

Barts Health Patient Research Champion role description

What is a Barts Health Patient Research Champion?

A Patient Research Champion (PRC) is someone who promotes health research from a patient's point of view, supports our research staff in the tasks they undertake and helps us to give our patients the best experience of taking part in research at Barts Health possible. A PRC could be a patient, service user, carer or lay person who has some spare time, is enthusiastic about health research and is willing to communicate that to other patients and public as well as healthcare professionals. The Barts Health Patient Research Champion role is based in part on the [NIHR Patient Champion role](#) and has been developed with the support of the Trust's [Voluntary Service](#).

Why do we need Patient Research Champions?

Healthcare research, which ranges from simple questionnaire-based studies to more complex, interventional clinical trials, is essential if we are to continue to develop new and better ways to treat patients in the NHS. At Barts Health we believe that patients, their carers and families and members of the public play an essential role in the development, delivery and dissemination of our research. As a Patient Research Champion you will be helping us to ensure that people using Barts Health NHS Trust services have access to information about research taking place within our hospitals and the best opportunities and choices about taking part, or getting involved, in research studies.

Barts Health Research Engagement and Diffusion Team

The Engagement and Diffusion team works with researchers, healthcare professionals, patients and the public to build stronger partnerships in the development, delivery and dissemination of our research and encourage greater levels of *engagement, participation* and *involvement*¹ in our research amongst our patients and local residents. The team provide a wide range of services and support from advising individual researchers/research teams on their plans for involving patients and members of the public in their research through to running events to raise awareness about the wide range of research conducted within our hospitals.

The team are also a central point of contact for patients and members of the public who are interested in participating or getting involved in research and also send information out directly to local people who have expressed their interest in getting involved. The E&D team is responsible for the Patient Research Champion scheme and will support volunteers in their training and delivery of the roles they choose to become involved with.

What will I be asked to do?

There are a number of ways in which you can help us to raise the profile of research across Barts Health NHS Trust and form closer links between research teams and the local communities we serve. These will cover tasks such as making sure we are displaying posters and leaflets for approved studies in our hospital reception areas, offering a 'lay' perspective to researchers on the design and development of their studies, volunteering at research events, conducting simple surveys and lots more besides.

¹ *Engagement: where information and knowledge about research is provided and disseminated; Participation: where people take part in a research study; Involvement: where members of the public are actively involved in research projects and research organisations.* ([INVOLVE](#))



We would like our Patient Research Champions to become involved in many different activities but let us know if you have a particular interest in one or more of the activities and we will do our best to find something which suits you. As a Patient Research Champion you can contribute according to your skills and interests and the time that you have available.

Activities might include:

- **By becoming a member of a research advisory group**, working with researchers to advise them on their research projects (helping to design and deliver better quality research, helping to develop understandable information sheets for people taking part in research or helping to make sure the research is reported in an understandable way).
- **Representing research at patient panels and patient group meetings** – e.g. presenting patient experience stories, highlighting the positive impacts of research, supporting researchers to capture their trial patient stories etc.
- **Ensuring information about clinical research taking place within our hospitals is displayed in places patients and visitors to our hospitals are most likely to see it** (e.g. displaying leaflets, posters and/or banners in waiting rooms and reception areas).
- **Meeting and greeting** trial participants when they come in for appointments; bringing them refreshments; keeping them company.
- **Promoting research campaigns** such as ‘International Clinical Trials Day’ and ‘I Am Research’ in hospitals, through social media, at events etc.
- **Helping out at research events** such as meeting and greeting guests or setting up information stands.
- **Creating research newsletters** to keep trial participants and other stakeholders informed of progress.
- **Sending thank you cards** to study participants.
- **Helping to conduct interviews for research staff** by being part of an interview panel.

Why do it? What’s in it for me?

- An experience of being part of the largest health Trust in Europe, regular volunteers bulletin, social occasions, and reference provided in line with policy;
- Influence and inform the ways in which we communicate with patients and the general public about healthcare research;
- Have a more active role by helping researchers to choose research topics which are most likely to bring benefits to patients, or advising them on the design and delivery of their studies;
- Enhance your understanding of medical research (what is happening and how it’s done);
- Networking opportunities for your professional life or to enhance your CV;
- Flexible hours and a chance to make a difference in your local hospitals.

What’s next?

If you are interested in becoming a Patient Research Champion, please complete the [online volunteer form](#) and select the ‘Research’ option as your area of interest. Once submitted, your application will be passed to the Research Engagement and Diffusion team, who will contact you to discuss the role further.

