

# Patient Experience Research Centre

## Young Persons' Advisory Network Newsletter

Welcome to the June issue of the Imperial College London Young Persons' Advisory Network Newsletter.

In this issue we share new opportunities for involvement and engagement in research, upcoming events which may be of interest and highlights from our research from the first half of 2021.

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## Involvement and engagement opportunities



### Help researchers define symptoms of Long COVID

When carrying out research to understand (and define) a new condition such as Long COVID, it's important that as many views are captured and the different experiences are explored, recognising that the experience of symptoms may be different for each person.

We are therefore inviting individuals with ongoing symptoms after COVID-19 to share what these symptoms feel like in your own words (or pictures) to help inform the REACT long COVID research at Imperial College London.

You can get involved, read what others have said and share your own response via the following link.

[Click here](#)



### Help improve mental health for children & young people in North West London

Researchers at Imperial College London have been funded by the Health Foundation to use existing health and care data to answer priority questions raised by North West Londoners around inequalities in children and young people's access to mental health and care.

We want to understand what is important to you in terms of mental health and care since COVID-19 – and we're asking you to tell us what has changed and what questions you would most want answered to improve mental health and care for young people through an online survey.

The results from the survey will shape what research is done later this year. We'll use the research findings to improve health and care for young people.

**Who can take part?**

Anyone aged 11-25 who lives, goes to school in, or has received care in North West London

**Complete the survey:** [Click here](#)

**Deadline:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021



**Join the growing SCAMP Young People's Advisory Group**

[SCAMP \(Study of Cognition, Adolescents and Mobile Phones\)](#) is a major study within the School of Public Health at Imperial College London. We have been following secondary school pupils across London for the past 5 years, since they were in Year 7 (ages 11-12) through to early adulthood to look at whether the use of mobile phone use has an impact on affect young people's mental and physical health.

We have recently been awarded an exciting multi-million pound grant from the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) to continue to study SCAMP pupils for a further 5 years and investigate mental health during the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

We are in the process of developing an app as a way to be able to stay in touch with our participants, conduct research and reward them for their involvement (a little bit like the [Zoe COVID Symptom tracker app](#)).

Our wonderful Young Persons Advisory Group is comprised of 17-18 year olds and have been helping us so far. However, in order to effectively design an app for

18-22 year olds we need to hear the views of those from this age group. In this paid role we are looking for young people who can help feed in on to our decisions around the design of our app, our digital brand and the rewards for participants.

### **Who are we looking for & what is involved?**

- Anyone aged 18-22 can apply
- You will be asked to join a 1 to 2 hour meeting every 2 months to give your views and discuss the project
- A minimum commitment of 2 years in the advisory group is preferred. You will also have the opportunity to stay on for the full 5-year research study.
- You will receive reimbursement of £15/hr for your involvement

### **How to apply?**

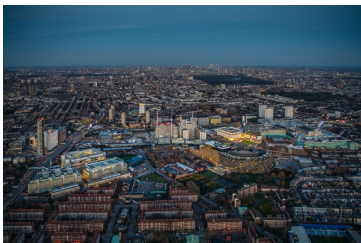
To express your interest please complete the following short application form, [please also send a copy of your CV to the team at \[scamp@imperial.ac.uk\]\(mailto:scamp@imperial.ac.uk\)](#)

[Click here to apply.](#)

**Deadline:** 6th July 2021

If you have further questions, please contact [scamp@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:scamp@imperial.ac.uk)

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## **Join our North West London Research Involvement Network**

Do you live, work, study or receive care in North West London?

We are inviting individuals in our local community to join our online Research Involvement Network to help develop, shape, inform and influence health research undertaken by Imperial College London & Imperial NHS Trust which is focused on improving health outcomes in the North West London community.

As a member of the network you can expect updates on research relevant to the North West London area, invitations to public events as well as the opportunity to share your views and experience via polls, surveys, discussion groups and workshops relevant to health and health care services in North West London.

To join the network please click the link below.

[Click here](#)

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## Take part in a Climate Change Photography Competition

The Grantham Institute at Imperial College London is inviting secondary school and university student in the UK to participate in their photography competition on the theme of climate change.

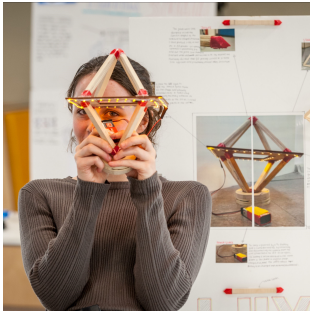
The competition gives you an opportunity to share your story about climate change. How it affects you or how you're helping to tackle it.

The deadline for submissions is the 1st July.

Further details & how to enter can be found via the link below.

[Click here](#)

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## Summer Maker Challenge

Are you aged 17-18 and enjoy making? Join the Imperial Outreach virtual Maker Challenge programme which teaches you how to make, design and create.

Over 6 days, you'll learn design thinking, 3D printing, laser cutting and more! You will get a chance to develop a creative idea from concept to prototype.

To find out more or to apply, visit [Maker Challenge](#).

**Application deadline:** Sunday 18 July

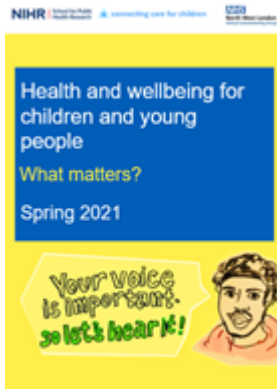
**Summer programme dates:** 2-19 August

**Need help applying?** For queries or to book a 1-1 support session with our team email [makerspace@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:makerspace@imperial.ac.uk)

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## Public involvement news & updates

**New report on Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Priorities in North West London**



Collaborators across the National Institute of Health Research's School for Public Health Research, North West London integrated care system (ICS), Connecting Care for Children and the Imperial Patient Experience Research Centre came together to host a virtual workshop on Thursday 22 April 2021. The aim of the workshop was to explore children and young people's priorities for health and wellbeing in North West London.

We invited local children and young people, their families and community and healthcare professionals to talk to us about what matters most to them.

The workshop was a chance for participants to:

- Inform plans for health and care services for children and young people
- Discuss the health and wellbeing worries of your community
- Design services that work for children, young people and their families

The report from the workshop has now been published: [Children and young people's health and wellbeing in North West London, What matters?](#)

It explores the six key themes came out from the conversations at the workshop:

- Access to mental health support
- Mental health support in schools
- Navigating the system
- Young people's ownership of their healthcare
- Pressures on parents
- Maintaining a healthy weight

If you have any questions about the report or want to be involved in future opportunities email Imperial Connecting Care 4 Children via: [imperial.cc4c@nhs.net](mailto:imperial.cc4c@nhs.net)



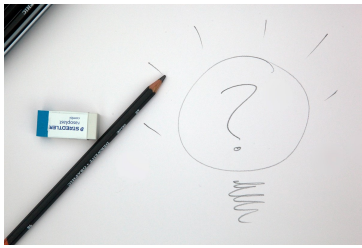
## Want to learn more about public involvement in research?

Sign up to our online course on [Public Involvement in Research](#) on Coursera. The course is aimed at researchers but is also suitable for patients and the public to complete. The course is set over four weeks (although you can go at your own pace) and introduces the concepts of public involvement and co-production in health research as well as discussing in more detail the role of public involvement across the research cycle.

You can find out more information about the course and details on how to access it [here](#).

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## Catch up on our latest blogs



Our PERC blog showcases public involvement and engagement activity across Imperial College London. You can click the links below to take you to each of our recent blogs:

[Four reasons why my placement at the Patient Experience](#)

[Research Centre \(PERC\) has been beneficial for my PhD](#): Carmel McGrath, PhD Student, Southampton Biomedical Research Centre

[Involving parents to inform research into pre-school wheeze](#)

(Dr Hanna Creese, Research Associate, Imperial Child Health Unit)

[Involving teenagers in research about the environment and mental](#)

[health](#): Rhiannon Thmpson, PhD student, Imperial Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

[Designing follow-up care for stroke with those who know it best:](#)

Jennifer Crow, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist in Stroke, Charing Cross Hospital

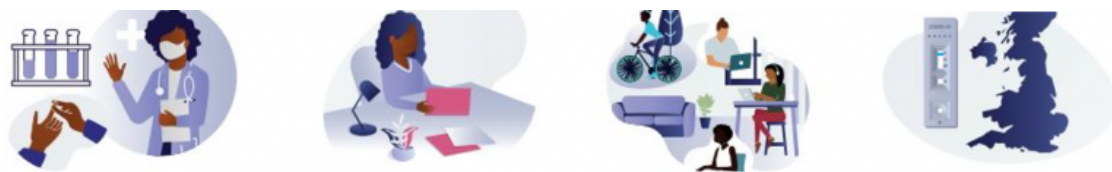
[You and your hormones: engaging and educating the public about](#)

[endocrinology](#): Dr Ali Abbara, Dr Chioma Izzi-Engbeaya, Department of Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction

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## Research News

### Meet the scientists behind the REACT study



REACT (REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission) is a series of studies that are using home testing to improve our understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic is progressing across England. This major research programme was commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and is being carried out by Imperial College London in partnership with Ipsos MORI and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

The programme of research has now been running for over a year, with two million tests completed by individuals across England.

In this feature article the scientists behind the programme tell their stories of how it all unfolded, what they've learned, and their hopes for REACT's legacy on science and beyond.

[Read the story here](#)

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## **New Online Training Course: Understanding the research behind the COVID-19 pandemic**

Developed by the NIHR Clinical Research Network and the University of Leeds this course aims to uncover the UK's critical health research response in the NHS - which discovered new vaccines and proven treatments in response to the COVID-19 global healthcare crisis.

### **The training aims to enable you to:**

- Understand how COVID-19 vaccines and treatments have been developed at speed whilst not compromising the safety of research participants.
- Learn about research processes and how research is regulated and approved.
- Hear about the experiences of patients who have been involved in clinical trials and communicate clearly to those who are interested in taking part in research.
- Reflect on the concerns of patients about research and gain evidence-based information to support conversations about COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.
- Reflect on the impact of the pandemic on the future of research.

Find out more about the course & sign up on the Future Learn Website. [Click here](#)

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### **Contact us:**

**publicinvolvement@imperial.ac.uk**

### **Our mailing address is:**

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