

Wolfson Institute of Population Health
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QResearch Advisory Board

Minutes

(1-2:30pm, Monday 22nd June 2026, Abernethy Building)

Attending: Caroline Mitchell (Chair), Mr Antony Chuter (Vice Chair), Prof Julia Hippisley-Cox, Ms Charlotte Edwards Roscamp (Minutes), Prof Carol Coupland, Mr Jon Ford, Dr Rachel Bower, Ms Kausar Iqbal

Apologies: N/A

Guests: Dr Fabiola Eto, Dr Owen Taylor

1.	Welcome and apologies Chair welcomed members to the first in-person meeting following the move to QMUL. Members introduced themselves and welcomed new members and guest speakers.	
2.	Minutes and actions from last meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2025 were approved as a correct record. Members noted that publication of the minutes supports transparency and governance.	
3.	Terms of Reference Julia Hippisley-Cox presented revised Terms of Reference for the QResearch Advisory and Scientific Boards. Members approved the addition of an explicit requirement that research should demonstrate benefit for patients or the NHS. The Board discussed adopting the NIHR/NHS England definition of patient benefit and agreed to consider whether EDI should be reflected more explicitly within governance documentation.	
4.	Scientific Committee Paula Dhiman updated members on recruitment of new Scientific Committee members across clinical, statistical, health economics and PPI expertise who are due to start in Sept 2026. Outgoing members were thanked for their service during the transition to QMUL. Charlotte Edwards Roscamp confirmed induction would take place in September 2026. Members supported establishing an alumni webpage and issuing formal letters of thanks to former members.	

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5.	QResearch Update Julia Hippisley-Cox reported that the move to QMUL was substantially complete and that QResearch is now entering period of routine operation. Members noted renewed Section 251 approval, updated patient engagement materials, new public-facing infographics (designed by Anthony Chuter) and new patient glossary (designed by Kausar Iqbal), and plans to extend participation to TPP practices with support from the EMIS National User Group.	
6.	Medicines in Pregnancy Fabiola Eto presented the NIHR-funded programme investigating the safety of medicines before, during and after pregnancy to support decision making. Members heard how linked primary care, hospital and maternity datasets have identified over 1.1 million pregnancies. Discussion focused on the importance of including severe mental illness, antipsychotic prescribing, health inequalities and extending follow-up beyond six weeks postpartum where feasible. Prof Caroline Mitchell offered to share previous patient engagement work with women experiencing perinatal mental health problems to inform future research.	
7.	Patient Engagement Charlotte Edwards Roscamp described ongoing collaboration with Social Action for Health to embed patient involvement throughout QResearch projects. Members welcomed refreshed patient information materials, improved public-facing communications and continued engagement with diverse communities to support transparency and trust.	
8.	Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Owen Taylor presented an equity-led approach to EDI. Members discussed representation within governance, inclusive language, reducing barriers to research, highlighting work addressing health inequalities and improving visibility of diversity across the QResearch website. The Board agreed that EDI should become an ongoing strategic priority and return as a future agenda item. Possible future work included guidance for researchers, greater consideration of protected characteristics and exploration of equity-related support and highlighting research in under-represented and diverse population.	
9.	AOB Members welcomed the opportunity to meet in person and thanked the presenters. The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.	

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Action Log

Action	Lead	Status
Add NIHR/NHS England patient benefit definition to website guidance.	JHC/CER	Open
Complete induction of new Scientific Committee members.	CER/PD	Sept 2026
Develop alumni webpage and letters for former committee members.	CER/JHC	Open
Work with EMIS National User Group regarding TPP practice communications.	JHC/Rachel Bower	Open
Continue development of patient engagement resources.	CER	Ongoing
Consider inclusion of SMI, antipsychotics and 12-month postnatal follow-up within Medicines in Pregnancy analyses.	JHC/OT	Ongoing
Share previous patient engagement work on severe mental illness.	CM/AC	Open
Develop proposals for embedding an equity-led approach across QResearch.	OT/AC/KI/CM/JHC	Future meeting
Review diversity representation on QResearch webpages.	QResearch Team	Open
Return EDI as a substantive future Advisory Board agenda item.	Chair/JHC	Future