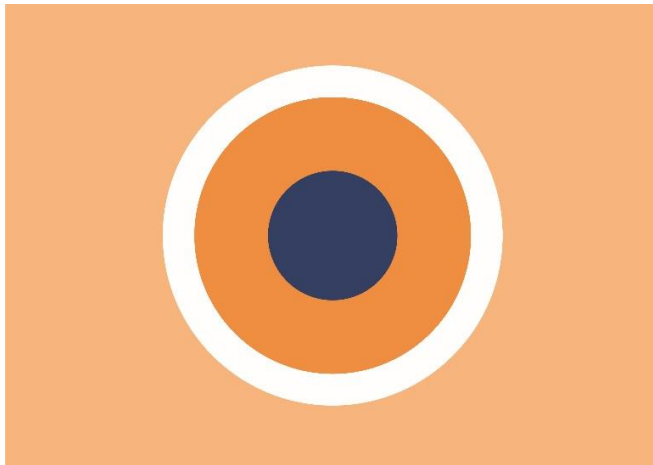


November 2022



In this issue:

- Welcome
- Annual Scientific Conference
- Recent HPRU GI Academy Members Training Events
- Upcoming Training, Conferences and Events
- Members Training Events
- PPIE, KM and Training
- Publications
- Keep in touch

Welcome to the HPRU GI autumn newsletter.

The HPRU has continued to go from strength to strength in the last year following some delays due to the Covid pandemic. We held our first face to face meeting in March in Liverpool (details below). A variety of training opportunities have been offered to our students and postdocs through our HPRU and in conjunction with the HPRUs in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections and Genomics and Enabling Data with more collaborative events being organised.

Our next newsletter will be published early in 2023.

Annual Scientific Conference



Thank you to those who attended the HPRU GI Annual Scientific Conference 2022 in March of this year held at the Liverpool Medical Institution, Liverpool. We were so pleased to see so many people join us both in person and remotely. There was a great buzz to finally meet colleagues in person, and get to hear about some of the exciting research that members of the HPRU GI are doing. A big thank-you also goes to our external speakers, Jeremy Taylor, Jane Whitehurst and Sam Sheppard!

The winners of prizes were:

- ❖ Best Oral Presentation - Hannah Trivett and Nicola Love
- ❖ Best Oral Poster Presentation - Rebecca Bengtsson
- ❖ Best Poster - Katri Jalava

You can still view all the posters on the website.

Next year's annual scientific conference will be held at University of Warwick and we will be in touch in the coming weeks with details of next year's event - we look forward to seeing you there!

Recent HPRU GI Academy Members Training Events

Action for Happiness- (Val Payne and Peter Harper from [Action for Happiness](#)) - 24th March 2022

If you would like any of the resources from this session please email hprugi@liv.ac.uk or alternatively check out their website for some top tips on acting for a happier life!

HPRU GI and HPRU EZI Academy Training Event - 27th and 28th of April 2022.

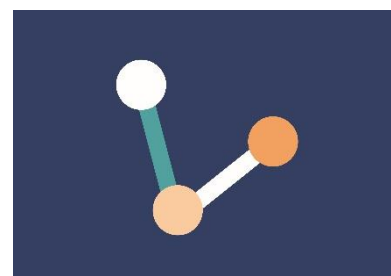


The Academy Members from the HPRU in Gastrointestinal Infections and the HPRU in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections were joined by colleagues from local UKHSA Health protection teams for a two day training event in April. Ruaraidh Hill and Gabriel Rogers led a two-part Systematic Review section, followed on the first day by a Media Engagement session from Callum Semple and Tom Clarke from Sky News. This interactive session gave early career researchers an idea

of how to best engage with the media and any top tips! Finally, Teodora Manea led a Research Ethics session. There were also opportunities for networking between the HPRUs and getting to finally meet colleagues in person! We are hoping that this will be an annual event with different training available to our PhD Students and Postdoctoral researchers.

Upcoming Training, Conferences and Events

- ❖ **HPRU GI Event with HPRU GED ***
6-7 December, University of Warwick
- ❖ **HPRU GI Event with HPRU EZI ***
24-25 January 2023, Hope Street Hotel, Liverpool
- ❖ **HPRU GI Annual Scientific Conference**
28-29 March 2023, University of Warwick
- ❖ **Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland Annual Meeting**
20-21 April 2023, The Spine, Liverpool



- ❖ *Sophie Staniszewska has arranged a monthly seminar series on public involvement and engagement (PPIE) for the HPRU in Gastrointestinal Infections and the HPRU in Genomics and Enabling Data. The two previous sessions are “**Developing public involvement in your research: Introducing the ARC/HPRU PPIE Toolkit**” (21st September 2022) and ‘**An introduction to writing Plain English summaries.**’ (20th October 2022). Recordings of both of these sessions can be found on the website: [Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement - HPRUGI \(nih.ac.uk\)](http://Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement - HPRUGI (nih.ac.uk)). These seminars are open to other colleagues, if you would like to be added to the mailing list please contact hprugi@liv.ac.uk.*
- * *This event is for PhDs and PDRAs working within the HPRU only.*

Training

UKHSA Outbreak Investigation Training event took place in September 2022 in Preston.



The UKHSA Outbreak Investigation Training event provided useful insights into the process of identifying an outbreak, from the moment symptoms arise within a population. As an academic who often performs “end-point” analysis (next-generation sequencing and bioinformatics), it was useful understand how potential outbreaks are first identified, risk-assessed, and why the analysis that I do is eventually requested. Overall, I would encourage HPRU members to attend this event, to gain a holistic understanding into the views of public health, and why we do what we do. **Ed Cunningham-Oakes, Postdoctoral Researcher,**

Theme 3, University of Liverpool

Attending the UKHSA Outbreak Investigation Training event was such a useful and enjoyable experience. It gave me the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the roles of Environmental Health in outbreak scenarios. The lectures and participatory workshops were engaging and enjoyable and allowed to me connect with people from different fields and disciplines. It was an extremely useful experience for my personal and professional development, and I will definitely be taking things learnt from this forward in my research. I am very glad to have attended this event, and I would recommend this to HPRU members who want to understand further the roles played in public health and their importance. **Lauren Murrell, PhD Student, Theme 1, University of Liverpool**



PPIE

Public and Patient Involvement in research on Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in children and yersiniosis surveillance



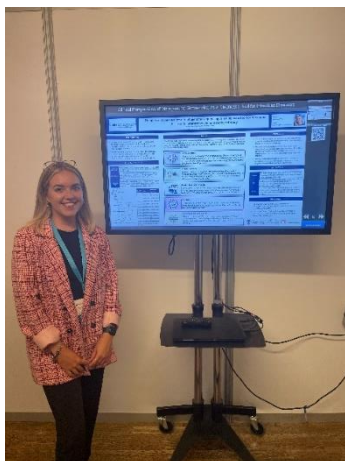
Within the HPRU-GI Theme 4 “Predict and Prevent”, my work has been focussing on two of the Theme’s workstreams, one on children with Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), working closely with HPRU-GI Theme 1, and another one on developing surveillance for yersiniosis in England. Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) is key for ensuring that our research is more meaningful and meets the needs of patients and public. Having Prof.

Sophie Staniszewska as the HPRU-GI PPIE lead and a core PPI group consisting of public members experienced in working with researchers made setting up the first PPI meeting very easy. Following early input from public contributors with regards to the importance of research questions and priorities, and ways we could make our research better, we have also had very helpful follow-up meetings. As the result of PPI, we have e.g. changed some of the wording we use in STEC research to make it more suitable and appropriate when engaging with parents of young children. We have also made suggestions for the questionnaire to be used by the UKHSA to gather information from patients diagnosed with yersiniosis, since some of the PPI feedback is also relevant to patient questionnaires for other gastrointestinal infections currently in use.

Photo: PPI and Theme 4 members at one of the online meetings discussing work on yersiniosis

Dana Šumilo, Senior Research Fellow, University of Warwick and Honorary Consultant in Public Health

Knowledge Mobilisation



My project began in October 2020 at the University of Liverpool, exploring the utility of long-read metagenomic sequencing to detect gastrointestinal pathogens in clinical samples, in a rapid and precise manner. I saw a lack of relevant scientific literature which contextualizes the current clinical advancements in infectious disease diagnostics and the barriers that hinder the implementation of new diagnostic frameworks. Because of this, I developed a qualitative research project using interpretive phenomenology, performing semi-structured interviews to explore stakeholders’ experiences within infectious disease diagnostics settings and researchers at the forefront of microbial genomics to unpack the factors driving the development and implementation of metagenome sequencing. This body of evidence was used to inform and develop my project by filling

a gap in the literature around what is known about the development and implementation of metagenome sequencing for routine clinical use. This data has the potential to be used in the future to engage and inform stakeholders on how clinical laboratories can benefit from implementing metagenomics into clinical settings for a positive public health impact. **Hannah Trivett, PhD Student, Theme 3, University of Liverpool.**

Publications

Please see below a selection of recent outputs from the Unit. For all publications please check out the publications section on our website:

Price A, Clarke M, Staniszewska S, Chu L, Tembo D, Kirkpatrick M, Nelken Y. Patient and Public Involvement in research: A journey to co-production. *Patient Educ Couns.* 2022 Apr;105(4):1041-1047. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2021.07.021. Epub 2021 Jul 19. PMID: 34334264.

Witte D, Handley A, Jere KC, Bogandovic-Sakran N, Mpakiza A, Turner A, Pavlic D, Boniface K, Mandolo J, Ong DS, Bonnici R, Justice F, Bar-Zeev N, Iturriza-Gomara M, Ackland J, Donato CM, Cowley D, Barnes G, Cunliffe NA, Bines JE. Neonatal rotavirus vaccine (RV3-BB) immunogenicity and safety in a neonatal and infant administration schedule in Malawi: a randomised, double-blind, four-arm parallel group dose-ranging study. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2022 May;22(5):668-678. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(21)00473-4. Epub 2022 Jan 20. PMID: 35065683.

Davies R, Iturriza-Gómara M, Glennon-Alty R, Elliot AJ, Vivancos R, Alvarez Nishio A, Cunliffe NA, Hungerford D. Public acceptability of a technology-mediated stool sample collection platform to inform community-based surveillance of infectious intestinal disease: a pilot study. *BMC Public Health.* 2022 May 13;22(1):958. doi: 10.1186/s12889-022-13307-5. PMID: 35562817; PMCID: PMC9099322.

Hoverd EJ, Hawker-Bond G, Staniszewska S, et al. Factors influencing decisions about whether to participate in health research by people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds: a realist review *BMJ Open* 2022;12:e058380. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-058380

Megan Bardsley, Roger A Morbey, Helen E Hughes, Charles R Beck, Conall H Watson, Hongxin Zhao, Joanna Ellis, Gillian E Smith, Alex J Elliot. Epidemiology of respiratory syncytial virus in children younger than 5 years in England during the COVID-19 pandemic, measured by laboratory, clinical, and syndromic surveillance: a retrospective observational study. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2022 doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(22)00525-4



Keep in Touch

For all the latest information on items such as recent publications, events and recruitment follow us on Twitter @hprugi. Use the hashtag #HPRUGI to keep in contact! Check out our website <http://hprugi.nihr.ac.uk/> for more information on our research themes, staff and PhD students and regular updates!

Please email hprugi@liverpool.ac.uk if you need any further information or you have any ideas for improving the newsletter and one of the team will be more than happy to help.