



Wolfson Institute of Population Health

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Scientific Committee Member – Lay Member

Voluntary post with reimbursement of expenses and financial compensation for time

[QResearch](#) is a large, consolidated database derived from the anonymised health records of over 35 million patients. The data currently come from approximately 1500 general practices using the EMIS clinical computer system. The practices are spread throughout the UK and include data from patients who are currently registered with the practices as well as historical patients who may have died or left. Historical records extend back to the 1989 making it one of the largest and richest general practice databases in the world.

The aim of QResearch is to maintain a high-quality database of general practice-derived data linked to other datasets for use in medical research. To ensure ethical use of this dataset, the QResearch Scientific Committee undertakes reviews of research applications to QResearch to assess and advise on the scientific merit applications. This committee includes academics, clinicians, and lay members, and meets monthly to discuss applications.

Lay Members of the QResearch Scientific Committee are key members who help ensure that the interests of patients and the public remain at the heart of discussions and decisions by the committee. They provide different perspectives, experiences and expertise to the clinical or academic members of the committee, with equal importance.

We would like to increase the size and diversity of our successful Scientific Committee. Applications are invited from members of the public to become Lay Members of the QResearch [Scientific Committee](#). The committee works with a core QResearch team led by Professor Julia Hippisley-Cox, and is supported by the QResearch [Advisory Board](#).

The successful applicant will:

- Follow the QResearch Scientific Committee Terms of Reference
- Follow the criteria and principles set out by the QResearch Advisory Board in assessing and advising on research applications to access the QResearch database

Responsibilities will include:

- Reviewing research applications to access the QResearch database, as one of two or more independent reviewers, before further discussion with other reviewers and/or the Scientific Committee
- Carrying out independent review of one application to access the QResearch database per month, which may take 2-5 hours work

- Discussing applications to access the QResearch database as a committee, via videoconference, and email
- Attending (remotely) a monthly Scientific Committee meeting of up to 1.5 hours
- Using their professional and personal experience, particularly as a member of the public or as a patient to advise the QResearch team on clinical, scientific and research issues and processes relating to research applications

Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Have a strong personal commitment to the interests of patients and the public whose health records are the subject of research applications
- Have a strong personal commitment to ensuring a minimum scientific standard for research
- Be able to read, understand and analyse complex issues from research applications and weigh up conflicting opinions
- Be able to take an objective stance, looking at a situation from different perspectives
- Be a good communicator with a practical approach and the confidence to voice their opinions. Be able to discuss issues with people who may not agree with them including being able to influence and listen to the views of others from a range of backgrounds
- Be able to demonstrate an ability to contribute to the work of the Scientific Committee
- Understand the requirement for confidentiality
- Be IT literate to allow work to be carried out electronically. It is essential for members to have access to a computer, laptop or tablet in order to be able to review applications

All reviews and meetings are carried out remotely.

The position is a non-funded voluntary position and you will not be employed by Queen Mary, University of London. All expenses will be reimbursed and members financially compensated for their time, at INVOLVE rates.

The initial term is for two years.

The closing date for applications is **8th January 2026**.

Interviews will be on the **morning of 20th January 2026**.

For further information visit the [QResearch website](#). To apply:

- email your CV
- and a covering letter describing
 - why you are interested in the lay role
 - what you feel you will bring to it

to: qresearch@qmul.ac.uk

“Committed to equality and valuing diversity”