



August 2021

Hello and a warm welcome to our first ever University of Aberdeen Patient and Public Involvement update.

You are receiving this email as you have previously completed a Patient and Public Involvement Expression of Interest Form, if would you rather not receive any further communications please reply to this email with "STOP" and we will remove your details from our database.

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to express your interest in our research, our plan would be to send regular email updates on our research studies, any other information that we would like to share with you, and with details of opportunities to get involved with our studies.

Who we are

Our Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) team is small but perfectly formed and is made up of: Stuart Anderson, Dr Karen Forrest Keenan, and Laura Moir. We are all study coordinators within the Epidemiology, Group and are committed to involving members of the public in every aspect of our research activities. PPI is the term we use to describe involving members of the public and patients in how our research is designed, conducted and shared to ensure that it is as accessible and relevant as possible.



The Epidemiology Group

The Epidemiology Group is one of the major research groups within the Institute of Applied Health Science. Our main research focus is on the epidemiology, outcome and management of arthritis, pain, and musculoskeletal health. In our research we aim:

- To understand their epidemiology, with a focus on modifiable risk factors;
- To conduct trials of management with the goal of preventing onset or improving patient outcome; and
- To design, implement and evaluate health services for patients with these conditions.

Our specific clinical focus is on common disabling conditions (musculoskeletal pain, including fibromyalgia, and fatigue), inflammatory disorders (axial spondyloarthritis and psoriatic arthritis), and rare conditions (vasculitis). We conduct our research using a variety of approaches including both quantitative and qualitative approaches, and also undertake methodological work within each of these three areas.

You can find out more about the group and our research by clicking on the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/psr43yep>

An example of one of our research studies



RHEUMAPS: Rheumatic and musculoskeletal conditions: geographical mapping and of prevalence and outcomes.

What is the Study about?

This study uses healthcare records , interviews and a survey of patients in rural and urban areas to look at how many people are living with rheumatic

and musculoskeletal conditions and to understand more about the health and healthcare priorities of those living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease (RMD)

The results of this study will then be used to support vital local service planning, resource allocation and inform decision-making in both community and secondary care to best meet immediate and ongoing future health and care demands for people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease.

Study Update

To date we have interviewed 15 people with RMD who live in a rural area about their priorities for care, and had approval from the Public Benefit and Privacy Panel for Health and Social Care Health to begin our data linkage.

We have also co-designed with our RHEUMAPS PPI group a patient priority survey, and **we will be reaching out to you again soon to ask for your help in completing this.**

Find out more

To find out more about this study please click on the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/y6m6ufxn>

Other exciting information



University of Aberdeen 100% Online Free Upskilling Courses

The University has received an increase in its funding to help Scotland's workforce upskill and reskill. As a result, and for the first time, we can offer fully funded places to staff on a range of our online short courses in 2021/22.

Tell your friends and family - applications are welcome from anyone resident in Scotland.

[Funding is available for application now, with the applications closing at 5pm on 30 August.](#)

If you are successful in applying and completing one of these courses we would love to hear about it.

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and if you would like to contact us please email laura.moir1@abdn.ac.uk with any comments or feedback you may have.

You are receiving this email because you have agreed to be part of the Patient and Public Involvement Pool at University of Aberdeen Epidemiology Group. If you would rather not receive any further communications please reply to this email with "STOP" and we will remove your details from our database. If you have any questions or comments you can contact us at epippi@abdn.ac.uk