



CHORAL

Child Health Outcomes Research at Leeds

ISSUE 2 • OCTOBER 2024

NEWSLETTER

Summer highlights

BY PROFESSOR ADAM GLASER, CHORAL DIRECTOR



Dear CHORAL colleagues

It feels hard to believe how much has been achieved since our launch meeting 6 months ago. There is a palpable energy, enthusiasm and sense of purpose across the University and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as so many people are joining the CHORAL community and working towards delivering our objectives of improving child health and well-being.

Through the Autumn we will be releasing our first call for the CHORAL Pre and Post-doctoral Fellowships in Child Health. Please keep an eye on the CHORAL website and mailing list for more details. On a linked note, I would encourage you all to check out the revised and much more functional **CHORAL website** and do let Linda Roberts (l.roberts@leeds.ac.uk) know of any events, stories or news that you would want including on this or in future newsletters.

Congratulations to all our Undergraduate CHORAL prize winners and to all those who submitted entries but were unsuccessful this time – the received submissions were of an incredible standard and reflect what a pool of talent interested in delivering world-leading child health research we have coming through our ranks. The competition will be repeated in Summer 2025 but before this we will be launching our second round of CHORAL Postgraduate prizes over the next few months.

Adam



We want to say a huge thank you to Jen Shaw and Megan Roker, Research and Implementation Fellows (RIFT), for their invaluable help over the past year. Their dedication and hard work have made a massive impact, and we truly appreciate their contributions. We couldn't have achieved this level of success without their support and commitment!

If you have any items for future newsletters, please email choral@leeds.ac.uk

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Recent activities

FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR EALC

The Bradford Education Alliance for Life Chances (EALC) has successfully secured £200,000 in funding from the Westlake Foundation for the next two years. This funding will enable EALC to continue its impactful work and provide crucial support to Leeds Evidence Innovation Partnership (LEIP) during its early development phase.

EXPANSION OF ACT LOCALLY PROGRAMME



EALC has taken an exciting step forward by submitting a £5M funding application to the National Lottery Fund. The application has already passed through a rigorous selection process and is now in the final review stage. If successful, this funding will be instrumental in continuing its transformative Act Locally programme and expanding its impact to other communities. In light of this, EALC has already initiated discussions with schools in Armley to establish a convening partnership aimed at addressing the unique needs of this community.

INTEGRATION WITH WEST YORKSHIRE FUTURES INSTITUTE

The CHORAL Improving Childhood Wellbeing theme is now integrated within the 'West Yorkshire Futures Institute,' led by Anne Longfield, CBE. This strategic integration significantly enhances our influence within the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (WY ICB) and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). By leveraging this collaboration, we aim to shape policies and initiatives that will improve health and social care outcomes for children across the region, ensuring a brighter future for all communities within West Yorkshire.





News from the Leeds Cancer Research Centre



LEEDS CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE

New appointments to tackle key cancer challenges

“The expertise and dedication of so many people make Leeds a vibrant hub of cancer research, but we believe collectively we can become something even greater than the sum of our parts.”

Discover how Leeds Cancer Research Centre (LCRC) has expanded its team to help drive its strategy of combining research excellence with cutting-edge infrastructure towards addressing important cancer challenges, and find out how you can get involved in continuing this success story.

Click [here](#) to read more.

OPEN CALL: Apply to join Leeds Cancer Research Centre (LCRC) Executive subgroup committees

The [Leeds Cancer Research Centre \(LCRC\)](#) directors, [Professor Gordon Cook](#) and [Professor Susan Short](#) would like to invite all interested UoL and LTHT colleagues who **deliver research** across **any discipline** in a **cancer related field** to apply to join one of the newly established Leeds Cancer Research Centre (LCRC) Executive Subgroup Committees.

The Subgroup Committees will play a pivotal role in mapping the key research strengths across Leeds, clinical capabilities, and resource infrastructure to develop the LCRCs evidence-based scientific cancer research strategy.

Successful applicants will benefit from gaining an opportunity to work at a strategic level to develop their leadership skills, share expertise, and strengthen networks across Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust (LTHT) and the University of Leeds (UoL), whilst supporting the advancement of the scientific strategy for the LCRC.

Click [here](#) for further information about the subgroups and how to apply.

Research news

Born and Bred in Leeds

A DATA LINKAGE COHORT STUDY OF BABIES BORN IN LEEDS AND THEIR MOTHERS



BaBi Leeds is a longitudinal data collection project to help link information from pregnant patient records and child's patient records to be used for research and service planning, to improve health and services in Leeds. All data is anonymised and stored securely.

BaBi Leeds is now into its 3rd year of recruitment and has just reached its 5000th participant and our target is to reach 35% of booked women at LTHT. Please see our [second-year infographic](#) for more information.

For more information download the [patient information sheet](#). You can also see the [participant video](#) to find out more. Email: leedsth-tr.babi@nhs.net, tel 0113 2066473

WHAT SKILLS DO RESEARCHERS NEED TO EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE WITH POLICY MAKERS?

CHORAL's Dr Chris Brown joined a panel of experts at a Policy Leeds event, looking at the diverse and far-reaching policy-relevant research occurring at the University of Leeds. Read the [blog](#) to find out more and hear further insights from the researchers.

RESEARCHERS FORGE UNUSUAL PARTNERSHIPS TO TACKLE HARDEST HEALTH CHALLENGES

CHORAL is featured in the Health Innovation Leeds spotlight article. This article highlights nationally important research, looking at unconventional partnerships between diverse groups across children, academia, healthcare, members of the public and politicians to address some of the hardest health challenges. Read the full article [here](#).

NEW REPORT: A COUNTRY THAT WORKS FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

AN EVIDENCE-BASED PLAN FOR IMPROVING CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH WITH AND THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

A country that works for all children and young people

An evidence-based plan for improving children's oral health with and through education settings



A new report published Friday 13th September 2024 by Child of the North and the Centre for Young Lives, puts forward new proposals to tackle the children's oral health crisis in England which is seeing millions of children suffering from tooth decay.

To view the full series of reports and sign up for campaign updates, [click here](#).



We were delighted to see our CHORAL colleague **Professor Peter Day** appearing on ITV News, discussing this report and highlighting the need for supervised tooth brushing programmes.



CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FORUM AUTUMN EVENT 23RD OCTOBER 16.30 - 18.30

AN INFORMAL EVENT TO BRING TOGETHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMICS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH.

This event will be an opportunity to hear about all the fantastic research that is happening and to meet others from a variety of disciplines.

The event is free to attend but places are limited, sign up for your free ticket [here](#).

NIHR Child Health Technology Conference

BUILDING A GLOBAL CHILD HEALTH TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY

A chance to hear world-leading experts present on the latest in child health technology, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and network with peers who share a common passion for improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

ONLINE, 11 - 12 JUNE 2025 - [click here for more information](#)



Launch of LifeArc

LifeArc is a self-funded medical research charity, that collaborates with its partners to get medical breakthroughs to patients faster.

LifeArc's Childhood Cancer Translational Challenge was officially launched on the evening of 19th September 2024, in London.

Sign up to hear more about how LifeArc is partnering with the community to address key translational research gaps for children with cancer.

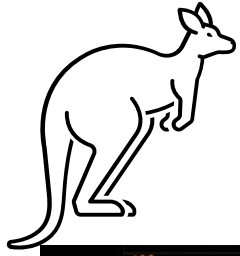
NIHR GOSH BRC Academic Training Weekend

DE VERE CRANAGE ESTATE - 9-10 NOVEMBER 2024

The event aims to support early researchers as they move toward becoming independent researchers, by taking them through the different steps along the journey. The event is held at the De Vere Cranage Estate in the Cheshire countryside. For more information click [here](#).



International Collaboration



DR SIMON PINI'S AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE:

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATION



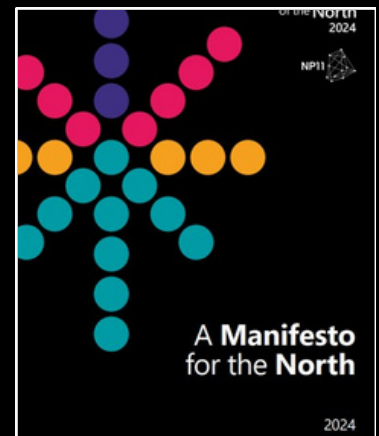
CHORAL Future Leaders in Child Health Research Theme Lead and NIHR Associate Professor Dr Simon Pini, recently completed a research visit to Australia as part of his NIHR Advanced Fellowship. [Click here](#) to read about his experience and how it has supported his professional development.

NORTHERN LEADERS

Maryam Kapree, Young Person Representative on the CHORAL Steering Group and undergraduate student at the University of Leeds, was invited to attend the Northern Leaders summit in York. The event saw attendance from all Northern mayors, including Tracy Brabin and Andy Burnham, alongside key leaders and thinkers.

It was an exciting moment for pan-Northern collaboration, as leaders came together to discuss a new Northern partnership which focuses on better transport, energy security, increased R&D, greater inward investment as well as the launch of One Creative North. Maryam spoke about the barriers that young people face, and the work that is yet to be done to level the playing field, thus continuing her ongoing commitment to tackle inequality and create greater opportunities for all young people.

The Northern Leaders Summit saw the launch of Manifesto for the North 2024.



New initiatives and more Events...

Creative Arts & Healthcare Research Lab (CAHREL)

This is a new initiative hosted by the Leeds School of Art at Leeds Beckett University. It employs arts-based participatory approaches for methodological innovation in healthcare.

CAHREL uses arts-based approaches such as theatre, storytelling, film, digital educational apps, VR, AR, Avatar, music, design and architecture to support meaningful inclusion in paediatric research for health, cultural and community outcomes in research.

To read more about it visit the [CAHREL website](#).



SAVE THE DATE: 29TH NOVEMBER (ALL DAY)

The **Adolescent Health Study (AHS) research community update and engagement meeting** will be held on **Friday 29th November** in central London, with remote online attendance options for those unable to attend in person.

Further details and registration information will be available in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please save the date.

Leeds Hospitals Charity

Thanks to donations, Leeds Hospitals Charity has invested over £200,000 to fund the Jeremy Neil Allen Clinical Research Fellowship at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. Three doctors at Leeds Children's Hospital were given a year-long opportunity to receive specialist training at Leeds Children's Clinical Research Facility. Ella Dzora, Paediatric Trainee, is the final doctor taking part in this fellowship. To read more about the fellowship and Ella's work click [here](#).



NIHR Children's Research Event: MAKING RESEARCH AN EVERY DAY EVENT

With funding from CHORAL, this event was attended by a diverse group which included healthcare professionals, researchers, and community members, all united by a shared interest in improving paediatric care.

Click [here](#) to read all about the event.

Meet the Researcher



Name: Stephen Morris

Job Title: NIHR Doctoral Fellow / Clinical Pharmacist

Organisation: University of Leeds / Leeds Children's Hospital

Tell us about your research:

My research is studying the experiences of families who give medicines to their infants and young children at home. I am using a theory called resilience theory, which looks for adaptations that people make when faced with disruptions to their lives. Find out more at: www.minimed.net

What's your proudest achievement?

Career wise it would be getting my NIHR doctoral fellowship funding. Undoubtedly one of the hardest processes I have been through. But now I am doing a PhD it has changed my life in ways I never foresaw.

If you could choose anyone to have dinner with, who would it be and why?

Aside from families and loved ones!...I would say Wendy Mitchell. I wanted to meet her, but sadly she died earlier this year. I loved her book 'Somebody I used to know'. Reading her work with the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) as a researcher I find very inspiring. She was also an excellent baker and so I definitely would have asked her to bring desert!

What are you reading at the moment?

I'm working my way through "The Journal of a Disappointed Man" by W.N.P. Barbellion (aka Bruce Frederick Cummings). It's regarded as an unsung classic of British literature. Think non-fiction by a 1900s version of Adrian Mole.

What is your favourite place in Yorkshire?

So many choices! I try not to overlook the little things, so I'd go with Leeds City Centre. There's some amazing buildings I walk/cycle past every day on my commute (town hall, university campus, corn exchange, park square, etc.), museums, a good underground music scene, great food and drink, loads of fabulous independent businesses too.

What is your favourite inspirational quote?

Patient and their families, the NHS and NIHR quite rightly encourages us to deliver patient benefit asap. However, sometimes the quickest response may not be the most appropriate. This quote helps remind me to avoid jumping to solutions and to take a more considered approach instead:

"The question 'What we might build tomorrow?' blinds us to the question of our ongoing responsibilities for what we built yesterday." - Dourish and Mainwaring 2012.

If you could give new researchers one piece of advice, what would it be?

Find your tribe. It can be really difficult, especially if you are in an isolated place (e.g. new to Leeds, working somewhere that isn't research active, interested in methods that not many people use). But thankfully we now have CHORAL which should make this much easier. Peer support is a fundamental part of being successful, people to help you through difficult times and celebrate success with!

Prizes and awards

Well done!



Congratulations to the winners of the **Simon Newell and Leeds Hospitals Charity Child Health Research Prize – Undergraduate Award 2024**, brought to you by **CHORAL**. [Click here](#) to read summaries of the winning research.

Congratulations to **Subashan Vadibeler**, winner of the Lasker Foundation 2024 Essay Contest. Subashan is an academic foundation doctor researching health inequities as part of the CHORAL team. Read more about Subashan and his winning essay [here](#).



We are pleased to hear that our Leeds clinical academics have won a number of prizes at the recent NHS England Yorks and Humber Regional Academic Presentation Day. Including some of our CHORAL Early Career Researchers **Adam Galloway** (Clinical PhD Fellow Children's Physiotherapy, Plenary presentation prize) and **Katherine Pettinger** (Clinical PhD Fellow Paediatrics, Poster presentation prize).



Congratulations to our Future Leaders in Child Health Theme Lead **Dr Carole Burnett**. Carole has been awarded an **NIHR Senior Clinical Practitioner Research Award** which will provide her with protected time to evolve academic capacity development opportunities for healthcare professionals in Leeds and further afield. Well done Carole!"



Congratulations to **Claudia Heggie** for being shortlisted for the Senior Colgate Prize at the British Society for Oral and Dental Research. Claudia attended BSODR2024 and presented research demonstrating the acceptability of photobiomodulation in paediatric supportive cancer care.



We are delighted that CHORAL's Senior Research Statistician, **Dr Bernadette Dondo's** Wellcome Trust Accelerator Award 'Transforming child health outcomes through data linkage' has been successful.

Calling all CHORAL Collaborators



FUNDING

Opportunities



Work at the University of Leeds?
Remember to check the research
support [intranet page](#) for up to date
information about finding funding and
how to apply.

READY TO PUBLISH?

Please include our acknowledgement! contact
CHORAL@leeds.ac.uk for more information

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