



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Public
Health and Primary Care

**Inequalities
Research
Network:**
To reduce
inequalities in
health through
facilitating
collaborative, co-
designed, high-
quality research

Dr Rakesh Modi
Clinical Senior Research Associate

James Cantwell,
Communications Lead

Primary Care Unit
Department of Public Health and
Primary Care
University of Cambridge



Our Purpose

Health inequalities persist across communities, with marginalised and underserved populations facing significant barriers to accessing and benefiting from health care and being at greater risk from early mortality and higher levels of morbidity across the life course. By conducting high-quality, co-designed and relevant research into health inequalities, and by improving the inclusiveness of research studies, health inequalities may be reduced. The Inequalities Research Network (IRN) exists to facilitate this work in the East of England.

Our Core Values

Equity



We believe all members of the public should have equitable access to high-quality healthcare and research opportunities.

Inclusion



We actively seek diverse voices, perspectives, and lived experiences to shape research that benefits all communities.

Integrity



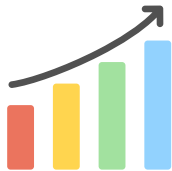
We promote ethical and transparent research that respects and values participants.

Quality



We encourage best practice in inequalities research by facilitating learning from each other and the wider literature.

Impact



We focus on real-world applications, encouraging research that leads to tangible improvements in health outcomes.

Collaboration



We foster partnerships with researchers, healthcare providers, policymakers and the public to create mutually beneficial research.

Our Target Audiences

- Researchers
- Academics
- Healthcare professionals
- Research delivery professionals
- Patients, carers and the public, particularly those from or representing underserved communities
- Public engagement professionals
- Policymakers and commissioners
- Health Organisations
- Third-sector organisations

By connecting communities, researchers and health professionals, we strive to:

- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, health professionals, and communities, and highlight funding opportunities for inequalities research.
- Share best practice within the evolving landscape of inequalities research.
- Showcase local research seeking to address health inequalities.
- Enhance patient and public involvement and engagement amongst under-served groups by encouraging the co-development of research initiatives and longer-term collaboration between researchers and under-served groups.
- Promote the recruitment of underserved groups in research to ensure that healthcare becomes more effective in and relevant to these communities.
- Support the translation of research addressing health inequalities into policy and healthcare practices, and advocate for policy change to reduce inequalities in health.

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Too many passionate people embedded in under-served communities need researchers to make their ideas spread. Too many researchers do not have the connections to make research meaningful. The IRN is unique in bringing together researchers, research professionals, communities and health professionals to co-create relevant and robust research into health inequalities. Through this inclusive approach, we can help to close the health gaps in our society.

Dr Rakesh Modi
Clinical Senior Research Associate



Join the IRN

Through regular online meetings every two months, we showcase, share, learn, support and collaborate to meet our mission. We promote engagement with under-served communities through our members and their networks. Information, links about inequalities or relevant research, minutes and recordings of meetings will be available on the IRN website for members and non-members to access for free.

We recommend members continue their collaborations outside of the meetings and we encourage feedback to the IRN on their progress, as well as acknowledgement of the IRN in their work.

As a commitment to our progress, the mission document will be reviewed annually with continued input from our members.

In its first year, the IRN has:

- Supported research engagement events with underserved communities
- Promoted diverse recruitment in multiple research studies
- Built strong partnerships across universities, NIHR institutes, and healthcare providers

We warmly welcome new members. Whether you're a researcher, research-related professional, healthcare provider, policymaker, or individual from an under-served group, your voice and expertise matter.

Our Schedule for 2025-26

- 29 September, 12-1pm
- 24 November, 12-1pm (Provisional)
- 26 January, 12-1pm (Provisional)
- 30 March, 12-1pm (Provisional)
- 25 May, 12-1pm (Provisional)
- 27 July 12-1pm (Provisional)

Primary Care Unit, Department of Public Health and Primary Care

The IRN is hosted by the Primary Care Unit, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, at the University of Cambridge. The Primary Care Unit is one of Europe's premier university departments of population health sciences. Our work focuses on advancing primary care research and education to improve patient outcomes, influence healthcare policy, and train the next generation of clinicians, researchers, and educators.



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For further contact information:

**Inequalities Research Network
Primary Care Unit
Department of Public Health and Primary Care
University of Cambridge**

Email: [Inequalities-Research-
Network@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Inequalities-Research-Network@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

[www.phpc.cam.ac.uk/inequalities-research-
network](http://www.phpc.cam.ac.uk/inequalities-research-network)