

## Grant Report – Louise Stayt

### UK Critical Care Research Forum 1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023: Edinburgh

I was lucky enough to recently attend the annual Critical Care Research Forum in Edinburgh. The Forum was attended by multi-disciplinary critical care professionals and academics from throughout the UK. I was surprised and pleased by the strong nursing presence, both by research delivery nurses and nurse researchers. The formal program offered a mix of informative updates on key critical care trials taking place in the UK at the moment and more strategic updates from NIHR. In addition, there was opportunity for researchers to present their research ideas and proposals for peer review and feedback. My personal highlights from the forum are detailed below:

1. AHP-led research: Bronwen Connolly presented an really engagement talk updating the UKs progress in growing research capacity and capability in AHPs. This was a highlight for me as I could really appreciate the opportunities for nurses and AHPs to work collaboratively. In addition I was pleased to hear that a highlight notice for AHPs to apply for an NIHR grant will be coming later in the year.
2. There was a series of sessions on platform trials and how they are designed and conducted which I found really informative. This novel approach is a silver lining that arose from the cloud of COVID-19 and has demonstrated how research in our patients may be successfully and cost effectively conducted in critically ill patients
3. I really enjoyed Lyvonne Tume's (Editor of Nursing in Critical Care) proposal of exploring the need for Gastric Residual Volume measurement. It made me reflect on the fact that as nurses we do a lot of things without question and don't always consider whether our practices are the best approach. This looks to be a great study which will clarify the safety of GRV and whether it is necessary at all!
4. I had the opportunity to present my own research proposal to evaluate the feasibility of a fatigue after critical illness self-management intervention. Although nerve wracking due to the presence of some very influential people in the audience, this was a valuable and enriching experience and hope the quality of our grant application will be improved as a result.
5. The main highlight for me was the series of sessions relating to Equality Diversity and Inclusion in research. Victoria Metaxa's presentation on gender imbalances in research was magnificent albeit upsetting that women are so poorly represented in research studies both as participants and as researchers. Mandeep Phull also provided an excellent discussion of EDI in research and reaching hard to reach communities. I felt these sessions provided me with a call to action. I will definitely take back these messages and apply them in my everyday work and also in my role as a Professional Advisor for the BACCN.

Whilst at the meeting, the UKCCRG also had their Annual General Meeting, and I was honoured to represent the BACCN as a professional advisor.

Thank you BACCN for funding my place, travel and accommodation to this meeting!

Louise Stayt 06/02/23