



Research and Innovation Spring Newsletter

April 2025

Pump Priming competition winners

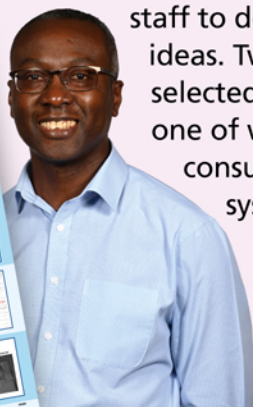
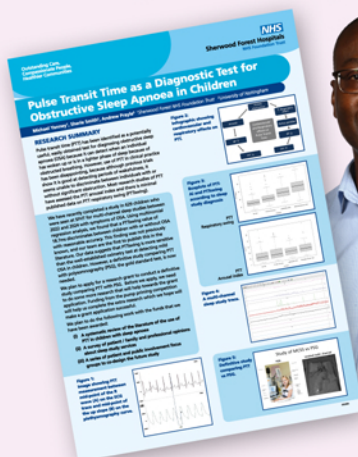
Congratulations to our pump priming competition winners; Stephanie Anstess and Dr Micheal Yanney.

In September, Research and Innovation launched their first Pump Priming competition with funding available for

staff to develop research ideas. Two projects were selected for funding, one of which is a nurse consultant led,

system-wide feasibility study to assess the use of a digital wound monitoring 'App', awarded to Stephanie Anstess.

The second project that was selected was for Dr Micheal Yanney. The funding will go towards supporting a research project for a new diagnostic test for children who suffer from sleep apnoea.



Welcome to our first Non-Executive Director

Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam (JVT) has been appointed as an Associate Non-Executive Director on the Trust's Board of Directors, with a specific focus on research and innovation. JVT will provide leadership to support our ambition and 2022-27 "Research is for everyone" strategy.

Heres what he has to say, I am very pleased to have made a start as your new Associate Non-Executive Director at SFT, with a specific responsibility for oversight of Research and Innovation. Let me first thank you for the warm welcome, in the R&I Department and Trust HQ of course, but also wider afield, as I get to grips with the many corridors of the main site. I appreciate you coming up to say hello. Always happy to talk about Boston United F.C. to literally anyone, and keen to meet SFT colleagues who are, like me, of Vietnamese origin. I'm also very conscious that we have two other sites in the Trust one of which is 'just up the road' from where I live and which my family visit fairly regularly with sports injuries! (continued overleaf).



(Continued from page 1).

Turning now to the business of R&I at the Trust, via Alison Steel, Kerry Evans and Jyothi Rajeswary, I am beginning to meet and learn about people across the Trust who are active or ambitious in research. Before I went to the Department of Health and Social Care in 2017, I had basically been a clinical researcher since 1991, in Nottingham and London, with a bit of time in the pharmaceutical industry along the way. I first got involved with research as a medical student and then as a Senior House Officer; and I suppose I just kept going. I am learning about research activity here in SFT – much more going on than you think! – and hoping I can play a role at Board level to offer some steerage and get the profile of research even higher within the Trust.

We improve healthcare for our patients and the wider population by doing research to work out what makes things better and, as importantly, what does not work. If we don't generate that evidence we simply can't progress. It is not all about medicines and treatments (important as these are) but also about how we do things in the most efficient way (operational research). The more involved we all get in research, the quicker we improve as an organisation. And research is definitely not just about doctors or even confined to healthcare staff; the best research is multi-disciplinary. I'm here to help on that journey, and as a starting point will be offering walk-in session between now and the summer to meet research interested or research ambitious staff – hopefully from many different professional groups.

Our Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals - leading and developing research.

A clinical academic is a health professional who is engaged concurrently in both clinical and academic activities and can provide clinical leadership in the pursuit of excellent evidence-based healthcare.

At SFH we are committed to supporting our Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals to access research career opportunities. Congratulations to, Katherine Champ and Daniel Housley were awarded prestigious and highly competitive NIHR East Midlands Clinical Academic training awards, providing a fully-funded Master's in Research, developing research skills and experiences focused on their clinical specialities.

Catherine states that, *As an emergency department nurse, it can feel difficult to create or champion change while working in such a fast-paced environment. The course has provided me the space and skills to know how to go about making a change. I take an active clinical role in spreading awareness around the research projects happening within the department and have been able to offer my help and support for upcoming funded studies.*

Just at the start of my research career in clinical academia, I'm already so excited to see where this takes me. It fills me with hope to feel that I can make a real difference.



Katherine Champ, Emergency Department Nurse