QResearch Advisory Board

Minutes

(22.10.21 12.30 – 14.00, dial-in)

Attending: Paula Dhiman, Antony Chuter, Carol Coupland, Caroline Mitchell, Derek Stewart, Vanessa Young, Jonathan Ford, Rebekah Burrow, Allison Hirst, Claire Meadows (minutes)

Apologies: Jonathan Meadows

Chair: Julia Hippisley-Cox

1	**Welcome, introductions and apologies** JHC welcomed group including two new members (VY and PD) and apologies were noted	
2	**Minutes and actions from last meeting** Minutes approved as a true record of the last meeting.	
3	**Appointment of chair of advisory board** Mike Walton has stepped down as Chair of this group having stepped down as a NUG Trustee, having provided a great service to the group for a number of years. Caroline Mitchell was elected Chair of this group, with recommendations from AC and CC.	
4	**PPI update** JHC informed the board that her team have appointed Dr Sharon Dixon as our team PPI lead. The QResearch team have also made it a requirement of the project application process to provide a lay summary at the outset and include PPI throughout the review process with representation on the Science Committee. PD confirmed this is a very helpful step. Caroline will forward email about her PPI activities to CM share with the board. AC suggested that it would be useful to start a QResearch email thread on any PPI opportunities, which will be useful to map PPI activities relevant to all. The board discussed adding a patient page on the QResearch	Caroline

Athena SWAN Silver Award

	website. AH will work with AC to gather information for this page and schedule some meetings on this.	AH/AC
5	**Research presentation on vaccine safety** CC presented on the work of the HDR UK project (OX107). The board were supportive of the work. DS suggested promoting the benefits of QResearch in a presentation to encourage more GP participation. DS will share HRA link where infographics on projects can be shared. PW stated that it is important that there is continued transparency around QResearch in the eyes of patients.	DS
6	**Update from Scientific Committee** PD introduced herself as the new Chair of the SC, and informed group that Dr Brian Mcmillan has been elected Deputy Chair as Professor Stavros Petrou has stepped down. There is a steady stream of applications including research on the second wave of COVID 19 and prediction models. PD recently did a presentation on current methodologies used for research projects, which was well attended. This presentation is available to view on the Seminars page of the QResearch website https://www.qresearch.org/seminars/. The QResearch team are looking at developing further seminars on subjects pertinent to researchers.	
7	**Update on QResearch practice recruitment, EMIS extracts and staffing** JHC recently sent out a practice recruitment email to underserved areas of the UK, which was identified as a step to take in our last board meeting in Jan 2021. There are now an extra hundred practices that have been recruited, taking the total practices currently recruited to 1417 (in addition to approx. 500 historical practices). She plans to send out another recruitment email to practices in Birmingham, the Midlands and the North-East. JF wanted clarification on our level of patient opt-out, which JHC confirmed has been estimated by NHS Digital at 1%. We currently receive a data extract from EMIS twice a year, though JHC and EMIS are working on a more regular extract. JHC informed the board that there is a discussion on whether to bring three Oxford data platforms together in one combined place or whether to keep these separate. The board unanimously agreed that this was not the way to proceed as there are different governance requirements, different legal basis and the benefits of the individual platforms would be lost.	

	JHC confirmed that we now have 17 members of staff and researchers in the broader Primary Care Epidemiology Group with 4 staff members in the core QResearch team. We will be recruiting for a new data manager to work alongside RB. RB has done significant work to develop a suite of SOPs which are now in operation.	
8	**Update on applications** We have 29 live projects, with researchers already having access to the data, 4 new projects due to start and 2 under review with the SC. We're working with 30 institutions, 4 of which already have access to the data, and 100 researchers, 35 of whom already have access to the data. The board discussed potential funding opportunities, with JHC mentioning her interest in a HDR UK infrastructure funding call. Concerned have been raised with the HDR-UK 'data-mart' approach to the data involved in this call, but the board recognised the benefits of this exposure with the aim of broadening legitimate access to data for researchers. Members were broadly supportive of exploring this opportunity and AC suggested JHC go with her 'gut feeling' on this call. AC also suggested we arrange a QResearch prospectus to show how much we have done as a team on a constrained budget as this could be a selling point.	
9	**Data linkage** We now have data links with many new streams including GP data, cancer mortality and hospitalisation, as well as ICNARC, NIMS vaccination, SARS-Cov-2 infection data and a new link to NHS blood and transplant data planned. We also have a new link with GP practices in London from EMIS. All these are covered by the relevant ethics and governance approvals. JHC is also working with Endeavour Health through their Discovery Data Service, with GP and hospital data sources coming together in one stream updated every few minutes. We've linked up for COVID 19 research so this may not be a permanent link. But access to this data means we can find out information on COVID and other conditions while the patient is still in hospital and can get test and scan results from 40% of patients in London. This is currently the only real-time data research resource in the UK.	
10	**Newsletter & comms** CM presented the latest QResearch newsletter. PW will publicise this on the NAPP website. Caroline mentioned RCGP too. The board discussed various channels of communication like YouTube. AC suggested a series of 'how to' videos, which would be useful for potential researchers.	

11	**AOB & date of next meeting**	
	CC raised the awards won recently by the QResearch team – Florence Nightingale, John Perry, Health Service Journal and RCGP paper of the year. The board suggested that these awards be present in our email signatures, and the funding awarded should also be listed.	
	CM will doodle the board for dates for May and October 2022.	