



RESEARCH MATTERS

NEWSLETTER

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**“Research is seeing
what everybody else
has seen and
thinking what nobody
else has thought”**

~ Albert Szent-Györgyi (1937)

WELCOME FROM JO, OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Welcome to the latest edition of our Research Matters Newsletter! This newsletter aims to share with you our research activity as well as interesting news and available evidence to influence the care we give at St Luke's.

As the Chief Executive of St Luke's, I am deeply honoured to carry forward our mission of exceptional palliative care. We all understand the importance of research, using the evidence obtained from research to influence aspects of our own lives and the care of our patients. All research carried out at St Luke's is underpinned by our Research Governance Framework and our St Luke's values: caring, pioneering and respectful. Our vision is to become a **research-leading** hospice, driving the local, national and international research agenda, and to become a centre recognised for innovation – with an overriding aim of producing demonstrable **benefits to the people of Sheffield**.

Today, as we navigate a challenging landscape for hospice care, both in terms of the services provided and the funding needed as a local charity, my commitment is to reach further, champion our cause, deepen our research initiatives, and secure our services for future generations. Every day, I am inspired by the generosity, compassion and unwavering support from staff, which enables us to provide outstanding care to those who need it most.

I want to take a moment to thank each of you for being part of the incredible community that surrounds St Luke's.

With heartfelt thanks,

Jo



RESEARCH EVENTS

St Luke's Research & Innovation manager, Clare Pye presented at the 'Making Research Matter in the North East & Yorkshire' meeting hosted by NHS England. The meeting brought researchers, senior nursing & midwifery leaders and support staff from across these regions who are responsible for building the research capacity and capability agenda and delivering the Chief Nursing Officer's Strategic Plan for Research. This was a fantastic opportunity for Clare to share the growth of activity in our hospice and communicate that the sector is very much open for business and keen to collaborate.

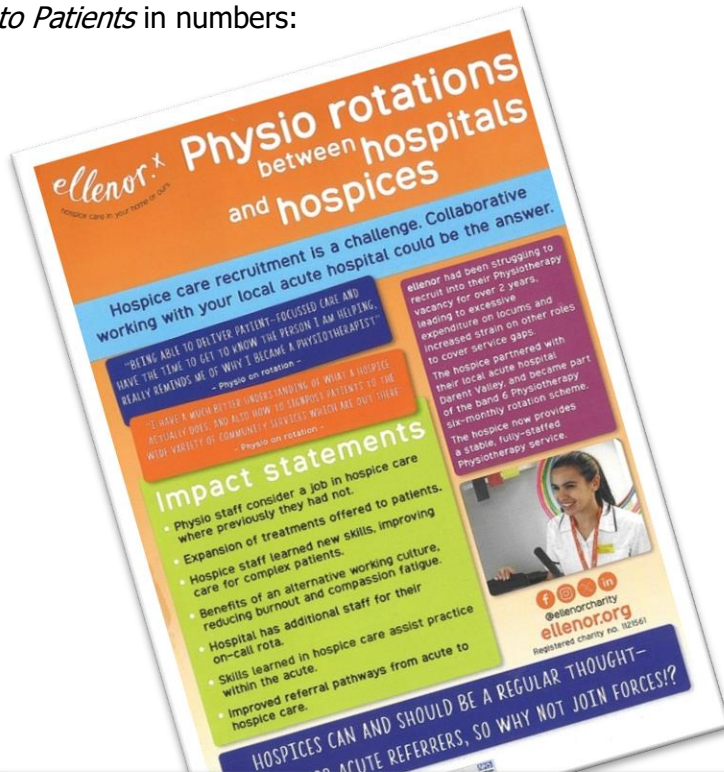
At the same time, St Luke's Consultant Senior Clinical Lecturer & Head of Research Dr Paul Taylor presented at the Yorkshire & Humber Palliative Care Research Networking Day – this event is supported by the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Research Delivery Network and Chaired by Fliss Murtagh - Professor of Palliative Care, and Director of the Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre. Paul presented and shared his vast experience on making research happen in the hospice sector.

Come and work in the Research Office

Are you a staff member that is currently undertaking postgraduate study? If so, please contact Clare and arrange to spend some time working on your assignments or dissertation in the Research Office at Ecclesall Road South (ERS). The environment and a chat might be just what you need to resolve any challenges you are facing! email Clare on c.pye@hospicesheffield.co.uk.

**BECAUSE
RESEARCH
MATTERS**

Since the successful re-launch of '*Papers to Patients*', our aims are to focus on enhancing our knowledge of palliative and hospice care, with the goal of improving the care we give to our patients. At the P2P sessions, we pose the questions that we all have about our practice, then put our heads together to get the answers we need using research methodology. The sessions have gone from strength to strength, covering diverse topics from 'Physio rotations across hospitals and hospices' to 'The reasons behind psychology referrals in hospice care'. Each session offers different topics for everyone. We've welcomed a range of insightful guest speakers, including four of St Luke's own team members currently pursuing research as part of their postgraduate studies. Here's a look at *Papers to Patients* in numbers:



PAPERS TO PATIENTS IN NUMBERS

83

Since the launch of *Papers to Patient*, we've had over 83 people attend the sessions.

11

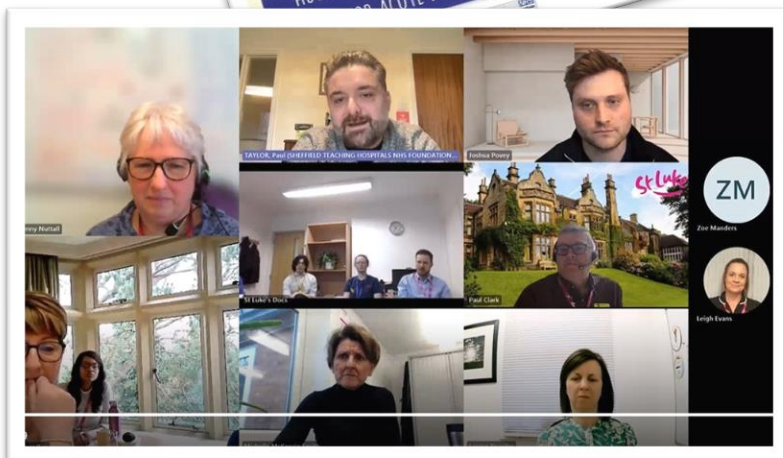
We've had 11 guest speakers covering a variety of different topics.

59%

We've had a 59% increase in people attending the sessions between 2024-2025.

60

60 minutes - the average length of each *Papers to Patient* session.



RESEARCH ACTIVITY UPDATE

Some of our amazing team members at St Luke's have recently submitted poster presentations to the **Palliative Care Congress 2025**, hosted by The Association for Palliative Medicine. This exciting event is a fantastic platform for professionals to share new ideas, champion compassionate care, and help shape the future of palliative medicine. **Our Leadership Fellow for Project ECHO, Jane Manson**, submitted her poster on '*Understanding current UK models of adult community palliative rehabilitation delivery*'. **Itzel Valderrama Benitez's** poster explored '*The perspectives of nurses on roles of chaplains*'. while **Senior House Officer Elizabeth Parry's** paper examined '*What is known about dying in patients with motor-neurone disease, and the recognition of dying by healthcare professionals*'. Meanwhile, **Joseph Burdon** shared his presentation on a '*Survey study exploring acceptability of sedation arising from pain relieving medication in palliative care*'. We're proud to see our team contributing to such meaningful conversations!

CHELsea II was the very first interventional study here at St Luke's! As we reflect on this important milestone, we're keen to understand what taking part in a study like this really means, not just in terms of results, but how it impacts individuals, teams, and the organisation as a whole. That's where the VICTOR Impact tool comes in. **VICTOR** (Making *Visible the Impacts Of Research*) is a simple online questionnaire designed to help capture those often "invisible" benefits of being involved in research. From personal growth to organisational development, VICTOR will help us see the full picture. The tool will generate a visual report showing the impact of our involvement in CHELsea II, focusing not on the study outcomes itself, but on your experiences and perceptions. We'll be sharing the results with you and our board to help guide and grow our research journey going forward.



DID YOU KNOW?

A comprehensive review of research explored the link between adult-onset hearing loss, dementia, and problems with thinking and memory (cognitive impairment). Researchers found that:

- hearing loss was linked to an increased risk of mild to severe cognitive problems, including mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease
- hearing loss was not linked to an increased risk of vascular dementia
- the greater the hearing loss, the higher the risk of dementia.

The findings support suggestions that addressing hearing loss might reduce the risk of some types of dementia. Find out more here:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arr.2024.102346>