

SIG team



Chair of SIG: Helen Atherton, Associate Professor

Currently I am Associate Professor of Primary Care Research and Digital Health lead at the Unit of Academic Primary Care, Warwick Medical School. My expertise is in use of digital routes of access to general practice, and alternatives to the face-to-face consultation, such as email and video.

My professional roles include membership of the NHS England Primary Care Digital Transformation Advisory Board and I advise professional bodies and NHS organisations in the evidence based use of digital consultations in general practice. I am an associate editor for the journal 'Digital Health' and sit on the Royal College of General Practitioners Scientific Foundation Board.

I lead studies that focus on how digital technologies impact on patients and healthcare professionals in general practice settings. Whilst I use mixed method approaches, my particular expertise is in qualitative and review methodology.



Helen McGowan, research projects administrator

I am the research projects administrator for the Unit of Academic Primary Care at Warwick Medical School. I am a co-investigator on funded projects within the Unit, and contribute to the planning and conduct of research studies. I provide administrative support to the SIG.



Julia Gaulty, PhD student

My name is Julia Gaulty. I came to my Health Science PhD from a multidisciplinary background in both Music and Business studies. I am now in the final year of mixed methods PhD project on pharmacy-based sexual health services. I have a particular interest in researching user experience and service delivery.



Jo Parsons, Research Associate

I have a background in Psychology and Health Psychology, and have recently completed my PhD looking at changing risk and efficacy appraisals for flu vaccination amongst pregnant women. My main research experience lies in qualitative methodology. I am interested in the development and evaluation of digital health interventions, and understanding the motivations for decisions to adopt healthy behaviours and adhere to medical appointments.



Nicky Thomas, Research Associate

I have a background in Health Psychology and currently support the Unit of Academic Primary Care as a Research Associate. I am currently working on Care Companion which is an online resource tool designed to support the wellbeing of carers who look after family and friends with long term conditions, as well as a systematic review around email communication within primary care.

My main area of expertise lies within qualitative methodology, particularly supporting research projects around long term and life limiting conditions with children and their families. I am interested in how digital health interventions can be used to support wellbeing in different settings, as well as evaluations that include user's experiences in the real world.