Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Scientific Adviser, Research and Development Portfolio, Department of Health.

Professor Chris Whitty was appointed Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health in January 2016. He is currently the Professor of Public and International Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and a Consultant Physician in acute medicine and infectious diseases at University College London Hospitals and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. He is also Visiting Gresham Professor of Public Health at Gresham College. He was previously Chief Scientific Adviser and Director of Research and Evidence at the Department for International Development. Chris is an epidemiologist and physician. Prior to joining DH he was Chair of the Department of Health National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections (NEPNEI) and the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP).

Professor Chris Edwards, Associate Director, Southampton NIHR Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility

Professor Edwards attended medical school at King’s College London and trained at the Hammersmith and St George’s Hospitals in London. He is a clinical rheumatologist with research interests and expertise in the development of new therapies for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. Professor Edwards moved to Southampton in 2001 following working for a year as a rheumatology consultant at Tan Tock Seng Hospital in Singapore.

Dr Helen Roberts, Associate Professor in Geriatric Medicine, University of Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Helen Roberts trained in medicine at the University of Birmingham. She has a clinical practice as a Consultant in Geriatric Medicine at University Hospital Southampton with a focus on older people living with frailty. Her specialism is in the management of Parkinson’s disease and leading the Wessex Parkinson’s Excellence Network.
Dr Katherine Bradbury, Research Fellow in Health Psychology, University of Southampton

Dr Katherine Bradbury is a Health Psychologist based at the University of Southampton who specialises in developing and evaluating online interventions for the prevention and self-management of health problems. Katherine and colleagues have recently developed and evaluated an online intervention for the treatment of obesity, named POWeR+, which was proven to be effective in helping people to lose weight, and highly cost-effective. POWeR+ is now being disseminated to Public Health teams, Primary Care and Third Sector organisations throughout the UK.

Dr Tom Monks, Senior Research Fellow in Operational Research within the Faculty of Health Sciences and Lead for NIHR CLAHRC Wessex’s Methodological Hub, University of Southampton

Dr Tom Monks joined the Faculty of Health Sciences in July 2014 as part of NIHR CLAHRC Wessex after four years working at University of Exeter Medical School. His work focusses on the application of Operational Research modelling in healthcare. In particular, his research uses modelling and analysis to help the NHS improve services.

Dr Kathryn Woods-Townsend, Programme Manager, LifeLab

Dr Kathryn Woods-Townsend has had a successful career as a research scientist with a degree in Genetics & Microbiology and is the programme manager for Southampton's innovative LifeLab initiative, which aims to promote scientific basis of lifelong health in school children and their families. Her work engages the next generation in health matters and gives learning about how teenagers and young adults have been involved in understanding how science underpins health issues and how they can make a positive change in adolescent health-related attitudes.
Sally Dace, Patient Participant

Sally Dace is currently a full-time carer but has previously worked in the civil service in Westminster and local government in Hampshire. She has also spent a number of years working in education, including primary, secondary and special schools, a sixth form college and as an administrator at Royal Holloway, University of London. Sally has had asthma since childhood and has been living with multiple sclerosis for many years. Both conditions require self-administered medication. She also currently cares for two close family members, one with cancer and one with learning difficulties. As a result she is an experienced user of health services both as patient and relative. Sally is a passionate advocate of involving users of health services at all stages of service design, improvement and review.

Emma Munro, Head of Nursing Research, University Hospital Southampton

Emma Munro provides management and leadership to nurses and allied healthcare professionals across the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation trust, and specialist nutrition and respiratory research nursing teams in the clinical research facility. She qualified as a nurse at The Middlesex Hospital, London, and her career in research includes senior roles at the Royal Marsden and Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. She is a member of the NIHR Research Nurse Strategy group and the CRN Wessex Workforce Development Group. She is also a member of the steering group of the UK forum for research nurses, midwives, AHPs and CTAs.

Professor Alison Richardson, Clinical Professor of Cancer Nursing and End of Life Care and Director of the Southampton Academy of Research (SAoR), University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

Professor Alison Richardson was appointed Director of the Southampton Academy of Research in 2016. She holds a clinical academic appointment, which means she combines clinical practice and research. Her senior leadership position at Southampton General Hospital is to improve patient care through the generation and application of research for patients with cancer and who are approaching the end of life. Her research centres on understanding the experiences of people affected by cancer, and other life limiting illnesses, and developing nurse-led interventions that can respond to the issues and problems that people have to confront as part of their day-to-day lives. Professor Richardson was previously Macmillan Lecturer in Cancer Nursing and later Professor of Cancer Nursing at King’s College London, following her initial Bachelors degree in Cardiff and nursing career at Royal Marsden Hospital.
Alison Ford, Head of Engagement, NIHR Dissemination Centre

Originally an HR and training specialist, Alison has worked as a manager within NHS provider and commissioning organisations and in the third sector. Most recently the public involvement lead for an NIHR funding centre, she has extensive experience in working collaboratively across health and research organisations.

Dr Katrina Cathie, Consultant General Paediatrics and Paediatric Research, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Katrina Cathie is an NHS Consultant in Academic and General Paediatrics at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. She began her clinical training in 2003 and became an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in 2007 at ST4 level. Following her ACF post she took time out of clinical training as an NIHR Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit fellow to complete an MD looking at biofilms in Cystic Fibrosis. She has been working for the last year as an NHS consultant with dedicated research sessions.

Industry and research

Richard Marsden, CEO, Synairgen

Richard Marsden joined Synairgen in a consulting role as General Manager in November 2003, was appointed to the Board as Managing Director in June 2004 and appointed Chief Executive Officer in September 2009. Synairgen is a drug discovery and development company founded by University of Southampton.

Dr Sarah Williams, Associate Director of Research and Clinical Effectiveness, Solent NHS Trust

Solent NHS Trust is a research active organisation with recruitment onto many NIHR funded studies and Dr Sarah Williams will be giving her insight into how being research active can improve outcomes for patients. Dr Williams has a background in public health, spending the early part of her career working with Marie Stopes International, UNICEF and UNDP in Kenya and Belize on population health programmes & evaluation. Now back in the NHS she leads an integrated team driving research, quality improvement, clinical effectiveness and the measurement of clinical outcomes.
Professor Peter Johnson, Professor of Medical Oncology, Southampton Cancer Research UK Centre

Peter Johnson graduated from Cambridge University and St Thomas's Medical School. He trained in oncology at St Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was an Imperial Cancer Research Fund Clinical Research Fellow. He was appointed Chief Clinician for Cancer Research UK in 2008 and leads the Southampton Cancer Research UK Centre, responsible for bringing together a broad multidisciplinary group of basic, translational and clinical researchers, and linking the laboratory research to the extensive clinical practice in cancer treatment in the Southampton Cancer Centre. Southampton hosts an Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre and a Clinical Trials Unit, both with collaborative support from NIHR and CRUK to provide synergy in delivering results for patients.

Wessex Public Involvement Development team

Wessex Public Involvement Network has four key principals around Reach, Refinement, Relevance and Reputation. This session sets out how Public Involvement is the golden thread that runs through all activities within the NIHR.

Professor Mark Mullee, Professorial Fellow in Medical Statistics, University of Southampton

Professor Mark Mullee is a Professorial Fellow at the University of Southampton and Director of the NIHR Research Design Service (RDS) South Central. Public Involvement in research is a fundamental part of the NIHR. Mark Mullee was a key member of the group of RDS Directors who worked in partnership with the Wessex Institute to submit a tender for the INVOLVE Coordinating Centre. The Department of Health awarded a £3.2m four-year contract (starting 1st February 2016) to the University of Southampton, for the Wessex Institute/RDS partnership to deliver the INVOLVE service. Mark Mullee is a member of the INVOLVE Executive Group.

Lynn Kerridge, Chief Executive Officer, NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC)

Lynn has been the Chief Executive Officer of the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC) since it was established in April 2008. NETSCC is part of the Wessex Institute, a major enterprise unit within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Southampton. She manages the identifying, prioritising, funding, delivery, publication, and dissemination of high-quality research and leads other NIHR initiatives to meet the needs of the public, patients and the NHS. She is a member of the NIHR Strategy Board. Lynn has worked in the University for over 20 years and has a particular interest in public health.
Tina Coldham, INVOLVE

Tina Coldham is a member of the INVOLVE advisory group. She was a mental health service user for 17 years, and is still a practising depressive! She started involvement as a user activist through a local successful campaigning user group and setting up self-help groups. Recently Tina stood down as Chair of the National Survivor User Network and is currently on the Board of the Social Care Institute for Excellence and is chairing their Co-Production Network. Her interest in public research developed early as a survivor researcher, to help build evidence of what she and others knew mattered in mental health. Her continued research passion is to share and learn across the sector.

Fiona Dalton, Chief Executive, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

As host for many of the Wessex-based NIHR organisations, Fiona is uniquely placed to give an overview of how the different elements have come together to deliver a seamless service to researchers, patients and clinicians. She was appointed as Chief Executive in 2013. Prior to rejoining the Trust she held the combined position of Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Fiona joined the NHS management training scheme after graduating from Oxford University with a degree in Human Sciences and began her career in hospital management at Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust in 1996. She then spent four years at UHS as Director of Strategy and Business Development before moving to GOSH.

NIHR Wessex at 10 Organised by:

- NIHR Clinical Research Network Wessex
- NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (Wessex)
- NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre
- NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre
- Southampton NIHR Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit
- NIHR Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility
- Southampton Health Technology Assessments Centre
- NIHR INVOLVE
- NIHR Dissemination Centre
- NIHR Research Design Service South Central
- NIHR Southampton Clinical Trials Unit
- Wessex NHS Genomics Medicine Centre
- Wessex Academic Health Science Network