



NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY CARE
HEALTH SCIENCES



Oxford-Royal College of
General Practitioners
CLINICAL INFORMATICS
DIGITAL HUB



**RESEARCH &
SURVEILLANCE CENTRE**

Monthly Update from the Oxford RCGP RSC Practice Liaison Team

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Please find the monthly update from the Oxford RCGP RSC Practice Liaison Team below.

RCGP RSC Monthly Newsletter: May 2022

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Thames Valley and South Midlands 6th Annual Primary Care Research Symposium



Thank you Thames Valley and South Midlands NIHR CRN

We were invited to the **6th Annual Primary Care Research Symposium** which was held at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford on Tuesday 10th May. The event was hosted by **Dr Nick Thomas** (Primary Care Specialty Clinical Lead within the NIHR TVSM and a GP) and rounded out with very interesting key note speeches and elevator pitches. Two of which were provided by our very own **Professor Simon de Lusignan** (Director of the Research Surveillance Centre and GP) and **Elizabeth Button** (Practice Liaison Officer).

Lizzy Button gave a persuasive 'elevator pitch' talk, promoting the **Third Infectious Intestinal Disease Study (iid3)**, which was warmly received.

If you want to find out more about the iid3 study, have a chat with Lizzy at elizabeth.button@phc.ox.ac.uk

Simon de Lusignan, rounded off the afternoon's talks with a look back at the history of the network, its expansion in recent years and, through the ongoing support of our practice members and CRN colleagues, the ambition to increase **disease surveillance** and our contribution to research and studies.

This included a compelling demonstration of how swabbing and sampling matters and why our members make real-time, essential contributions to the work of UKHSA in understanding the **prevalence of infectious diseases** and **vaccine effectiveness**.

This event was also a fantastic opportunity to meet some of you in person for the first time, and also to hear your thoughts on how we can increase sampling and support our member practices. We would love to meet more of our practices so let us know if you have an event in your region that you would like to see us at.

TakeATestUK - Update

TakeATestUK is back up and running!

Direct patients to the TakeATest website
with your GP Practice Code
www.takeatestuk.com



Bless you! Meet the flu hunters trying to stop the next pandemic in its tracks!



Tracking Covid-19 viruses has been all-consuming but the hunt for flu viruses also continues. Sarah Boseley's excellent article [Bless you! Meet the flu hunters trying to stop the next pandemic in its tracks | Flu | The Guardian](#) has highlighted how the practices in our network who take part in disease surveillance are a critical part of this hunt. Through your swabbing, Maria Zambon and her team at UKHSA are on the lookout for new strains of the flu in preparation for next winter and the ever important vaccines.

As Maria says in the article:

It's thanks to all that historical UK influenza effort that the world is in a better place to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. Not only is surveillance strong, but so is the UK's ability to assess how well vaccines are working through the matching of data on immunisation and illness. "We have a vaccine effectiveness system for Covid vaccines that is virtually second to none,"

Simon de Lusignan, Director of the Research Surveillance Centre, explains how self-swabbing has helped but Sarah Boseley asks:

Will we ever get to a point where we don't have to worry about flu? "No," Zambon says, without hesitation, "because the natural reservoir for influenza A is wild birds." They take the virus around the globe and there is nothing we can do about it. "So it will always be a threat to the human population."

Sarah Boseley concludes: Which means that our best hope will continue to be vaccines. We are in the hands of the flu hunters.

Let's continue the hunt. **Your sampling is important!**

Practice Visits

Have you booked your Practice Liaison visit?

We have already had a few practices approach us to visit them to provide training or to just meet the team. This is fantastic.

We urge you all to contact us about a visit soon. We find these visits to be beneficial to both teams. It allows the opportunity to speak to everyone that is involved in our surveillance work and equally to, answer any questions you may have, provide physical examples, advise on kit storage options and assist in uploading the integrated virology lab form (for EMIS practices only).

if you would like to arrange a practice visit then please email our team on practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk

Refer a Practice

Do you know a practice in your area that is not in our network?

Do you think they would like to be?

We are always looking for practices to join our network and take part in our disease surveillance work and other studies.

So if you know of another practice who would want to become a 'flu-hunter' then please ask them to contact our practice liaison team at practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk or to visit our website www.orchid@phc.ox.ac.uk for further information.

EMIS - Virology Lab Form

Just a reminder that we have a version of the virology lab form that can be uploaded into EMIS.

You are, of course, welcome to continue using the physical forms if you wish to do so.

If you wish to receive the template and instructions then please ask our practice liaison team at practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk

Active Research Projects

[UKHSA General Serology and Virology Surveillance](#)

[RSV ComNet II](#)

[RAPTOR](#)

[GP Teams](#)

[MONITORY](#)