

Research Ambassador Information Leaflet

Research-active trusts have better patient outcomes. Southampton is a major centre for clinical research, improving health for all and giving patients access to the latest treatments and care.

We are looking to create a team of volunteers to help us promote our research to the public and encourage more people to get involved with our research and trials.



What is a Research Ambassador?

A Research Ambassador is someone who promotes research from a public point of view. As a member of the public discussing research, you offer a unique perspective that patients identify with.

The aim of the initiative is to help patients and NHS staff recognise the importance of research in health care, and to encourage people to get involved.

Who can be a Research Ambassador?

Anyone who is passionate about research can be a Research Ambassador, acting as an advocate for the amazing research that occurs here at the hospital. You may be a member of the public, a patient, carer or family member.



What would I be doing?

The role is diverse. You could help promote research through a range of the following examples, and more:

- being locally involved in supporting national initiatives such as the 'I Am Research' campaign, which showcases how fantastic research is
- helping develop and create better communication materials (e.g. leaflets, posters, flyers)
- speaking with staff, patients and visitors about the importance of research
- supporting open days and other events, such as running an interactive clinical trial game to teach visitors about the placebo effect
- assisting with recruitment in clinical trials by signposting interested people to research nurses and physicians

What is the time commitment?

There is no set time commitment for Ambassadors. Opportunities are offered to Ambassadors in advance and it is up to individuals to let us know if they are interested and available to attend. We understand that everyone has individual needs and commitments and we are happy to be accommodating.

Meet our current Research Ambassador:

Daniel Russell

Daniel Russell has been an ambassador since November 2015. Having been an asthmatic since his teenage years, Daniel became interested in respiratory studies and was inspired to help raise awareness of the research taking place:



“The opportunity to promote research from a patient perspective appealed to me as I enjoy talking about my experiences of clinical research and my involvement. Clinicians and researchers talk about research, but patients and the public provide another perspective.”

Since becoming a patient research ambassador, Dan has been involved in a number of projects from supporting hospital open days to helping out at the hospital's recent International Clinical Trials Day event, which aimed to raise awareness of the opportunities to take part in research locally.

“NHS research is important as it benefits both patients and public, thereby being involved I feel I have played a part. You get to interact with senior researchers and clinicians, but most importantly, I feel my views and opinions are both listened to and welcomed. You find out so many new things and hear about studies that could make a huge difference to people's daily lives and quality of life.”

What support is available in this role?

You will work closely with, and be heavily supported by our Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Team. They will be your point-of-contact and will provide you with the necessary support to carry out your role.

I am interested, what do I do?

Email (PublicInvolvement@uhs.nhs.uk) or call (023 8120 4989) us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Other opportunities to help research?

To learn about other ways in which you can get involved in research at UHS, please head to bit.ly/UHSResearch.

For updates, sign up to our mailing list at bit.ly/UHSInvolvement