

OXFORD-RCGP RSC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE FROM PROF. SIMON DE LUSIGNAN,
DIRECTOR OF THE OXFORD-RCGP RSC

Virology Sampling for the 2025-26 Winter Season

A big thanks to our virology sampling practices for your participation this winter.

This season, our priority patient groups are: **under 5 year olds, over 75 year olds, and pregnant patients**. It would also be wonderful if patients who have received a flu and/or RSV vaccination this season are prioritised for sampling.

Our **Take-A-Test-UK patient self-swabbing** pathway is a great way to encourage all of your patients to request a swab kit at the earliest signs of flu.

We ask that practices promote this on their websites and social media - <https://takeatestuk.com/>. Do feel free to tag any of our social accounts.

Please include your ODS practice code in your promotion of the pathway, as patients are required to enter this as the mandatory 'Voucher code'. Patients will also need to enter their NHS number to request a self-swab kit.

For advice and queries relating to virology sampling, please contact **Dave** and **Ellya** at practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk

Adult Flu Vaccinations for the 2025-26 Season

Help us collect vital vaccination data

To support our vaccine effectiveness work for UKHSA, we would like to understand what adult flu vaccines are being used this season. Please could you let us know which type of adult flu vaccines you are using or planning to use this season by completing this short [form](#). We will only use this information internally to help guide our VE analysis and virology sampling strategies.

We really appreciate all your hard work in supporting this important work.

CARRii Conference

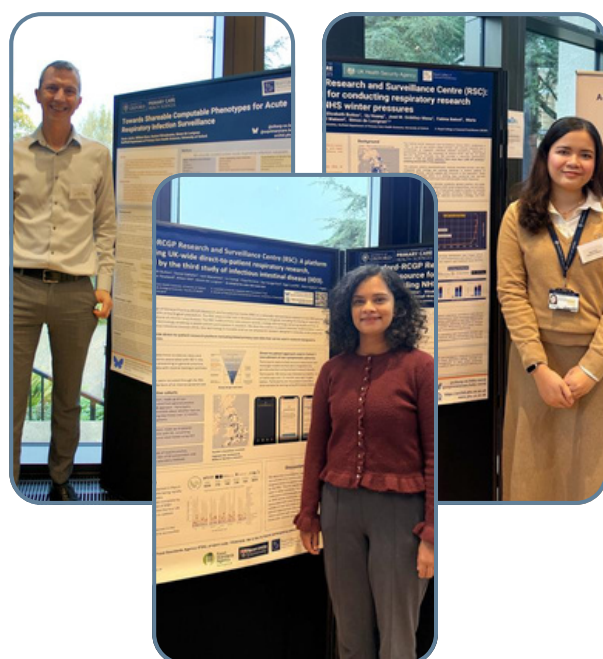
On 29 October, the Oxford-RCGP RSC team participated in the CARRii Conference at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, joining colleagues and collaborators from across the research community. The delegation comprised Professor Simon de Lusignan, Dr Fatima Batool, Dr Gavin Jamie, Dr Vanashree Sexton, and Ellya Enesca.

Three members of the team (Dr Vanashree Sexton, Dr Gavin Jamie, and Ellya Enesca) were selected to present their abstract as posters, highlighting how robust primary care data can inform public health action and support the NHS through the challenges of winter pressures.

Dr Sexton's poster was awarded Best Poster.

During the oral presentation sessions, Dr Fatima Batool presented findings from the Interim Analysis of the ObservatARI Study, offering valuable insights into respiratory infection trends, while Dr Gavin Jamie discussed the Surveillance of Work Absenteeism, exploring its role in real-time public health monitoring.

The conference provided a valuable forum for exchanging ideas and strengthening collaboration between academia and industry, underscoring the collective commitment to innovation and excellence in health surveillance research.



Article of the Week

A Systematic Review of the Markers of Severity in Acute Respiratory Infections to Inform Primary Care Surveillance

Primary care computerised medical records (CMR) are used to report the incidence of acute respiratory infections (ARI) for public health surveillance. These systems could increase their utility by also reporting population-level severity of ARI; however, this is rarely done.

The objective was to identify candidate markers of ARI severity suitable for use in primary care CMR-based surveillance.

[Read the full article here](#)

