

Member profile for QNI Community Nursing Research Forum



Name: Eleanor Hoverd

Job title: HEE/NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellow;

Research Lead (secondment), Policy and Strategy Unit, CNO Team, Nursing Directorate, NHS England

Employing organisation: Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and NHSE

Country of residence: England

How would you describe your current role and research interests?

I am a clinical academic funded by Health Education England and the NIHR to undertake a three-year Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship (CDRF) on a topic that has been informed through my experience as a previous Clinical Research Nurse. I spend four days per week on my academic studies and one day per week working as a Research Lead in the Policy and Strategy Unit, with the Chief Nursing Officer Team in the Nursing Directorate at NHS England.

My research interests are around improving inclusion and participation in health and care research with under-served communities in the UK, particularly Black African Diaspora Communities.

How did you first get involved in doing clinical research / your own research?

I moved into a role as a primary care Clinical Research Nurse with the Clinical Research Network West Midlands, following a career in secondary care (Cardiology, Coronary Care and Cardiac Rehabilitation) in 2013. This exposed me to understanding the research process as well as some of the challenges that occur in delivering research in community settings.

I also developed a passion for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement in research and became the Lead for PPIE in primary care, working closely with patients and members of the public to raise awareness about research. In my role as a research nurse, I witnessed the exclusion of certain groups from research. This has motivated me to take accountability for improving inclusion of under-served communities through developing my own research.

What difference has your research training and experience made to your career / clinical practice / academic practice?

Embarking on a clinical academic career has given me so many opportunities to develop in all aspects of my career. This includes writing for publication, teaching, designing and leading my own research, presenting, developing critical appraisal skills and understanding of the importance of research to our everyday practice. In addition, being awarded a HEE/NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship has provided a springboard to my clinical academic career, providing in more opportunities for me to develop my leadership skills, specific research methods training and expanding my networks both nationally and internationally.

What has been your favourite research experience so far?

My favourite experience so far is going on an overseas visit as part of my doctoral training fellowship to meet global experts, Professor Consuelo Wilkins at Vanderbilt University, Nashville and Professor Jonathan Jackson at UMass General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Boston. Not only did I get to learn about their amazing work, I was fortunate to soak up the culture, take part in community engagement activities and learn about Black history in Nashville and Boston. It was a trip of a lifetime.

How did you develop your research career?

I took an interest in research when I was working as a Cardiac Rehabilitation Nurse and met with a Professor at Warwick who was developing a study on heart failure. This inspired me to become more curious about research and led to me looking for a role in research nursing. I applied, taking a side-step into a Clinical Research Nurse post and from there I developed an interest in how we can develop a more inclusive health and care research system.

I completed a Clinical Academic Internship Programme (CAIP) at the University of Birmingham. This was a six-month course, with 30 days of lectures and study time. It allowed me to develop my skills in literature searching, writing and research governance.

I applied for a HEE/NIHR pre-doctoral fellowship and was successful second time around! This enabled me to complete a Masters in Health Research and gave me the time to develop an application for a NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship.

What are your top tips for anyone wanting to become a clinical academic or more research active?

- Reach out and contact a Research Nurse, or clinical academic – ask them if you can speak to them or shadow them.
- If you are embarking on a clinical academic career – you will need perseverance and resilience. It's likely you will face rejection at some point, whether it's a grant application or a paper, but the satisfaction of getting there and knowing that you are creating impact is worth it.
- Find a topic that really interests you and you are passionate about. Learn more about it. Speak to experts in the field – don't be disheartened if they don't reply (they're probably just swamped, in demand etc.), try again or find someone else.
- Look for opportunities – they're not always obvious.
- Network.

Where can we access your recent work?

- [Factors influencing decisions about whether to participate in health research by people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds: a realist review - PubMed \(nih.gov\).](#)
- [The informed consent process in health research with under-served populations: a realist review protocol - PubMed \(nih.gov\).](#)
- [Development and validation of a telephone classification interview for common chronic headache disorders \(biomedcentral.com\).](#)

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