NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY CARE HEALTH SCIENCES
RESEARCH & SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

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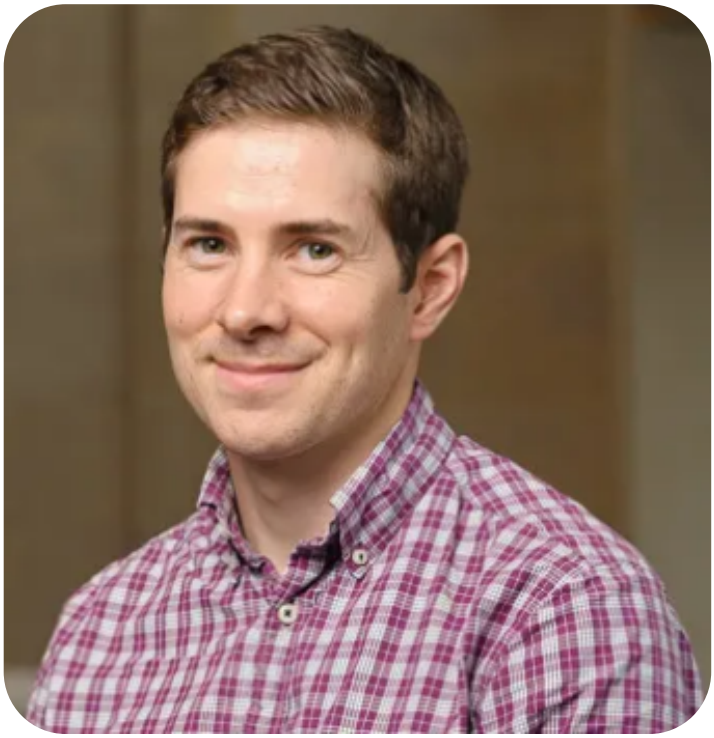
OXFORD-RCGP RSC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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

Your Oxford-RCGP RSC Team: William Hinton

I am a Research Fellow (Epidemiologist) in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, and I have worked in the Clinical Informatics and Health Outcomes Research Group since 2015. My work involves analyses of computerised medical records to explore health outcomes in people with cardiometabolic diseases using the Oxford-RCGP RSC database. I am also experienced in performing systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

My research interest is pharmacoepidemiology in type 2 diabetes and exploring how real-world data can be utilised to complement clinical trial evidence. I am also interested in the development and implementation of dashboards in primary care.



Outside of work, my interest is motocross. I also enjoy jogging and walking my dog. I have 4-year-old twin sons; one has epidermolysis bullosa (EB). I spend quite a lot of my spare time reading research on the latest therapies for EB, as well as trying to raise awareness and fundraise for EB charities.

ObservatARI - Study recap

With a couple of our larger studies having come to an end, we would like to take this opportunity to do a small recap of what they entailed. We are beginning with ObservatARI.

ObservatARI was a multicentre observational study conducted between 2023 and January 2025 within the Oxford–RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC) network, designed to better characterise acute respiratory infections (ARI) in primary care and their contribution to NHS winter pressures. Focusing on four key respiratory viruses—RSV, influenza A, influenza B, and SARS-CoV-2.

The study captured real-world clinical presentations at the point where most patients first seek care. Over the course of the study, approximately 4,300 respiratory swabs were collected.

A defining feature of ObservatARI was the use of point-of-care testing (POCT) in general practice (GP), enabling rapid pathogen identification close to the clinical encounter. Secure linkage of POCT results with routinely collected primary care data through the ORCHID Trusted Research Environment supported analyses of infection trends and vaccine impact across population subgroups.

ObservatARI demonstrates the generation of clinically meaningful evidence to support decision-making and anticipatory NHS winter planning.

Feedback from many of the participating practices told us that the machines were easy to use and the opportunity to carry out the testing themselves was exciting. With some even offering to retain the machine through another winter season.

We would like to thank the practices that participated in this study. Your dedication to the study and patience was invaluable.

Farewell and best wishes to Ellya

We have sadly had to say goodbye to our friend and colleague, Ellya, who is returning to Indonesia.

She has been a wonderful team member and will be greatly missed but we wish her all the best.

For any outstanding queries you had with Ellya, please contact the Practice Liaison team: practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk