



The Department of Health Sciences

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Professor Helen Elsey

Senior Lecturer in Global Public Health, Department of Health Sciences, University of York

Helen's research interest is in urban health in low-income areas and countries. This includes developing and testing interventions that address risk factors associated with urbanisation including tobacco use and dietary change and identifying health system adaptations to engage and reach the urban poorest. Trained as a public health specialist in Yorkshire and Humber, her research uses mixed-methods, implementation science, participatory techniques and systematic reviews. She is co-director of an FCDO-funded research consortium 'CHORUS' to improve urban health systems in Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal and Bangladesh and works with partners in Africa and Asia on a range of urban health and health systems projects.

Sandra Forbes

Lay Member

Sandra spent most of her career as a qualitative researcher and policy advisor in a variety of central and local government roles. More recently she has been a researcher on health related issues for the voluntary sector. She has an MA in Education and her main area of interest for many years was in education and training policy with experience in running research projects in schools. While in local government she managed large scale surveys. Since ceasing full-time work she has volunteered with York Archives, Healthwatch and PPI at University of York.

Dr Su Golder

Senior Research Fellow, Department of Health Sciences, University of York

Su is a qualified information specialist with over 20 years' experience. She has worked in lots of different settings and has a wide breadth of experience in systematic reviews of healthcare interventions. She has specialist expertise in information retrieval, social media research, adverse effects and systematic review methodology and has taught in this field. Her current research is on the use of unpublished data, text mining and social media to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the retrieval of adverse effects data. She has also studied the ethics of using social media data in research.

Professor Catherine Hewitt

Statistics and Trials, York Trials Unit, Department of Health Sciences, University of York

Catherine is a Professor of Trials and Statistics, Deputy Director of York Trials Unit and Deputy Head of Research in the DoHS. She trained in Mathematics and Statistics and her research has specifically focused on developing, refining and applying statistical methods in the conduct of randomised controlled trials. Catherine works across a broad spectrum of health and social sciences topic areas.

Professor Stephen Holland (Chair)

Professor, Departments of Health Sciences and Philosophy, University of York

Stephen's main research interests are in Ethics, including bioethics, public health ethics, and the philosophy of value. Previously, Stephen participated in the NHS Management Training Scheme (1992-4) before undertaking health systems research at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, and the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York.

Professor Debra Howell

Professor and Deputy Director of the Epidemiology and Cancer Statistics Group, Department of Health Sciences, University of York

Debra is Professor and Deputy Director of the Epidemiology and Cancer Statistics Group (ECSG), overseeing all data collection for the Group's clinical/epidemiological studies. With a background in nursing and anthropology, Debra leads ECSG's qualitative research team, which specialises in patient's experiences of living with cancer, and has a particular interest in blood cancers (including leukaemia's, lymphomas and myeloma). Other areas of work include help seeking behaviour, routes to diagnosis, information needs, decision making, end of life and palliative care, and carer experiences. Debra has worked as a nurse and researcher in the UK and various countries in southern Africa. She undertook her PhD in Health Service Research at the University of York, graduating in 2005. <https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/our-staff/debra-howell/>

Nick Kay

Lay Member

Nick spent his career in telecommunications, some 23 years in BT before taking voluntary redundancy and another 23 years as a Freelance Telecommunications Consultant. His time with BT involved a variety of management roles including in BT's Tallis Consultancy group, Operator Services, and creating BT's internal voice network. When with BT he was an accredited interviewer recruiting up to graduate level externally and senior management level internally. Whilst with BT he gained a post-graduate Diploma in Management and a Graduate Diploma in Marketing. On leaving BT he set up as a Freelance telecoms consultant, carrying out projects for many NHS Trusts, Local and Central Government and private companies including Norwich Union. He was a qualified Expert Witness (Telecoms). Since retiring he has carried out volunteer work for York Explore, Oxfam, York City Council; as well as exam invigilation at the University of York and immersive English language courses in Spain.

Pete Mather

Faculty IT Team Leader (Health Sciences)

Pete manages the IT Team in Health Sciences and looks after secure data storage, and some systems administration. He originally trained as a maths teacher before joining Sage Software in the late 90s as part of their eCommerce drive. Pete has worked in Higher Education IT since 2001, where he gained skills in IT infrastructure, including virtualisation, storage, cloud technologies and developing people.

Sandi Newby (Administrator)

Senior Research Administrator, Department of Health Sciences University of York

Sandi is PA to Professor Brian Ferguson, NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) Programme Director and also the Group Administrator for the Health Services & Policy group; Administrator to Health Sciences Research Committee; Centre Administrator for Centre for Health and Population Sciences, HYMS; Administrator for Health Sciences Seminar series, Administrator to Honorary Sub Group Committee and Administrator to Contract Researchers Forum.

Dr Jo Rose

Senior Lecturer in Humanitarian Affairs & Sustainable Development, University of York

Jo has worked extensively in complex political emergencies including Afghanistan, Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. Throughout her career, Jo has worked within academia, policy and practice in disasters, conflicts, and uneven development. Her ongoing work on community involvement in the delivery of humanitarian aid seeks to shape future practice and policy on humanitarian interventions in disasters and conflicts. Jo collaborates with disaster and conflict-affected communities and local partners to understand the research needs and priorities of the local communities. Jo is experienced in using indigenous research methods and co-creating research methods to ensure the methods are contextually appropriate and effective. Jo co-develops an Ethical Code of Conduct with her research teams and helps facilities networks and agencies in developing context-informed Ethical Codes of Conduct.

Lucy Tindall

Research Fellow, Mental Health & Addiction Group, University of York

Lucy is the programme manager on the ComBAT (Community-based Behavioural Activation Training for Depression in Adolescents) study. Her research focuses on the development and evaluation of low intensity therapies for young people with emotional disorders. Prior to working at the university, Lucy worked as a research trial coordinator in the NHS for 10 years.

Silke Vereeken

PhD Researcher, Department of Health Sciences, University of York

Silke is a PhD researcher in the Mental Health & Addictions Research Group researching Syndemics in severe mental illness. The project aims to build a Syndemic framework model on modifiable health behaviours' role in mental illness experience and maintenance. She holds a BSc and an MSc in clinical and developmental psychology, and her research is focused on quantitative data analysis.

Ros Wade

Research Fellow, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York

Ros undertakes systematic reviews and technology assessments, primarily for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment programme. She has led systematic reviews of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for various clinical indications. She has also completed several Single Technology Appraisals for the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), most recently on treatments for leukaemia and psoriasis. Ros has worked at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination for 17 years, since completing an MSc in Health Sciences.

Dr Ruth Wadman

Research Fellow, Department of Health Sciences, University of York

Ruth is a Research Fellow in the Mental Health & Addictions Research Group, where she is part of the Age of Wonder Adolescent Mental Health Collaboratory (a collaboration between the Universities of York and Sheffield and the Bradford Institute for Health Research). Her research focuses on what works to protect youth mental health and wellbeing and the meaningful involvement of young people in research. Ruth is a Chartered member and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. She has expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

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