

Julianne Bostock

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SPEAKERS

Julianne Bostock, Maya Leach

Maya Leach 00:00

The next session of this event is about CRPs as the critical enabler for the future of research in the UK, let's welcome Julianne Bostock Research Policy senior manager from the Department of Health and Social Care. Julianne, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Julianne Bostock 00:25

Thanks so much, Maya. It's a real pleasure for me to be here with you this afternoon. My name is Julianne Bostock. I'm from the Department of Health and Social Care. I work in the science research and evidence Directorate. And I'm the Senior Policy lead for academic research, training and also the research delivery workforce, which includes clinical research practitioners. So most of my work is in supporting people who are based in the NIHR. But I also work closely with a lot of other funders, the NHS, local authorities and academia to support careers and career development in research and innovation across all parts of the health and care environment. At the moment, the NIHR has six strategic themes and none of these could be delivered without a skilled and supported and sustainable workforce and clinical research practitioners are absolutely crucial to us delivering clinical research. We know it's transforming treatment in the NHS, and also the care we receive and we know you bring an enormous amount of knowledge and expertise to research delivery teams. We currently have seven areas of strategic focus. But I think like a lot of people working in health and care at the moment at the Department of Health we're currently very focused on transitioning from the emergency phase of the COVID response. And we're now moving to supporting the recovery and growth of clinical research. And I'd really love just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you for the work that you've done throughout the COVID pandemic. It's been absolutely outstanding and we know you've been invaluable in supporting the work in delivering COVID and both non COVID related studies. Much of the rapid setup of studies was thanks to a wide spread dedicated research community. This includes clinical research practitioners who helped to mobilise over two and a half million people since the onset of the pandemic and to take part in 359 COVID related research studies across more than 5000 sites in the UK. But all of this major national effort has impacted on research and other areas and consequently non COVID clinical research activity has decreased over this time. So we've had a concerted effort to restart non COVID research across the department. But it's proved challenging. For a number of reasons, we've had to think a lot about how we mitigate the

potential risks of long term and far reaching impacts on clinical research. To make sure that the UK's vibrant life sciences sector is fully supported and the UK Government has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to grow the UK clinical research environment and this remains as strong as ever. Last year as Anthea mentioned, we published our vision for the future of UK clinical research delivery. And we want the delivery of research to be recognised and rewarded. We want it to be embedded across the NHS and all care settings. We really want to foster a positive research culture where all research staff feel empowered and all staff feel empowered to be supported to participate in clinical research delivery, as part of their job and clinical research practitioners will be absolutely crucial in supporting this vision. We've published implementation plans for this, which we've now started delivering and you can find more details of this on the NIHR website. But making sure we offer rewarding career opportunities for all health and care staff, including clinical research practitioners will be absolutely crucial in us achieving our vision for clinical research. And I really just want to take this opportunity to quickly highlight some of the training opportunities which are available through the NIHR. The fellowship for all programme is open to all healthcare professionals including clinical research practitioners, and it's shown here in green, and registered clinical research practitioners are now also eligible for awards and the ICA programme, which is shown here in red. It offers awards all the way from pre doctoral awards all the way up to Senior lectureships. And it's now open to people on the register. I spoke to some of my colleagues at the NIHR late last week and they said they weren't aware of any clinical research practitioners who have actually applied to the ICA scheme. So if you're interested, I'd just really like to encourage you to have a look at the support section of the NIHR website, which will also give you details of other opportunities which are available across the NIHR. And finally, I'd just like to let you know that you can stay up to date with what's happening across the NIHR by signing up for updates. And I'd like to thank you all again for the work that you've been doing. We really appreciate the work that you've you've been doing. And also I'd like to say a huge thank you to the team at the NIHR Fiona, Janice, Maya and the rest of the team for really driving this work for helping us to realise the potential of clinical research practitioners through this register. Thanks, and I'll hand you back to Maya now.

Maya Leach 05:50

Thank you so much, Julianne. It was a great update and lots of opportunities for CRPs. The future looks bright