

Cover Sheet

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

1. Trust Board news

- 1.1. Congratulations to Terry Roberts, our Chief People Officer, who has been appointed by NHS England as Joint Director of Equality & Inclusion. Terry took up this new national role on 1 August for a period of 8 months until 31 March 2023 on a part-time basis.
- 1.2. Rachel Stanfield, who has been Director of Workforce at OUH since December 2019, has been appointed as Joint Chief People Officer to share this post with Terry during the period of his additional role with NHSE.
- 1.3. On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to congratulate Rachel on her appointment which will ensure that there is consistency in the cover provided across both internal and external meetings by the Chief People Officer.

2. OUH remembers Her Majesty The Queen

- 2.1. It was with great sadness that we noted the death of Her Majesty The Queen on Thursday 8 September and we sent our heartfelt thoughts and condolences to the Royal Family during this very sad time and period of national mourning.
- 2.2. The Trust Chair, Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery and our Lead Chaplain, Revd Sarah Sewell, led an online Service of Commemoration for all OUH staff on Sunday 18 September, on the eve of the Queen's state funeral, and we also observed a minute's silence at our Annual Public Meeting on Thursday 22 September.
- 2.3. It was our great privilege to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford in 2008 when she officially opened our new West Wing and Children's Hospital. I know that many staff who were in attendance on that day still remember it with great fondness.

3. Thank you to our #OneTeamOneOUH staff

- 3.1. On behalf of the Trust Board I would like to thank all staff for continuing to provide high quality care for patients over the summer months in line with our Trust vision of Compassionate Excellence.
- 3.2. It has been a challenging time as we continue to see high levels of demand for our services, compounded by periods of extreme hot weather which necessitated the activation of our Heatwave Plan.
- 3.3. Our services remain busy at all times and we are now preparing for the coming winter, working closely with health and social care partners both in

Oxfordshire and within the wider Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS).

- 3.4. Sam Foster, our Chief Nursing Officer, gave a presentation about our work to improve the urgent and emergency care pathway with colleagues from Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust at our Annual Public Meeting on Thursday 22 September.
- 3.5. We will be launching our annual staff flu vaccination programme, to support our people to protect themselves, their families and our patients this winter, on Monday 3 October. We will also be encouraging those eligible for the seasonal COVID-19 booster vaccination to get one.

4. 'Have your say, make your voice heard – NHS Staff Survey launched

- 4.1. All OUH staff are encouraged to have their say and make their voices heard by taking part in the annual NHS Staff Survey this autumn.
- 4.2. The survey is open from Monday 26 September to Friday 25 November, and we aim to continue the upwards trajectory which has seen a 20% increase in OUH staff participating in the survey over the past five years.
- 4.3. We are asking all line managers to ensure that they support their staff to take 15 minutes of protected time, within their working hours, to complete the survey.
- 4.4. During the survey window we will be highlighting 'You said, we did' examples both Trustwide and locally within teams of positive action to improve the working lives of our people which has been taken in response to the results of last year's survey.
- 4.5. Encouraging as many staff as possible to take part in the survey is an organisational priority because it allows us to hear what is working well for our people and what could be even better, so that together we can make OUH a great place to work where everyone feels they belong.

5. Celebrating Speak Up Month and Black History Month at OUH

- 5.1. October is designated by the National Guardian's Office as [Speak Up Month](#) and our Freedom to Speak Up (FtSU) team will be leading a range of activities to show how all our people have a part to play in growing a culture where everyone feels able to speak up safely.
- 5.2. The National Guardian, Dr Jayne Chidgey-Clark, will be visiting the John Radcliffe Hospital on Friday 14 October to give a talk which we intend to stream live for all staff working at not only OUH but also in other trusts within BOB ICS to watch virtually.

- 5.3. The FtSU team will also be hosting a series of roadshow events for staff during the week beginning Monday 17 October on our 4 main hospital sites in Oxford and Banbury and at OUH Cowley, where many of our people who work behind the frontline to support our services.
- 5.4. [Black History Month](#) is an annual event which takes place every October to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution that people of African and Caribbean descent have made to the UK over many decades, including within the NHS.
- 5.5. Our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Staff Network is organising an exciting series of activities to mark Black History Month at OUH, and we will also be promoting to our staff other events organised by our partners at the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University.

6. Churchill Hospital and JR Women's Centre mark historical milestones

- 6.1. [Our staff based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford came together on 20 July to mark its 80th anniversary](#) with support from Oxford Hospitals Charity who supplied commemorative cupcakes and an ice cream van so that our people could celebrate this important day in the hospital's history.
- 6.2. I sent a birthday message to thank all members of staff, past and present, who have delivered excellent and compassionate care on the Churchill site to the populations that we serve since the hospital opened in 1942.
- 6.3. The Churchill Hospital was established by the Ministry of Health as an Emergency Medical Service hospital during World War II for local air raid casualties before being leased to the medical services of the US Army and then, after the Americans left at the end of the war, reopened as a conventional hospital.
- 6.4. It is now a centre of excellence for cancer care and many other specialties and the Churchill also wrote a page in its modern history in January 2021 when our Vaccination Centre on the hospital site hosted the very first Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination.
- 6.5. [The Women's Centre on the John Radcliffe Hospital site in Oxford, which includes Maternity, Gynaecology and Neonatal services, celebrated its 50th birthday in July.](#)
- 6.6. Neonatal Unit staff gathered for a special event on 6 July where Sam Foster, our Chief Nursing Officer, thanked the team on behalf of the Trust Board for all they do.
- 6.7. Maternity staff celebrated together on 28 July thanks to support from Oxford Hospitals Charity and the Silver Star Fund.

7. Thousands volunteer to take part in Oxfordshire research studies

- 7.1. [New figures published in August show that almost 30,000 people in Oxfordshire volunteered to take part in health research studies supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research \(NIHR\) Clinical Research Network \(CRN\) in 2021-22.](#)
- 7.2. More than half of the Oxfordshire participants – 17,527 in total – took part in 487 studies here at OUH, despite the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7.3. This is a testimony to the resilience and determination of our research teams and those who support them.
- 7.4. Congratulations to all staff involved in this significant achievement because we need patients and the public to take part in research studies in order to ensure our services and treatments are as effective as possible.

8. Staff awards

- 8.1. **OUH** is shortlisted for the '[Freedom to Speak Up Award](#)' at the [Health Service Journal Awards](#) on 17 November, in recognition of all the work done to implement the recommendations of the Freedom to Speak Up Review which was undertaken in Summer 2021 and supported by the Trust Board.
- 8.2. **Vanessa Shearwood**, a Senior Colorectal Specialist Nurse at OIH, was a runner-up for [Bowel Cancer UK's Gary Logue Colorectal Cancer Nurse Awards](#) on 14 September after being nominated by her colleagues.
- 8.3. **Dr Eleanor Wicks**, a Consultant Cardiologist at OUH, is shortlisted in the 'Key Worker Award' category of [BBC Radio Oxford's Make a Difference Awards](#) on 30 September.
- 8.4. Our **Robotics in Spinal Surgery team** are shortlisted in the 'Digital Innovation in Orthopaedics' category of the [National Orthopaedics Alliance's Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards](#) on 19 October.
- 8.5. The Trust's **Communications & Oxford Medical Illustration (OMI) teams** won 3 Gold (winners) awards and a Silver (runners-up) award at the [Internal Communications and Engagement Awards](#) in July – the winning award entries were for 'Best Internal Communications During the COVID-19 Pandemic', 'Best Internal Publication (Digital)' for the [Stories from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) eBook, and 'Best Internal Publication (Print)' for the [Beyond Words](#) Book.
- 8.6. The **Communications & OMI teams** are also shortlisted for 3 other national awards – in the 'Best Wellbeing Programme' category of the [Institute of Internal Communication Awards](#) on 23 September for the internal communications underpinning the [Growing Stronger Together – Rest.](#)

[Reflect, Recover](#) programme; in the 'Best Publication' category of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations' PRiDE Awards (Anglia, Thames and Chiltern region) on 11 October for the *Beyond Words* Book; and in the 'Best Behaviour Change or Public Health Campaign' category of the [NHS Communicate Awards](#) for our [No Excuses](#) campaign to reduce violent and abusive behaviour towards OUH staff.

9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) news

An injectable cure for potentially fatal inherited heart muscle conditions could be available in a few years after a team of researchers led by Professor Hugh Watkins, the Oxford BRC's Theme Lead for Genomic Medicine, was announced as the [winners of a major award](#) from the British Heart Foundation. At £30m, it is one of the largest non-commercial grants ever given. Professor Watkins' CureHeart team aim to develop the first cures for inherited heart muscle diseases by editing or silencing the faulty genes that cause them

University of Oxford researchers have been awarded a grant from the NIHR to investigate whether anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) therapy can reduce or [prevent post-operative delirium](#), the most common surgical complication in older adults. Oxford scientists have already found that the trauma associated with surgery leads to the release of proinflammatory mediators, especially TNF, which in turn leads to inflammation of the part of the brain involved in memory. The new trial is led by Oxford BRC Co-theme lead Professor Matt Costa.

Oxford researchers have begun recruiting for a phase I clinical [trial of a tuberculosis vaccine](#) in human volunteers to develop a new way to test the efficacy of future TB vaccines. The study is led by Oxford BRC Director Professor Helen McShane. Until now, it has not been possible to use a human challenge study, where people are intentionally infected with a disease, to test a new TB vaccine. In this new study, volunteers will be 'challenged' with the BCG vaccine administered through aerosol inhalation, with the aim of mimicking how TB bacteria enter the lungs. If well tolerated by the participants, this method could be used to test new TB vaccines in the future.

Ambulatory COVID-19 patients face an increased [risk of venal thrombosis](#) (blood clot in a vein) than the general population not affected by COVID-19, according to a new study by Oxford BRC-supported researchers. However, they found that the risk was greatly reduced in fully vaccinated people.

Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are [effective against severe disease](#) for people who are underweight, overweight, or who are obese, new research supported by the Oxford BRC has found.

Consumption of seven or more units of alcohol per week is associated with higher levels of [iron in the brain](#), according to a new study supported by the Oxford BRC. Accumulation of iron in the brain has been linked with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and is a potential mechanism for alcohol-related cognitive decline.

New research from an Oxford BRC-backed team has shown that treatment for the most common fracture in children can be simplified, reducing NHS costs. The study found there was [no difference in pain or function](#) between children with a torus fracture of the wrist who had a rigid splint and outpatient follow-up and those who received a bandage and no planned follow-up.

A study by University of Oxford researchers has found a [genetic variant](#) that increases the risk of both carpal tunnel syndrome and trigger finger, opening the door for potential new therapies. Trigger finger and carpal tunnel syndrome – two of the commonest hand conditions worldwide – frequently co-exist in patients. Now it has been shown for the first time that this co-occurrence can partly be explained by genetics.

The NIHR has awarded an Advanced Fellowship to OUH emergency medicine doctor David Metcalfe to study the diagnosis of the spinal condition [cauda equina syndrome](#). Cauda equina syndrome is caused when the nerves at the end of the spinal cord, collectively called the cauda equina, are compressed. There is currently no particular pattern of symptoms that can rule out a diagnosis without an MRI scan, but with no MRI scanning available at night some patients end up waiting too long before getting a diagnosis.

Senior Oxford BRC researcher and OUH Consultant Neurologist Professor Michele Hu took part in an NIHR public [webinar about Parkinson's disease](#) research on 19 July. The session was chaired by former BBC technology correspondent Rory Cellan-Jones, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2019.

The Oxford BRC hosted an online public talk by Luke Jostins-Dean, Associate Professor in the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, who discussed his research into the [possible genetic links](#) between inflammatory bowel disease and anxiety, based on a survey of 175,000 participants.

Members of the public who are involved in health research in Oxford have attended a training workshop organised by the Oxford BRC and Oxford Health BRC focused on the ways in which equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) can help improve the quality of research.

Joanna Snowball has become the first OUH dietitian to be accepted onto the NIHR's Pre-doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship ([PCAF](#)) scheme. Joanna, whose research focuses on how to support people with cystic fibrosis who are experiencing rapid weight gain as a result of new medications, has received career support from the Oxford BRC.

10. Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) and Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news

10.1. Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) news

[An initiative which integrates digital innovations into the surgical pathway](#) – from pre-operative assessment to recovery – is making progress at OUH and two

neighbouring trusts. The aim is to reduce waiting lists, improve patient experience, and increase service efficiency in high volume, low complexity elective treatments.

Professor Meghana Pandit, OUH Chief Executive Officer, is now the Trust's representative on the Oxford AHSN Board which next meets on 29 November.

[Following a successful pilot in Oxford, a common early warning score is being introduced to help identify deterioration across all maternity units in England.](#)

Katherine Edwards, Oxford AHSN Director of Patient Safety and Clinical Improvement, is one of the contributors to two podcasts from the NHS England National Patient Safety team about the new Maternity Early Warning Score (MEWS) tool.

[More than 300 people have now taken part in the Oxford AHSN Masters-level practical innovators programme – many of them OUH staff.](#) The latest cohort gets underway in October. Thanks to additional funding from Health Education England, the Oxford AHSN will be seeking applications to join the next cohort early in 2023.

10.2. Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news

The Board of the OAHP met in July and August – key highlights are set out below:

- The Annual Report for 2021/-22 and three accompanying case studies were submitted to the NIHR on 25 July and copies are available on request. OAHP Board members were asked to circulate within their organisations.
- The Board noted the proposed changes for renewal of NIHR Clinical Research Networks and the increased areas to be covered by the proposed Regional Research Delivery Networks.
- The Research Development Awards Scheme, facilitated by OAHP, earlier this year, was open from May to July for applications from clinical staff with a focus on nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, and early-career staff. This initiative is part of a national drive to improve the capability, capacity and support for NHS staff who are interested in research or who aspire to developing a clinical academic year. [Successful applicants were contacted earlier this month, including 13 OUH staff.](#)
- OAHP continues to support and track clinical dataflow. The Board received an update on work led from OUH to develop a regional Trusted Research Environment – now to be known as Secure Data Environments.