

EMERGE

NEWSLETTER

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EMERGE Newsletter

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IPED study leads NICE to recommend KardiaMobile as part of routine care for palpitation patients

The IPED study (Reed MJ, et al. *EClinicalMedicine, Lancet* 2019; 8: 37-46) showed that the AliveCor KardiaMobile ambulatory ECG event monitor increased the detection of symptomatic rhythms over 5-fold compared with standard care alone at 90 days, in patients presenting to the ED with palpitations.



On the back of this finding, in Edinburgh we successfully implemented the STARS Healthcare Pioneer award winning smartphone palpitation ambulatory ECG clinic, which successfully implemented the IPED study protocol, providing better care and a more focussed investigative strategy for these patients. We have now published our clinic experience (Cullen J, Reed MJ, et al. *EJEM* 2021; 28(6): 463-468) which is being used as a template by other hospitals across the UK.

On 6th January 2022, NICE medical technologies guidance MTG64 drawing largely on the IPED study, recommended KardiaMobile as an option for detecting atrial fibrillation for people with suspected paroxysmal AF, who present with symptoms such as palpitations (www.nice.org.uk/guidance/mtg64). This is a landmark process which will facilitate the embedding of this technology into clinical practice.

Currently a Scottish Health Technologies Group (SHTG) consultation process (<https://shtg.scot/our-advice/kardiamobile>) aims to produce recommendations for NHS Scotland based on the NICE guidance which again will inevitably improve patient care.

We are extremely proud in EMERGE of how the IPED study is an exemplar of research impact, has improved patients' care and is yet another example of how hospitals that have flourishing research programmes provide better clinical care to their patients.

More information on our [website — EMERGE in the Media.](#)



Research Participant Interview



Ian Hutchinson

RELIEF study participant

“Taking part in research was the best decision I have made”

“During one of these times on my own (while at the RIE), Fiona (McCurrach) and Nicky (Freeman) approached me and it made such a difference. I have dubbed them “my sunshine girls” as they were happy company, very attendant and came to visit often. Taking part in research with their care, made all the difference in my stay at the RIE.”

“I would absolutely recommend taking part in Research to anybody interested in helping anybody out.”

More of Ian’s story on our [website — Patient Experiences](#)





Amarachi Ihenacho
Paediatrics
Clinical Trial Assistant



Sarah Risbridger
Stroke/Neurosurgery
Senior Research Nurse



Mairi MacDonald
Stroke/Neurosurgery
Senior Research Nurse



Ashley Hegan
Paediatrics
Senior Research Nurse



New study coming soon!

EVIS – Early vasopressors in sepsis

This is an open label, two arm randomised trial to determine whether early peripheral vasopressor infusion, targeted to MAP>65, improves clinical effectiveness in hospitalised adult patients with septic shock compared with usual care, in the first 48 hours.

Current guidelines highlight the importance of early fluid resuscitation, but the association of early fluid therapy with improved outcomes is unclear. In the resuscitation phase, current practice is to give liberal intravenous fluid and intermittent vasopressor boluses if required, before, for some patients, continuous vasopressor infusion via a central venous line in Intensive Care. An alternative, early continuous peripheral vasopressor infusion is not routine practice in the UK

Patient observational data and laboratory experimental medicine support the hypothesis that restriction of IV fluid during the resuscitation phase for septic shock patients, and maintenance of organ perfusion with vasopressors may improve outcomes.

Bitter Sweet Goodbyes...



Miranda & Harri

Our biggest news this year though is undoubtedly the departure of our research manager Miranda Odam. Miranda joined EMERGE in 2013 and through her professionalism, commitment, dedication, excellence, and leadership, has overseen the expansion and development of EMERGE into one of the leading clinical research groups in the UK. Miranda leaves us to work with Kenneth Baillie's group where she will oversee the development of the international arm of the GenOMICC study. We are so grateful to Miranda for all her hard work over the last 8 years and she will be hugely missed.

We wish you all the best Miranda!

Study	Clinical Presentation	Patient Group	How can you help?
	Sepsis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients aged 18 or over • Acute illness due to proven or suspected infection • NEWS \geq5 • Clinician determined that IV fluid is needed within 1 hour of assessment. 	<p>Highlighting potential patients to the EMERGE team who will investigate further</p> <p>Ext 23867 or 21284</p> <p>Hand out the Patient Information Sheet (PIS) when the research team are unavailable</p>
	Syncope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients aged 16 or over • Syncope remains unexplained after initial ED/ AMU assessment 	
	Daily tobacco smokers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients aged 18 or over • Smoking tobacco daily 	
	Head, chest, abdomen, pelvis-related presentation requiring radiological investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients aged 16 or over • Present with a new onset symptoms related to their head, chest, abdomen or pelvis which requires radiological investigation 	
 <p>NOVEL</p>	Thromboembolic Events, Inflammation & Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients aged 18 or over • Presenting with relevant symptoms 	
	Paracetamol Overdose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients aged 16 or over • Hospital attendance with paracetamol overdose • ALT > 100 	



Having only recently been appointed as research nurses, we were delighted to be given the opportunity to attend the Scottish Research Nurse, Midwife & Coordinators' Network Conference on 25th March this year.

Much of the day was spent reflecting on how the COVID pandemic had impacted on research practice and how staff and resources adapted and worked together to face the ever changing demands placed on them. We gained valuable insight from hearing the experiences of individual practitioners, and how some of the measures that were put in place for COVID reasons have been kept as standard practice e.g. phone call follow ups, home working.

Emphasis was placed on how we, as research nurses, need to help others recognise our speciality and celebrate its achievements. Dr Juliet MacArthur and Dr Gordon Hill shared their story of putting together the special editorial of Recognising a watershed moment: opportunities for clinical research nursing and midwifery. Journal of Research in Nursing (published 01Apr2022) This sentiment was echoed by Claire Whitehouse, who spoke about her mission of conducting a scoping census to try and find out how many research nurses there are in the UK and Northern Ireland. She showed us how the 'population' of research nurses are distributed over this area, with some surprising results. Juliet MacArthur supported Claire's idea that the numbers were largely under-reported, and that further work is needed to establish accurate data. Lack of defined job titles, roles, and even uniforms means that research practitioners in general, not only nurses, aren't always identified.

It was a very interesting day hearing about the research that nurses across Scotland are undertaking, and we left full of inspiration and with a new appreciation for the broad scope of practice that research encompasses.

Senior Research Nurses Sarah Risbridger & Mairi MacDonald

Stroke & Neuro Study Updates

We are delighted to report that we have completed recruitment for the BRAINED-TBI study. 400 participants have been recruited to this biomarker study following a traumatic head injury requiring CT imaging. Paul Brennan is the chief investigator for this study and our partners at DX Cover are using innovative infra-red spectroscopy for analysis. The study is funded by the NIHR Brain Injury MedTech Co-operative.

The DASH trial also completed recruitment across the UK last month. This pilot trial recruited 3 participants locally from its national target of 50. The trial investigated the use of an infusion of desmopressin or placebo for the reversal of anti-platelet medication in patients presenting with an intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH).

We look forward to hearing the results in the near future.

DASH Chief Investigator is our Nottingham-based colleague Dr Nikki Sprigg. A long-term clinical trialist, Nikki's next trial – TICH 3 – will soon be recruiting in Edinburgh under the local oversight of Dr Neshika Samarasekera.

Lead Research Nurse Allan MacRaid





Alison Williams (Senior Research Nurse) was honoured with a British Empire Medal Award for all the generous work she did on creating the Rainbow Boxes during COVID!

Emily Godden (EMERGE Senior Research Nurse—Renal/Acute Medicine), **Charlene Hamid** (OCT Imaging Specialist) and **Dr. Bean (Neeraj) Dhaun** (Project PI) were the winners of the Kidney Research UK's Med tech "Dragon's Den" competition!



Julia Grahamslaw (Lead Research Nurse), **Caroline Blackstock** (Lead Research Nurse), & **Fiona McCurrach** (Senior Research Nurse) have been highly commended for The Gail Woodburn Scottish Research Nurse/Midwife of the Year Award 2022!



Rachel O'Brien has recently been appointed as Research Nurse Manager Band 8 Lead!



Caroline Blackstock has recently been appointed as Band 7 Lead Research Nurse!



Rebecca Trainer came to EMERGE during the pandemic as Admin Support, progressed into the Clinical Trials Assistant role and has now commenced her nursing training!



Adam Lloyd came to EMERGE as an MN student who then completed a PhD, and is now working as Research Manager with the Scottish Ambulance Service!



Emma Moatt began at EMERGE as a Research Administrator, then progressed to a Research Project Manager and has now moved into a Trial Manager role in York!



PADmap: Saving Lives in Falkirk

As a side project of the larger PADmap study, RRG supported the Friends of the Forth Valley Responders with a funding bid to place 45 public access defibrillators (PADs) within Falkirk through Community Choices, a programme run by Falkirk Council and the Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership that gives local people access to public funding. As part of the bid, RRG produced maps for each of the nine Falkirk Council district wards that pinpointed where the planned 45 PADs would be most needed. We are happy to report the funding bid was successful and secured £73,485!

Martin Stuart, Treasurer for Friends of Forth Valley First Responders, said:

“Using data from the Resuscitation Research Group, and working with communities, the PADs will be installed in the most optimal locations in areas of highest risk. By placing PADs within the community and rolling out public familiarisation and awareness sessions in CPR and the use of PADs, we can provide the skills, confidence and equipment that will help save lives.”

You can read more about this story here: <https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/news/article.aspx?aid=7098>

Aftercare working group:

RRG has set up a working group with partners focussing on supporting those affected by an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The Aftercare working group will plan and strategize how to meet the 8th aim of Scotland’s OHCA strategy 2021-2026: “All individuals who are affected by OHCA will be offered support afterwards.”

This includes people affected across the spectrum: survivors, family members, bystanders etc.



EMERGE Paediatrics

EMERGE Paediatrics is a new research team, based in the Emergency Department at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young people. The team focuses specifically on paediatric emergency research and aims to contribute evidence that will promote the clinical development of the field.

At present, the team consists of 3 core members; Dr. Jen Browning (Principal Investigator), Ashleigh Hegan (Senior Research Nurse) and Amarachi Ihenacho (Clinical Trials Assistant). However, our research is greatly facilitated by the recruitment efforts of the RHCYP ED staff.

We are currently recruiting to our first commercial study – INFORM; a sample collection protocol, which aims to collect nasal swabs positive for RSV, Influenza, and SARS-CoV-2 in a paediatric population. These swabs will be used to facilitate the testing of a new point of care assay, which can produce diagnostic results in under 10 minutes.

We are hoping to add more studies to our portfolio over the coming months – **keep your eyes peeled for updates!**



A new EMERGE initiative launched in the Autumn of 2021 is the Thursday lunchtime Academic meeting series. This started off in the spring more informally in the EMERGE office but after a great talk from Liz Neubeck, Professor of Cardiovascular Nursing at Napier University, discussing research career opportunities for nurses, we decided to move to Radiology Seminar Room G6109 in the radiology department back corridor where we had more space in these social distancing COVID times.

The current format is a mix of live lectures and pre-recorded content. The meetings start at 12.15, usually lasting around 30 minutes with some time for questions at the end. The meetings are all streamed live on the 'General' page of the 'Edinburgh EM Research' NHS Lothian Microsoft TEAMS platform. The other meetings in the month are pre-recorded and are usually released earlier in the week to allow viewing at any suitable time.

If you would like to present at one of our Thursday Educational Lunches, get in touch!

Both live and pre-recorded talks of the previous & forthcoming programme can be found on our website [Academic Lunchtime Meeting Series](#) or by scanning the following QR code.



Researcher of the Quarter goes to...



Dr. David Birrell!

We'd like to thank David for being a great champion for all EMERGE studies! David always goes above and beyond to give his patients the opportunity to partake in suitable research. As well as always being a great support, David has also presented at our Thursday Lunchtime Educational Meetings about setting up a Rwandan in-hospital cardiac arrest registry which was very interesting and informative.

Thanks for everything that you do David!

For more information on EMERGE, RRG and our team, please visit:

www.Emergeresearch.org

