

Public and patient involvement and engagement strategy

Background: HPRUs at Imperial College

Imperial College London's National Institute for Health Research Health Protection Research Units (NIHR HPRUs) improve public health through health protection research, which involves bringing together academic institutions and public health professionals. Imperial College, London currently hosts the following five HPRUs:

- [Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [Respiratory Infections](#)
- [Modelling and Health Economics](#)
- [Environmental Exposures and Health](#)
- [Chemical and Radiation Threats and Hazards](#)

Imperial HPRUs are all part of the national HPRU PPIE network and work collaboratively with one another to ensure inclusive and impactful public involvement, public engagement and public participation in our research with patients and members of the public.

We are all committed to the [UK Standards for Public Involvement](#), which is reflected in our dedication to provide inclusive opportunities and support, produce accessible and relevant communications, promote collaboration and learning, and systematically collect and share the impact of public involvement, engagement and participation, in our research. We value transparency and accountability and will embed public (and community) representation in our research governance. Imperial College, London has access to extensive public involvement and engagement resources in order to implement this strategy which are set out in more detail below. We also have access to a variety of public groups including via the VOICE portal, our community contacts, the Imperial Young People's Advisory Network and established mailing lists.

We are also committed to encouraging the use of a [Public involvement Log \(PHWE\)](#) and where appropriate the use of the completion of the [GRIPP2](#) checklist as a minimum, to record feedback from public contributors and collect information on of PPIEP impact.

Background to the HPRU in HCAI AND AMR: The Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in healthcare associated infections (HCAI) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at Imperial College aims to establish a fully integrated, responsive and operational unit, capable of producing health protection research in HCAI and AMR of the highest quality and of the greatest potential impact. It further aims to translate this research into practice by developing a strong, comprehensive network of relevant expertise with the organisational resilience needed to respond to any emerging issue or public health incident related to HCAI and AMR.

In the pursuit of this vision the Unit also has a commitment to ensuring patient and public involvement and engagement in its work. The definitions we adopt are those of the NIHR via INVOLVE, namely:

- **Involvement** – where members of the public are actively involved in research projects and research organisations.
- **Engagement** – where information and knowledge about research is provided and disseminated.
- **Participation** – where people take part in a research study.

Purpose: To ensure considerate and genuine public and patient involvement, engagement and participation (PPIEP) activities are central to our research. The HPRU in HCAI and AMR agrees with the NIHR that patients, carers and the public can bring particular knowledge and insights to research based on their personal experiences as users of health and social care services and treatments. Members of the public without experience of healthcare and other services can also offer a valuable perspective and the involvement of these groups in the design, execution and management of research can help to improve its quality, relevance and the wider dissemination of its results.

Furthermore, as our research is publicly funded, it is also important to raise awareness of the work we do. Wherever possible we should work to foster an environment where involvement, engagement and participation are encouraged and opportunities to develop these activities are undertaken wherever practical to do so.

Aims:

1. Enable PPIEP at all levels.
2. Consider PPIEP in all activities.
3. Engage with internal and external stakeholders for PPIEP-related activities.

Leadership: The overall responsibility for delivering the PPIEP strategy rests with the Director of the HPRU in HCAI and AMR at Imperial, Professor Alison Holmes. Professor Holmes will be primarily supported by the named PPIEP lead – Juliet Allibone, Head of Operations and the core administrative team. Individual theme leads are responsible for ensuring that their staff commit to and support the strategy, participating in public and patient focused activities. Lead Researchers in each theme are responsible for identifying suitable individual research projects for patient and public involvement and appropriate ways in which patients and the public can contribute to that research. They are also responsible for considering how best to ensure the effective public communication of research results and outputs, supported and guided by Theme Leads and the Unit’s Public Partners where necessary.

Resources: The HPRU has a core administrative team consisting of a Head of Operations, Research Facilitator and administrative assistant, who undertake the day-to-day activities needed to deliver the strategy, including taking a central role in planning and coordinating any engagement activities. They are also the first port of call for our public partners, or any members of the public wishing to become involved with our research.

The Unit has a dedicated budget in order to meet the costs of patient and public involvement at a strategic level. External funding will be sought for specific engagement activities and opportunities to further resource our PPIEP agenda.

Management and Governance:

Overall responsibility: Professor Alison Holmes, HPRU Director

PPIEP Lead: Ms Juliet Allibone, HPRU Head of Operations

To facilitate PPEIP at all levels, our Management and Governance aims to incorporate PPIEP at both individual project and strategic Unit levels. As part of our planning process, all new projects to be included in the Unit’s forward business plan will need a completed “project summary template”. This template amongst other things, asks the Lead Researcher to identify key potential stakeholders for the results of the project, who will be responsible for translation actions from the project and to identify a named PPIEP representative if there is scope for involvement. The aim of this is to ensure that Patient and Public Engagement and Involvement are considered early in the project inception process.

Patient and public engagement, involvement and participation is a standing item on the Strategy, Management and Operations Committee which is held quarterly (when practical) and attended by the HPRU Director, PHE Co-Director and Theme Leads from both the College and PHE. This ensures progress can be monitored internally.

Beyond this, the Director and Lead Researchers/Theme Leads are accountable for progress in PPIEP to the HPRU’s the Scientific Advisory Board which meets annually. This Board, as well as including representatives from the Unit’s partners, other related HPRUs and a selection of experts in the field, includes 3 “public partners”. The Board reviews the Unit’s overall direction and progress including PPIEP progress, which is a standing item on the Board’s agenda. Our Public Partners have role descriptions which provide details of support and reporting lines, including a facility to report directly to the external Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board and/or to the Director of the HPRU over any matters of concern. In addition, the HPRU will be required annually to report all progress, including its progress in delivering its PPIEP Strategy, to its funder the NIHR.

Partnerships: Our HPRU exists in a context in which there is a considerable range of PPIEP activity. The Imperial Patient Experience Research Centre (PERC), offers Public Involvement and Societal Engagement training, a Public Involvement Resource Hub and access to the VOICE platform and Imperial Young People's Advisory Group (17 to 25 years old). The PERC also funds, along with the Imperial College NHS Trust Biomedical Research Centre a dedicated PPIEP Manager. The College has also invested in societal engagement with a schools outreach and widening participation team, a local community engagement team and a programming team who organise a range of events including the Imperial Lates and the annual Imperial Festival. This dedicated Engagement team is further supported by a Societal Engagement Champions Network which runs across the College to stimulate and support collaborative working and provides a suite of training and skills development opportunities, the most in-depth of which is the Engagement Academy, an innovative seven-day course which takes place over six months, and involves seminars, practical workshops and panel discussions. The programme is delivered in collaboration between Imperial's Public Engagement team and Science Communication Unit. Finally, Public Health England has its own Peoples' Panel of over 400 members of the public who provide public and patient involvement (PPI) representation and feedback on the programmes and services that PHE provide. PPI representatives participate in various activities relating to PHE's business, programmes and projects, including: Completing online surveys; taking part in focus groups; consultation events; workshops; sitting on committees (e.g. the government's advisory committee on Antimicrobial Prescribing, Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection – APRHAI) or being part of reference groups. We will therefore work in partnership with all these groups to maximise opportunities for PPIEP, sharing resources, information and best practice as well as collaborating wherever appropriate in the delivery of events or activities. We will also work with the NIHR for any joint HPRU initiatives and make best use of the resources and networks they provide and with existing relevant patient and public associations when appropriate to do so.

Strategy: The purpose, aims, objectives, activities and KPIs of the PPIEP strategy can be found on the following tables.

Patient and public involvement, engagement and participation strategy 2020-2025

Purpose: To ensure considerate and genuine public and patient involvement, engagement and participation (PPIEP) activities are central to our research.

Aims	Objectives	Activities
Enable PPIEP at all levels.	Ensure PPIEP at Board level.	Maintain at least 3 PPIEP representatives on our yearly SAB. Additional annual consult with PPIEP Board reps to revisit PPIEP strategy and activities.
	Encourage and support projects in each research theme to include PPIEP activities.	Maintain records of ongoing research activities with information on PPIEP potential. Assign PPIEP lead for projects, as appropriate, as part of forward business planning process.
Consider PPIEP in all activities.	Incorporate patient and public involvement into research, where appropriate.	Invest in a core administration team with supporting PPIEP as a major part of their remit. Apply for external PPIEP-related funding when available and relevant. Encourage PPIEP reps to review relevant grant proposal abstracts, information leaflets, or other research materials meant for public distribution.
	Incorporate patient and public engagement into research, where appropriate.	Annual active participation at Imperial Festival. Annual participation in World Antimicrobial Awareness Week. Enhanced social media (Twitter) usage to raise awareness of research. Broader dissemination of research via brochures/handouts at events.
	Incorporate patient and public participation into research, where appropriate.	Annual PPIEP survey at Imperial Festival events. PPIEP survey at all other public events.
	Ensure all HPRU-associated academic and professional staff have required knowledge and training of PPIEP.	PPIEP responsibilities in Job Descriptions. Raise awareness of training opportunities via Imperial engagement academy and PERC.
Engage with internal and external stakeholders for PPIEP-related activities.	Create wide-reaching network of PPIEP resources.	Collaborate with other HPRUs at Imperial and beyond to deliver PPIEP at appropriate events. Collaborate with other NIHR infrastructure in PPEIP activities.