

# brighton and sussex health research partnership

## Partnership News

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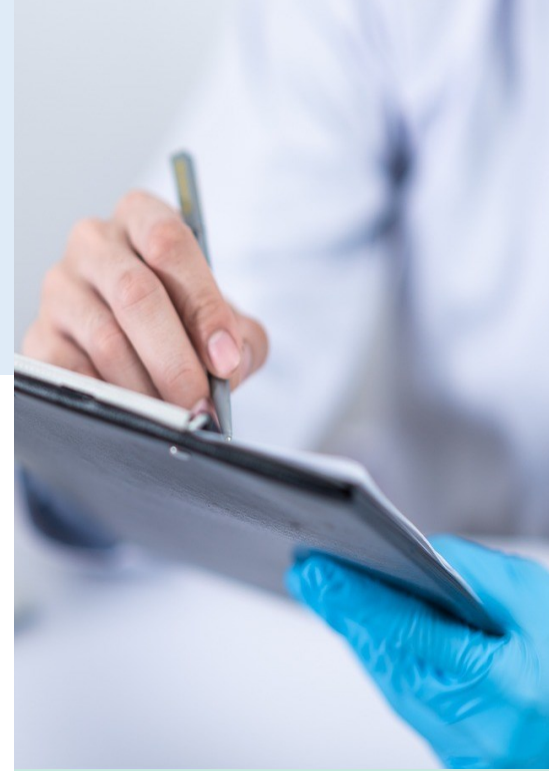
### Developing a Clinical Academic Training Office

The HRP Building Research Capacity & Training workstream met face-to-face in January to discuss setting up a CATO (Clinical Academic Training Office) that could benefit clinical academics across the partnership.

The HRP CATO will be a centralised multi-professional liaison and training hub that will act as a single point of contact for advice, best practice and information on academic careers, recruitment to training posts, and provide training and development for academic clinicians at all stages of their training.

The CATO will support clinical academics/researchers at all levels and professions across the HRP including doctors and health and care professionals outside medicine. Supporting and fostering the developmental needs of clinical academic trainees locally is vital to ensure a high quality 'homegrown' clinical academic faculty for the future. Overall, the aim is to develop clinical academic careers, to win funding from all potential sources and maximise ability to win academic clinical fellowships and lectureships. We need to increase opportunities for clinical academic careers, especially for those in underrepresented groups, and increase and embed a research-rich culture with direct impact on driving high-quality, evidence-based care.

At the meeting it was important for us to brainstorm the role of the CATO and to ensure each of our partners were embedded in the process. The Brighton and Sussex HRP CATO that the workshop envisioned will be a single point of contact for advice, best practice and information on academic careers. The CATO would offer combined oversight of training programmes, oversight and support for funded clinical academic posts, a programme of seminars and training, mentoring and network opportunities, dissemination of information and guidance, and greater networking and cooperation between our partners. It was agreed that the CATO would need funded leadership and administrative posts to support its work, and that cross-partner collaboration was essential to supplement existing programmes. The workstream have co-opted additional partner representatives to assist in the CATO's development, and a business case will be developed for approval by the HRP Board.



### About the Brighton and Sussex Health Research Partnership

The Health Research Partnership (HRP) is an exciting initiative that will bring together academic and NHS partners across Brighton and Sussex to further strengthen our research profile, attract more funding and deliver more large scale research that will have an impact on the future care of patients accessing our services. The HRP will allow each of its partner organisations to realise their research ambitions — maximizing opportunities for staff, patients and our local population to participate in research which impacts on their health and medical care.

[www.bsms.ac.uk/hrp](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/hrp)

### Learning from REDUCe 2

The REDUCe 2 study has been a great success in terms of grant funding for BSMS. In this video, chief investigator Professor Sumita Verma reflects upon the difficulties in preparing a major grant application and the changes in research support over the last ten years, and gives advice to researchers considering their own major projects.

[Click here to watch the video](#), and find out more about the study [here](#).

## Research in partnership to drive local impact

One key strategic aim for the HRP is to establish a distinctive local profile of health and care research for Brighton and Sussex, valued for the excellence of its contribution to successful research development, delivery and implementation, enriching the health and care research environment.

The HRP aims to align research closely to patient, service and population priorities by working closely with local and national health and care providers - NIHR, Integrated Care Board for Sussex and local NHS Trusts. The partners aim to develop workshops bringing academic, clinical, and public health partners together around particular areas of need, to discover ways in which existing knowledge and resource could be focused on delivering improved care for our communities. Developing collaborative models that benefit all partners and communities takes time, but we hope to be able to report key advances in our work by autumn's annual conference.

### Welcome Virginia!

In early February we were delighted to be joined by the new Head of HRP and JCRO, Virginia Govoni.

Virginia has a Masters Degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies from the University of Bologna, an MPhil in Diabetes and Nutritional Sciences from King's College London and 10 years' experience in developing strategic programmes and collaborations in medical research settings.



*"I am very excited to start this new role. In the Brighton and Sussex area there is much potential to develop impactful research for the benefit of local institutions, staff and the local communities. I am looking forward to developing these collaborations, building on local excellence and strengths in healthcare and medical research."*

### Meet the Partners — Professor Martin Smith



"I'm the Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Exchange in the School of Applied Sciences at the University of Brighton. As a professor of geochemistry, my research experience lies outside health, but I am responsible for leading research for the school which extends across pharmacy, biomedical science, and environmental science. As a member of the HRP's Academic Groups and Building Research Capacity workstreams, I'm looking for the HRP to help develop

research links between Pharmacy and Biomedical Science and Allied Health Professions (in the School of Sport and Health Science) at the University of Brighton, and the BSMS and local NHS trusts."

## UHSx Medical Doctoral Fellowship Scheme

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust has recently launched a second round of its MD/PhD fellowship scheme for clinical medical trainees. As this is a fellowship scheme, a prospective student should identify a suitable supervisor with whom they can develop a project, which is then submitted by the student. BSMS faculty who are interested in offering supervision for projects can contribute a brief biography for a portfolio of BSMS supervisors being advertised to applicants. Please email [researchdegrees@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:researchdegrees@bsms.ac.uk) should you wish to be included as a potential supervisor and have yet to submit a biography. Further details of the eligibility criteria and the application form can be found on the NHS jobs website [here](#). The application deadline is Monday 24th April.

## Dementia Research Conference 2023

29th-30th March

A collaboration between BSMS and SPFT, this conference will feature a range of national experts in dementia research as well as local researchers and representation from patients who shape our research.

[Click here for more information, and to register.](#)

## NIHR Research Programme Workshop

Wednesday 19th April, 10.00-13.00

RDS South East offer an overview of NIHR funding opportunities, research programmes and application processes.

[Register here](#)

## SPFT Research Network

Our research network is our community of patients, carers, staff, researchers - in fact, anyone who is interested in learning more about our research. It's a great way to keep up-to-date and take part in research studies.

If you want to hear more about research studies, news and events, [join the network here](#).

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[www.bsms.ac.uk/hrp](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/hrp)