**Invite to join national PCC Research Incubator PPIE group**

**Background**

The NIHR-supported PCC Research Incubator <https://pccresearchincubator.org.uk/> aims to help staff working within Paediatric Critical Care /Paediatric Intensive Care Units (Doctors , Nurses, Physios, Pharmacist, Nutritionists etc) , to develop their research ideas through applying for fellowships and research grants.  Patient & Public Involvement and Engagement ( PPIE) is mandatory to secure research funding and to demonstrate to research ethics committees that a study is answering an important question.  One of the biggest challenges staff report is finding parents/ carers who would be willing to work with them as PPIE participants. Until now there has been no national group for researchers to apply to work with.

**What is the PPIE group’s purpose?**

The group is being set up under the leadership of Dr Julie Menzies (Bristol Royal Hospital for Children) and Professor Padmanabhan Ramnarayan (Ram) (St Mary’s), supported by Dr Silvia Giampieri, the **PCC Research Incubator** project manager.  We’re aiming to build a ‘group’ of parents/carers who can be contacted about opportunities to work with researchers on new research studies.

**Key points:**

* There will be up to four on-line meetings per year that members can opt to join
* Different researchers will join the meetings and share their research ideas.  PPIE attendees will provide feedback on these.
* Some researchers will be looking for continued PPIE involvement and members can then choose if they would like to continue to work with researchers.
* All meetings will be virtual and attendees will be paid in line with [national guidance](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/payment-guidance-researchers-and-professionals) at £25/hour.
* Members will be offered access to on-line training courses to help them with this role.
* PPIE members will be asked about any areas they are interested in when they register.  We will then try to ‘match’ this . For example, if you’re interested in research related to feeding and nutrition, then we’ll invite you to a meeting with a researcher who is developing a study in this area.

**How are we recruiting PPIE members?**

* We are inviting parents/ carers already involved in PPIE roles
* The opportunity will also be advertised on the PCCS and PCC Research Incubator websites.
* We’re asking PICU Nurse Managers across the UK/ Ireland to promote this to parents/carers in PCC/PICUs (through posters in the units).
* We’ve asked them if they can share the poster with former patients and families where possible.
* We’re also asking the regional networks to help share this with hospitals that refer children to the centres with PICUs (posters in their parent areas)

**Why are you contacting me?**

We are inviting you to join the national **PCC Research Incubator** PPIE database.   This means that we will send your opportunities which might fit your interests.  If none of the studies sound interesting or you don’t have any availability, then you can ignore the request.  There is no obligation to take part in any sessions.

**How will I hear back about the impact of my involvement?**

All researchers are required to provide updates about the research studies people contribute to; even if they’re unsuccessful.  The Incubator team will send quarterly newsletters with feedback and there will be a one-hour meeting (on line) once/ year where we will summarise how the group has contributed to PICU/PCC research.

**How do I sign up?**

The form to sign up is accessed here: [**https://forms.office.com/e/tDctgatXTe**](https://forms.office.com/e/tDctgatXTe)

For more information, the full terms of reference for the group can be accessed here: [https://pccresearchincubator.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/PCC-Incubator-PPEI-ToR\_-V5.0- 15.05.2025\_Final.pdf](https://pccresearchincubator.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/PCC-Incubator-PPEI-ToR_-V5.0-%2015.05.2025_Final.pdf)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the incubator email: [PCCResearch@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:PCCResearch@imperial.ac.uk)

Thank you for your help and support

Best wishes

Julie and Ram

On behalf of the NIHR-Supported **PCC Research Incubator**