **Barts Charity Health Professional Clinical Research Training Fellowship**
- November 10th 2022: Dr John Ford, **NIHR Advanced Fellowship**
- January 12th 2023: Prof Trevor Sheldon **Surgery with Maev Coneely (Wellcome Early Career Award)**
- March 9th 2023: Vanessa Apea, Stephen Hibbs & Sam Hodgson, **HARP Fellowship**
- May 31st 2023: Prof Trevor Sheldon **Surgery with Amanda Shaich (NIHR Doctoral Fellowship)**

The team are now in the process of planning the next year's offering. To ensure that content remains relevant we have surveyed those colleagues who have attended any of the above sessions as well as the WIPH ECR group and those to ask for feedback and suggestions.

3. How I got my Industry Funding series

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Seniors

The team has delivered six sessions: one general intro and five specific channels for industry funding

- January 31st 2023: Business Development team (BD Team) **General Introduction**
- February 23rd 2023: Andrew Shaw and Yan Fen (CEM) **Consultancy**
- April 12th 2023: BD Team and Belinda Nedjai (C Cancer SPED) **Contract Research non-clinical trial**
- May 18th 2023: Ginette Hoare and Manish Saxena **Contract Research clinical trial**
- July 6th 2023: BD Team and Alastair Noyce **KTPs**
- September 13th 2023: BD Team and Charlie Marshall **Collaborative Grants**

4. Research Grants Workshop series

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The team completed this series, delivering the following additional sessions:

- September 27th 2022: Developing and writing a good project grant application
- November 10th 2022: Costing your project
- March 22nd 2023: Managing your project finances
- May 16th 2023: Developing and writing a good programme grant application

ECR

5. Developing researchers of the future

The team continues to interact directly with the WIPH ECR group mail list, forwarding relevant training opportunities and events. In addition to proactive communications we also continue to support this group with a budget for them to be able to invite external training providers and speakers to their monthly meetings.

In July the team organized the second WIPH Graduate Study Day, held in the Rotblat Lecture Theatre. We responded to feedback from the first year by organising a panel in addition to the student presentations. We invited Alison Thomson (CPN), Georgina Mathlin (CP&MH) and Mohammad Hassannezhad (SEMS) to sit on a panel to which questions were directed from the PhD students around five themes: PhD/Life balance; Dissemination and stakeholder engagement; Writing up; PhD viva; and What to do Post PhD?

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6. WIPH Staff zone – research section

The team completed detailed research pages for the staff zone ahead of the launch September 2023 which include Listen and Learn; Research Funding; Seminars, Workshops and Conferences; Pre- and Post-Award Process; Research Design and Development; and Peer Groups and Special Interest Groups. Feedback has been good so far.

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Seniors

7. Bilateral exchange with School for Engineering and Materials Science

The team organised an exchange of interested WIPH and SEMS staff on 31.3 2023. The motivation for this meeting was that rather than reacting to calls it would be good to get ahead of the curve and have begun to establish groups of researchers who want to work together and possible project ideas across SEMS and FMD. The meeting began some interesting conversations and was followed up with a Sharepoint database of SEMS and WIPH researchers to facilitate future collaboration.

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Seniors

8. WIPH Quarterly Writing Retreats

The team ran two writing retreats in the AY 22/23 which have each been full to capacity and have had very good feedback. The facilitated retreats are all morning with tea & coffee and lunch provided. Going forwards we plan to run four each year, and based on feedback are also looking at the possibility for extra sessions which are non facilitated but offer a quiet space surrounded by colleagues who are also writing.

ECR

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Seniors

9. **WIPH Academic Lead for Impact**

The team coordinated the recruitment of the WIPH Academic Lead for Impact, and appointed Charles Marshall in June 2023. Since that time Charlie has, alongside Luke Cridland FMD Impact Officer, has met with nearly every Unit Lead in WIPH to hear about all the ongoing research, identify strong candidates for the impact watch list, and suggest ways in which people might link up with support for help with developing impact.

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Seniors

10. **FMD Research Strategy Board**

The team works with FMD Research Strategy Board to introduce activities related to research, either mandated by FMD or recommended by WIPH, as smoothly as possible to ensure that practices are suited to the research which takes place in WIPH.

New for 2023/24 – details to come in our next annual report, autumn 2024.

1. Publication Writing Workshop Series, monthly for 5 sessions
2. Whiteboard sessions, monthly
3. Health Inequalities Grant Clinic, monthly
4. Outreach with Centres and Units including focused meetings and drop-in clinic
5. New offering for Fellowships
6. Quick-fire research showcase for retention of masters students
7. Mapping and networking research-related professional service roles in WIPH