

## Research team achievements AY 2021/22

### 1. Introduction

The WIPH Research Team had our inaugural meeting in September 2021. As we approach our 1-year anniversary we would like to outline what we have achieved. Many of these initiatives come 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.

### 2. Research Seminars

ECR

MCR

Seniors

The team has delivered ten research seminars for which the presenters have been a mix of internal (60%) and external (40%). The seminar series have largely been delivered online, with a few in the hybrid format towards the end of the year. The series has been steered by the Research Seminar Series Committee, chaired by Belinda Nedjai and supported by Patrick Mullan, which has active representation from all five centres.

### 3. How I got my Fellowship series

ECR

MCR

The team has delivered seminars on five different Fellowship schemes and one surgery. Attendance has been very good:

- October 12<sup>th</sup> 2021: Dr Monique Tan, **NIHR Advanced Fellowship** – 76 attendees, not recorded
- December 7<sup>th</sup> 2021: Dr Nina Fudge, **THIS Institute Fellowship** – 57 attendees, 4 on-demand views
- February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022: Dr Ana Sobrido, **UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship** – 37 attendees, 3 on-demand views
- March 15<sup>th</sup> 2022: Dr Lovorka Stojic, **CRUK Career Establishment Award** – 32 attendees, 1 on-demand view
- June 9<sup>th</sup> 2022: Prof Trevor Sheldon **Surgery Q&A** – 32 attendees, 6 on-demand views
- July 21<sup>st</sup> 2022: Dr Vittoria Graziani, **MSCA Fellowship** – 13 attendees, 2 on-demand views

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.

### 4. Research Grants Workshop series

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Seniors

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, the team delivered a two-part workshop for current/prospective PhD supervisors covering (i) *“Getting the right team: How to create the perfect supervisory team, and the mistakes to avoid”*, and (ii) *“Planning the right project: How to design a successful PhD project and secure funding”*. The workshop had 20 attendees and 4 on-demand views.

Further workshops will follow this academic year (September – January), covering the following topics and particularly targeting MCRs:

- Developing and writing a good project grant application
- Developing and writing a good programme grant application
- Costing your project
- Managing your project finances.

## 5. Developing researchers of the future

ECR

Alongside the seminars, series and workshops, we have implemented other initiatives to help develop our researchers of the future. For **PhDs/ ECRs** we have heard directly from this group that their most common need is around statistical training and support, and we are working with senior colleagues to explore provision across the Institute.

The team interacts directly with the WIPH ECR group mail list, forwarding relevant training opportunities and events. In addition to proactive comms we also support this group where asked and have negotiated a budget for them to be able to invite external training providers and speakers to their monthly meetings.

Since the team started last year, we have established a PGR student representative committee, which provides a feedback channel on how we can best support students going forwards. We have also offered the opportunity for students to speak once a quarter about their research at the WIPH Research Seminar Series, with the inaugural seminar to take place October 2022. Additionally in July the team organized the first WIPH Graduate Study Day, held in the Willoughby Lecture Theatre. Over 40 students attended the day, which saw fantastic presentations from 16 speakers discussing their research and the student experience so far. This event really showcased the fascinating and diverse research that is being carried out by our students and was a wonderful celebration of our PGR community.

## 6. Reporting on WIPH grant income

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Seniors

The team has developed a clear framework for quarterly reporting on grants with a focus on (i) conversion rates of submissions to awards, and (ii) an overview of award income, both award value and character, e.g. bid size/ funding body etc.

Disaggregation of both bid conversion and income data to Research Centre will allow strategic thinking about where we need to focus more support, whilst also being mindful of the very different natures of our five centres. The team is also working with all Centre Managers to provide bespoke quarterly reports. This will support a data-driven approach to research management. e reports to assist with centre-led management of their portfolios.

## 7. Commercial Funding

ECR

MCR

Seniors

The team have established a WIPH Commercial Funding Group with representation from all five centres, specifically PIs who have received commercial funding. The group has met once, highlighting the diverse experience held within the Institute. In parallel we are working closely with the QMUL Business Development Team to harness their expertise. Aims of this body of work are: (i) increase the number of colleagues in WIPH who feel comfortable exploring/ applying for commercial funding, and (ii) host a strategic workshop to discuss future directions for commercial partnerships.

## 8. WIPH Website – research pages

ECR

MCR

Seniors

The team contributed to the overhaul of the research landing page, and we have collated all postgraduate funding opportunities for the 'Postgraduate Research' page. In liaison with the WIPH Communications Officer and FMD colleagues we have also updated with information on the REF2021 results. It was decided to no longer maintain lists of current and past research projects as these become out of date too quickly. However we are promoting current projects in the School for Primary Care Research as there is a dedicated Projects Manager (Juliet Henderson) to maintain these pages. The hope is that this presence will help to recruit interest in SPCR-funded opportunities, both in terms of research and capacity development projects.

## 9. Working with JRMO/ QMUL Research Infrastructure

ECR

MCR

Seniors

The team are in close communication with JRMO around pain points in terms of both pre- and post- award.

- One of the main issues has been around delayed sponsorship review and approval for qualitative studies.
- The team coordinated a response to the recent consultation on Research Support Infrastructure.