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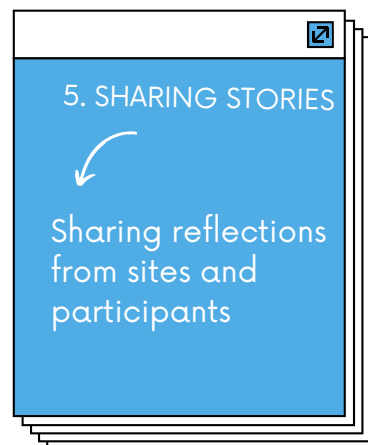
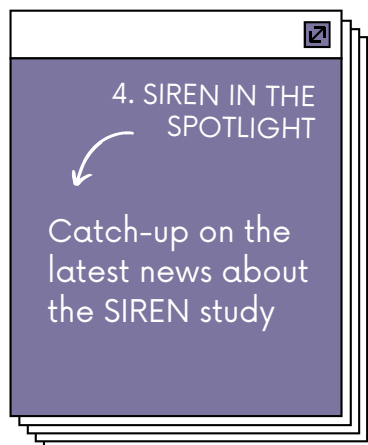
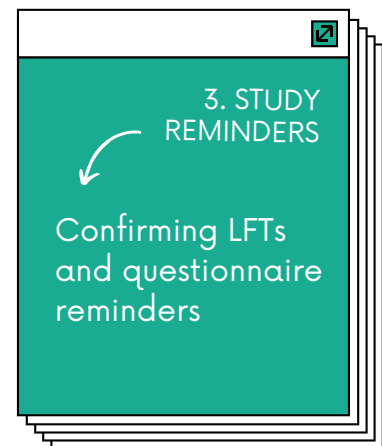
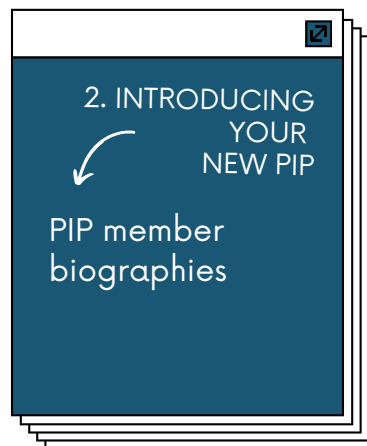
SIREN PARTICIPANT NEWSLETTER

BONUS EDITION | 27 OCTOBER 2022

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to your bonus issue of the SIREN newsletter! While we normally share a newsletter with you every two months, it's a busy time for the SIREN study and we wanted to keep you up-to-date with all the latest content. As ever, thank you for your continuing and valuable contribution to the SIREN study.

Coming up in this issue...





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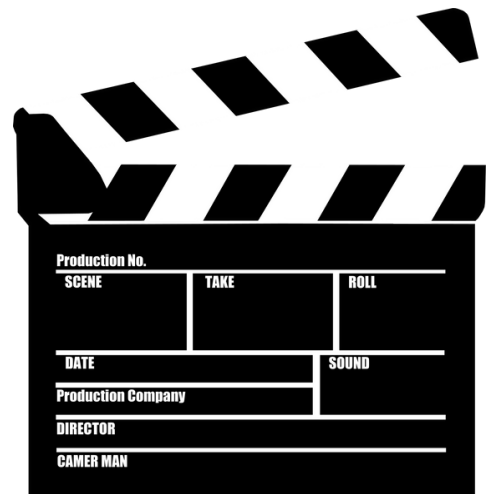
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1. Showcasing the SIREN study

It's easy to get caught up in the day job and forget the vital role that you have played in running a study that has provided crucial insights into COVID-19 research for over two years now.

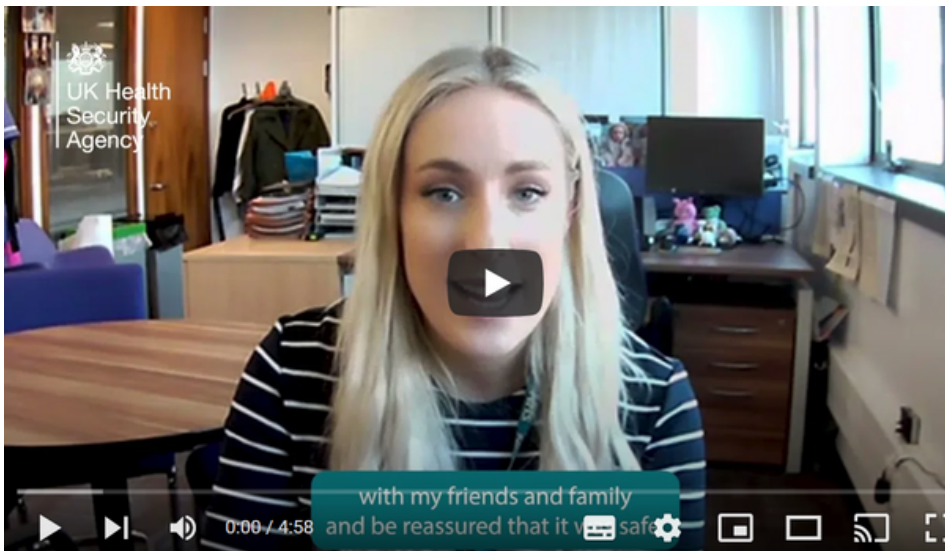
The SIREN study was set-up during a very uncertain and challenging time, and thanks to your efforts it has evolved to play a critical role in the national pandemic response.

We are excited to share a three-part series of videos to showcase the study.



SIREN PARTICIPANTS

At its core the SIREN study is a collaboration between participants and researchers. We wanted to hear from you why you have chosen to take part and continue in the study:



[CLICK HERE](#)



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SIREN RESEARCH TEAMS

For our next video we spoke to a number of SIREN sites to highlight the crucial role research teams play and provide insight into what is involved in running a study on this scale:

[CLICK HERE](#)



THE SIREN STORY

For our final video we wanted to look back and tell the story of SIREN from the very beginning:



[CLICK HERE](#)



2. Introducing your new Participant Involvement Panel (PIP)

We are fortunate to have a panel of 10 PIP members representing a range of roles, regions and perspectives in the NHS. PIP members meet on a six-weekly basis to discuss a range of topics relevant to running the SIREN study. Their feedback helps shape and improve the study. Meet the panel:



My Name is Gerry Semple. My heritage is Guyanese, my Mum is mixed race with Portuguese Indian and Black and my father was Indian Black. My parents moved from Guyana in the late 60's to England.

I grew up in Kentish Town with 2 brothers and 1 sister and was schooled in Camden. In my youth I was very active in basketball and athletics to a high standard.

My career path has taken me from working in retail to a healthcare project in St Pancras hospital then as a Nephrology Navigator at the Royal Free.

I have a keen interest in volunteering and my passion is motorbikes. I have 2 children a son of 29 and daughter of 9. I am interested in joining the SIREN PIP as I want to be a part of shaping the future and see any research and studies as a good way to explore different types of treatments and care.

As a man from an ethnically diverse background, I feel that my group is underrepresented, and I want to give them a voice. As a father of 2 I also think it's important that we constantly move forward to improve their wellbeing and lifestyle.

I want to make a difference and I want my voice heard and to be part of a wider program of research and improvement.

My name is Jimmy Page. I am a Senior Business Intelligence Analyst at the University Hospital of Morecambe Bay, and I have worked for over two decades in data analytics.

I create resources to help colleagues visualise Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) within their units and departments to refine practices. I am a strong believer in the power of positive and restorative thinking in the workplace to resolve challenges.

My name is Eleanor, I became a Domestic at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital (AMH) in 2019. In April 2020 I was made a temporary supervisor due to Covid. I got the permanent position in April 2021.



I look after Domestic Service staff, provide training, sort staffing coverage, record absences and order stock.

Domestics Service staff were anxious at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic as we didn't have the protection of masks and unlike other clinics, maternity was business as usual.

I joined the SIREN PIP as COVID-19 has been so close to home as well as affecting so many people globally, I wanted to help with research to understand and control the virus.

My name is Melissa Ogbomo. I have been a midwife for twelve years, I was a rotational for three years and rotated between delivery suite, the antenatal and postnatal ward, antenatal clinic and the birth centre.

After three years I rotated to the Day Assessment and Fetal Medicine unit and then was a research midwife for two years. I became the band 7 midwife for the day Assessment unit in 2016 and am still currently working within in this role.

I have enrolled in various research projects including SIREN and what I enjoy the most about being part of a research project is learning more about the research subject and meeting new people. I applied to PIP because after being part of the SIREN study since it started, I wanted to take a more active role within the study.



My name is Jose Wetton, I have worked for Derbyshire Healthcare NHS foundation Trust in the catering departments for the last 6 years preparing food for patients, staff and serving in the restaurant. I was given the opportunity to learn the administration side of the department so now work in a supporting role as an administrator.

I wanted to join the PIP team to find out more about the study and how our little part of having the swabs and blood tests done and filling in a survey every two weeks could make any impact. I look forward to finding out lots more from this experience.

My name is Gamela Musrati, I am 45 years old. I have three teenage boys a husband and a dog.

I am an ENT Nurse Practitioner based in Morriston Hospital, Swansea, South Wales. I have been in this role for almost six years, however I have worked in ENT for seventeen years.

The reason why I joined the PIP is because I feel it is an exciting opportunity for participants of the SIREN study to learn more about the study and have their say as a participant.

I have now had COVID three times, when I first signed up to the SIREN study, I hadn't had it at all. When I first signed up to the study, I wanted to help and felt that I wanted to play an active role in helping. The SIREN study I felt was a great opportunity to enhance our knowledge of the virus. I feel that the study is even more important now after my experiences with the virus.



My name is Dr Martin Kelly MD FRCP (Edin) FRCP (Lond). I graduated from Queens University Belfast in 1993 and I have worked as consultant respiratory physician at Altnagelvin Hospital since 2004, after a year in Christchurch, NZ.

I live in lovely Donegal, 20 minutes from work. I am married with 2 adult kids.

I work in a very busy job in secondary care. My main interests are lung cancer, lung endoscopy, obstructive lung disease & respiratory research. I am a Principal Investigator (PI) for studies primarily in the area of bronchiectasis, asthma & idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, in NICRN. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been PI for a number of COVID studies, including Recovery Trial. I've had COVID twice! I love music & travel.

Coming Soon

In the next issue of the SIREN newsletter we will introduce more PIP members and share the latest topics covered in the PIP meetings.



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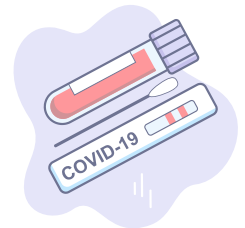
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3. Study reminders

In the last newsletter we told you about three upcoming opportunities to get involved with more research. Please find an update on these below:



A new postal swab system for positive LFT results



What is it?

We are currently piloting a new system which will enable us to confirm positive participant LFT results via a postal PCR swab.

This will not replace your regular fortnightly PCR tests with the SIREN study, it will be an additional service.

Why?

After the time and commitment you have dedicated to SIREN **we are keen to ensure all of your results are captured and contribute** to the ongoing analysis.

For who?

SIREN participants in England, Scotland and Wales. This new system does not apply to participants at Northern Ireland sites who will continue to use existing processes in place.

Update:

We are aiming to go live in early November. We will contact you prior to the go live day with instructions and a participant information leaflet.



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Symptom durability and severity questionnaire

What is it?

A **one-off questionnaire** for participants who have previously tested positive for COVID-19. Participants are asked questions about how long their symptoms lasted, how their daily activities were impacted and whether they required any medical treatment.

Update:

A huge thank you to all participants who have responded to date! So far we have received over 4,000 responses.

There's still time to respond however - the **questionnaire closes on 31 October 2022**.



Enhanced clinical history questionnaire

What is it?

A one-off questionnaire for all SIREN participants. Participants will be asked questions about any medical conditions they have, past episodes of illness and their vaccine history.

The questionnaire will also include a section for feedback on the SIREN study so participants can have their say on what works well and what needs to change.

Update:

We hope to have this questionnaire go live in the next couple of weeks.



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4. SIREN in the spotlight

We really enjoy reading your insights about the SIREN study in newsletters, blogs and articles. **Click on the pictures below to read the latest!**



We are delighted to share that the SIREN study and Consortium have been featured in an article on the UK Covid Vaccine Research Hub.

Also check out this great blog by PhD student and research assistant Desmond Areghan sharing their experience of working with the SIREN Scotland team.





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Join us on Twitter!

The **UKHSA conference** took place in Leeds last week, 18-19th October. The SIREN study featured in several presentations and posters, catch-up on this and other SIREN news below:

Susan Hopkins @SMHopkins

6 great presentations and e posters from #SIRENstudy at #ukhsa22. Brilliant work team

Victoria_jhall @victoria_jhall · Oct 19
(1/7) It's been a great couple of days at #UKHSA22. Thanks to the conference organisers & presenters! There have been great presentations from the nation's leading scientists, epidemiologists, policy makers & more. Here's a recap of some of the SIRENstudy team presentations:

Ash Otter @asherichia

As of 9pm last night, our lab has done >1,000,000 serology tests! 🎉🥳



An incredible achievement by the lab past and present, with the data from our antibody testing informing serosurveillance and research projects (e.g. #SIREN) throughout the pandemic



GlasgowCRF @GlasgowCRF

Today we said a fond farewell to one of our HCSWs, Roseanne has been a valued member of our team. We will miss you and wish you a happy retirement @NHSResearchScot @DrToniHo @tzmcs #SIRENstudy

ABUHB R&D Department @ABUHB_Research

6,000 Samples and Counting ! 🌞

A big thank you to all of our committed siren participants. We have now submitted over 6,000 Samples (PCR tests & antibody tests) since we opened to recruitment in February 2020.

#SIRENstudy
@SMHopkins
@ResearchWales
@Public
@UKHS

Ruth Penn @RuthPenn

So proud of my lovely #SIRENstudy team being highly commended at last night's #tvsmawards22 celebration. Thanks also to those unable to join us and all the amazing participants who helped make it happen for the past 2 years. @BHTResearch @BucksHealthcare



Peter Kirwan @kirwanpd

I presented work on a multi-state modelling approach to understand protection against COVID-19 and duration of PCR positivity among participants in the #SIRENstudy. Collaborative work with colleagues at @MRC_BSU and @UKHSA

MRC Biostatistics Unit @MRC_BSU · Sep 27
Our week of Armitage events kicks off with brilliant talks by two of our PhD students @JoshBiostats & @kirwanpd on their research on #COVID19.



To join the conversation on Twitter please use #SIRENstudy and tag @victoria_jhall and @SMHopkins.



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5. Sharing stories: reflections from sites and participants

SIREN is shaped by your feedback and case studies are a key part of that.

Please submit your reflections here to be featured in the next issue of the SIREN newsletter.



"The SIREN delivery Team received a Highly Commended Award at the recent Thames Valley & South Midlands Clinical Research Network awards event in Oxford. The SIREN study was set up by UKHSA under pandemic conditions and involved co-operation from several different departments to facilitate study tasks and testing regimes. The first year saw recruitment of over 310 clinical and non-clinical Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (BHT) staff into the study."





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"Responsibility for managing the complex schedule of fortnightly PCR and monthly antibody testing was taken on by a dedicated administrative team of Research Nurses and Research Practitioners.

This team demonstrated flexibility, adaptability and dedication to embrace fast-paced trial development. They worked tirelessly to encourage retention amongst recruits already dealing with the heavy demands of their working routines and daily lives in difficult circumstances.

At our Trust the study extended into a second year in September 2021 with over 40% participant retention. The team took on a new testing regime and adapted to a revised cohort of staff to manage. All this was done collaboratively and with a sense of newfound friendships as the team got to know staff from multiple specialties across the three Trust sites.

The team liaises almost daily with colleagues in pathology who continue to support sample processing. Special mention goes out to Dr Nick Wong, Microbiology Consultant and PI for his support and congratulations goes to the whole SIREN Team for their dedication and endurance.

We were extremely lucky at BHT to engage involvement from pathology, phlebotomy and Occupational Health when we first set the study up. The team have gained multiple benefits from becoming familiar with excel spreadsheets to expanding research awareness across the Trust. We look forward to supporting our remaining stalwart participants through to the end of March 2023."

Ruth Penn, SIREN Study Co-ordinator

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, England

THANK YOU!