

Research Snapshot

Your inside look into the world of research at SFH

Happy Easter!

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Research Snapshot. As we enter 2022-23 we are optimistic about the future of Research at SFH and excited to participate in another successful year bringing potentially life changing treatments to our patients



Introducing Lynne Allsop – Research Matron

I joined the Research & Innovation team in June 2010 as a Respiratory Research Nurse.

When I attained this position, I realised that I had found my vocation and my passion for research has grown ever since.

Research at SFH used to be confined to a small number of specialities however during my time here this has increased substantially with 25 specialities actively involved in various types of research..

My current role is that of Research Matron. On a day-to-day basis I am responsible for the personnel and operational management of the team which includes Nurse's, AHP's, HCA's and a small admin team. This has been a challenge which I have relished. I find a 'lead by example' approach works best along with experience, and that the more training and support you can give to staff helps to develop and motivate them, making staff more receptive.

One of the things I'm particularly proud of is the implementation of the Research Academy (see below) which has seen many nurses inspired to join us in research on a full-time basis.

A key part of my role is to ensure that all research carried out at the trust is governed to the highest quality and safety standards. Improving patient care is consistently at the forefront of my research endeavours, ensuring research at SFH will benefit our patients, staff and other NHS organisations.



Research Academy

The SFH academy has been designed for those who would like to gain an understanding of Research within the NHS and understand how it can improve patient care and outcomes.

We are in the process of appointing 3 new members for 2022-23.

The benefits of this post are:

- Gaining a specialist knowledge of research
- Learning how to integrate research into everyday practice
 - Improving patient care and treatments
 - Helping for a better tomorrow
 - To deliver research for the NHS



Alison Steel – Head of Research & Innovation

Being handed the responsibility of 'budget holder' for a research function can be a daunting task at first. The budget comes from an external provider along with a long list of requirements that must be met and regular reporting to the funder, not least making sure we can employ our staff in the coming years. We are also in a unique position where we can make money for the Trust through commercial research, and this must be closely managed. Despite being the daughter of an accountant, I was woefully lacking in the mystical world of finance language needed to understand the interface between research and NHS finance. But I need not have worried, as along came my finance fairy godmother in the form of Finance Manager, Paula Ashcroft. The smoke began to clear as she supported me through this complex system and acted as my translator so that a few months on I found myself really enjoying this key part of my job; also due to Paula being one of the funniest, kindest, and understanding people I have met. It was not long before we were commended by our funder as an exemplar Trust for R&I finance management and the teamwork continued for several years. Paula is now moving on to bigger and better things which she so deserves. As I reluctantly let go of her hand, we wish her all the best in her new role and celebrate the support and expertise of our finance colleagues who ensure we can provide the best care to our patients'

Good Luck Paula, we will miss you

Paula Ashcroft – Finance Manager

'I'm just doing my job', is what I say to all my budget holders. My role is to help the budget holder understand and keep track of their expenditure and balance and forecast their budgets in the best way possible, enabling them to concentrate on the other aspects of their role. It has been a pleasure working with everyone and learning all about Research within the NHS for the past few years. Due to the funding mechanisms, it requires a different Finance role to most of the other departments in the hospital. Working alongside Alison was interesting in the beginning, but she has become an excellent budget holder and we have developed a successful Research/Finance partnership/friendship. I will miss working with everyone and will especially miss mine and Alison's regular monthly meetings/venture into the world of R&I & Finance. Keep up the fabulous work I wish you all the very best for the future.



With Easter fast approaching, we present to you... The Research and Innovation Easter Egg Hunt!

Each Year Cheryl Heeley hides Easter eggs

There are rules to the hunt.

- you must enter the Easter cupcake competition
- you must wait for Cheryl to say 'GO'
- don't take from people's desk
- most importantly Have Fun!!!

At 9am after (what seems like!) hours of waiting when Cheryl shouts 'GO' we all scurry around the office searching out the eggs and treats. There's tears of joy and laughter throughout.

At the end of the hunt, we come together as a team and share out the easter eggs to ensure everyone gets a treat.

The hunt is a great way to boost morale and team building. We would Like to thank Cheryl for organising this event each year and bringing in the 'fun factor' to work.

