



OXFORD-RCGP RSC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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

Our experience at the Let's Talk About: Surveillance event in Oxford

Members of our RSC team, Dr Vanashree Sexton and Jess Smylie, attended the second Let's Talk About: Surveillance PPIE event at the History of Science Museum in Oxford last night.

During the event set-up, we were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to explore the History of Science Museum after dark. For anyone that has not yet had a chance to visit it, we would highly recommend it. There is a particularly fascinating exhibition titled **Alice in Typhoidland: The Past and Present of Typhoid**. Given the topic of the event, this aspect was of particular interest to us all.

The event was attended by a nice mix of people, including a few 6th form students. We began the evening with a meet and greet in the entrance hall, where the guests were invited to explore the exhibits and take part in an exercise where they could place dots to signify their stance on questions such as **'Tracking and tracing the microbes that cause disease is the best way to stop outbreaks and pandemics'** and **'Using personal data (e.g. for contact tracing) is okay if it helps prevent outbreaks and save lives'**. The guests were invited to answer these questions again at the end of the event to see if their view had been changed.

This was followed by the same "speed dating formula" that was seen at the last event. The groups were engaging and asked many insightful questions that we were happy to answer and discuss at length, where we could. Data (the extraction and use of) was, of course, a big topic. Highlighting, as always, the importance of transparency when it comes to our data subjects.

We are grateful for the opportunity to spend the face-to-face time with patients and public that we do not often have the chance to and look forward to more events like these.

21st OVG Immunisation Seminar by the Oxford Vaccine Group

It was a pleasure to attend the 21st OVG Immunisation Seminar by the Oxford Vaccine Group yesterday, 12th March. Our PLO attendees, Eva Klamerus and Daniel Gallaher, particularly enjoyed the wide range of talks covering current developments in vaccine research and implementation. Eva found the presentation on HPV vaccination and post-licensure real-world safety especially engaging, given her MSc research on HPV vaccine impact.

Both Eva and Daniel also valued the sessions on societal influences on vaccine uptake and factors affecting acceptance of changes to childhood immunisation schedules. A key takeaway was the insight that many parents and vaccine recipients may be generally supportive of vaccination yet still feel uncertain about changes to established immunisation schedules, an important nuance for future communication and public engagement.

UKHSA commissioned surveillance sampling 2026-27

A big thanks to our serology and virology sampling practices for contributing samples for 2025-26. We're pleased to **confirm that we have agreed our targets** with UKHSA for **2026-27** and will be able to **offer increased virology capacity to practices**. We can onboard practices this Spring, for a new in-practice swabbing pathway, please contact us at practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk to find out more.

BJGP Research & Publishing Conference

Friday 20th March 2026, Bristol

Are you attending next week's **BJGP conference**?

If you are then please swing by our stand and have a chat with our Practice Liaison Officer, Jhoann, and Emily from the RCGP. They will be happy to discuss our vital disease surveillance work and how you can participate.

Article of the Week

The Third Study of Infectious Intestinal Disease (IID3 Study) in the Community: Protocol for UK-Based Prospective Cohort Studies Investigating the Disease Burden

There is a significant hidden burden of infectious intestinal disease (IID) in the UK community, which has increased over time. In the late 2000s, the Second Study of Infectious Intestinal Disease (IID2 study) estimated 17 million IID cases annually in the United Kingdom. However, only a small proportion of cases present to health care, and even those are often not tested for causative organisms.

The Third Study of Infectious Intestinal Disease (IID3 study) aims to determine the IID burden in the UK community, estimate the underreporting level in routine practice and the general population, and recalibrate UK national surveillance based on the new incidence rates.

[Read the full article here](#)

