



National Cardiac  
Research Improvement  
Initiative (NCR II)

## **Background**

Exposure to clinical research is paramount in the training of healthcare professionals (surgeons, nurses and allied healthcare professionals). Whilst peer-reviewed research publications are often mandated from these professionals, guidance availability is scarce on how to formulate a research clinical question, design, conduct and delivery on how to answer the posed question. Often, healthcare professionals engage in research and produce diverse and usually small pieces of work. Allowing motivated professionals access to expertise early in the process and providing guidance into their research project research could lead to unified, high quality national research.

## **Aims**

To improve evidence based surgical practice through high-quality research.

To support, by mentoring and education, healthcare professionals to undertake pertinent and high-standard research.

## Structure:

### *Pre-meeting*

- Applicants can be mentored and receive peer review irrespective of the stage of the proposal in the research cycle. (**Figure 1**).
- Invitations to potential attendees will be sent by e-mail.
- Potential presenters will contact NCRII (via email to [sctsmentor@gmail.com](mailto:sctsmentor@gmail.com)).
- A further e-mail with instructions will be sent (Appendix 1).
- Presenters will complete a pre-session form with information regarding their project to ensure efficient information delivery and adequate planning (Appendix 2).
- The process is driven by the applicants, with the objectives and aims tailored to each applicant (e.g. review of design, analysis or help with IRAS).
- A meeting slot will be allocated for the presenter and a confirmation e-mail will be sent.

### *Meeting*

- The National Cardiac Research Improvement Initiative (NCRII) meeting will happen every first and third Monday at 4:30 pm via Microsoft Teams.
- Researchers will be allocated a time slot for presentation of their projects (10-15 minutes).
- The information presented and discussed will be treated with confidentiality and not shared with third parties. The outcomes will be minuted.
- This will be followed by discussion, feedback and personal guidance.
- Guidance will also be provided on the publication process, application for IRAS (Integrated Research Application System) and other steps required to achieve high-quality research outcome.

### *Post-meeting*

- Follow-up on the project will be possible and is deeply encouraged to allow continuous assessment during the different phase.
- Successive appointments will be scheduled, and feedback and comments provided until finalisation of the project.

## **Core Team**

**Chair:** Gianluca Lucchese, *Consultant Cardiac Surgeon and Senior Clinical Lecturer*(St. Thomas' Hospital and King's College London, London, UK)

**Co-Chair:** Enoch Akowuah, *Consultant Cardiac Surgeon and Professor of Cardiac Surgery* (James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, UK)

**Co-Chair:** Massimo Caputo, *Consultant Cardiac Surgeon and Professor of Congenital Cardiac Surgery* (University of Bristol, Bristol, UK)

**Organising Secretary:** Roman Marius, *Cardiac Surgery SpR and Clinical Lecturer* (Glenfield General Hospital and University of Leicester, Leicester, UK)

## **Metrics for success**

Evaluation of the meetings is essential for improvement. We will evaluate the success of the initiative by:

- Quantifying the number of projects (ongoing and finished) in 12 months' time.
- Quantifying the outcomes of projects (publication, conference presentation –oral and poster) in 12 months' time.
- Assessing feedback from presenters and attendees using a predesigned feedback form (Appendix 5).
- Mentors will undergo continuous personal development through formal training and accreditations by recognized Mentorship bodies.  
([www.emccglobal.org](http://www.emccglobal.org)).

**Figure 1.** Example of research cycle focused on patient and public involvement.

(<https://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/ppi/ppi-researcher-guidance/ppi-and-the-research-pathway/> - Accessed July 2022)

