

Office for Health and Medical Research



REGU/REGIS Newsletter | Issue 3 | 13 February 2024

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Unlock Collaboration and Innovation: NSW Health Research Forum Goes Live!

Audience: Research Office



We are thrilled to announce the official launch of the NSW Health Research Forum on **Monday, 19th March**, a platform dedicated to fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among NSW Health Research Offices. After a successful soft-launch in late 2023, we are now ready to open the doors to all research office staff, offering unparalleled opportunities for engagement, feedback, and direct participation in the shaping of policies and guidelines.

Why Join? Beyond the vibrant exchange of insights and the creation of a dynamic knowledge base, the NSW Health Research Forum introduces several key advantages to its members:

- **Priority Responses:** Questions and discussions initiated within the forum will receive prioritized attention, ensuring you get the fastest possible responses to inquiries. 🕒
- **Direct Impact:** Members have the unique opportunity to provide direct feedback on policies and guidelines, actively participating in the consultation process. Your voice will be instrumental in shaping the future of health research governance. 👤

- **No More FOMO:** With real-time updates and active community engagement, you'll stay in the loop on all important discussions, ensuring you never miss out on crucial information or collaboration opportunities. 🍷

New Opportunities Unveiled: Joining the forum also opens up several exciting prospects:



- **Networking and Collaboration:** Connect with peers across NSW Health to share experiences, challenges, and solutions, fostering a supportive and innovative community. 💡
- **Professional Development:** Engage in discussions and webinars that contribute to your professional growth and understanding of the latest research trends and regulatory updates. 📖
- **Recognition and Visibility:** Contribute valuable content and insights to gain recognition within the community, enhancing your professional profile among peers. ★

How Can I Join?

Joining the NSW Health Research Forum is quick and easy - it takes just 30 seconds! Simply visit nswhealthresearch.disclosure.group/ and sign up. You have the option to use your real name or get creative with a cool nickname. Your gateway to a world of collaboration, innovation, and community awaits.

As we gear up for this exciting launch, we invite you to be part of a pioneering initiative that promises to transform how we communicate, collaborate, and cultivate a culture of shared success within the NSW Health Research community.

Don't miss out on the chance to be at the forefront of this innovative journey. Join us in shaping the future of health research collaboration in New South Wales.

CiTRoS – Boosting Insights into the Clinical Trials Workforce



clinicaltrialsNSW

enabling clinical trial capacity, capability and collaboration across New South Wales

Audience: Researcher/Research Office



clinicaltrialsNSW is developing CiTRoS – the Clinical Trial Register of Staff - to improve access to information about the clinical trial workforce. CiTRoS will capture workforce statistics that provide current and detailed workforce data. This data will complement the National Clinical Trial Governance Framework requirements and be a reference for future initiatives to enhance clinical trials workforce capability and capacity.

*A pilot rollout of CiTRoS is happening in Q1 2024, with state and countrywide launch to follow in May. If you have any questions about CiTRoS or are interested in participating in the pilot, [**please contact the clinicaltrialsNSW team**](#)*

REGIS Case Study: External HREC Progress Report



Audience: Researcher/Research Office

Milestone management is a process familiar to those using REGIS, and one I've been responsible for within the research office where I work. I'm Emily, and if you've recently reached out to the REGIS Support team via email, chances are you've corresponded with me. While I'm currently on a secondment with the REGIS Support team, my primary role remains within the Research Ethics and Governance Office of Western Sydney Local Health District.

Joining the REGIS team has given me a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in milestone management, particularly through observing and responding to the emails sent by stakeholders. Accurate milestone creation is paramount for transparent tracking of research progress, findings, and outcomes. However, inaccuracies in milestone creation can disrupt workflows, especially in studies involving multiple sites within REGIS.

In this case report, I'm excited to delve into a specific issue faced by REGIS users regarding the creation of milestones for sites with Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) external to REGIS.



The case in question was received as an email from a Local Health District Research Office who identified themselves as the lead site among three of a study, their query was that they could not work out why there was duplicate milestones in the decision section for the same year for their site and they also requested that REGIS Support team delete a decision for a milestone that had been acknowledge by their office.

During the investigation into how this error occurred it was found that the first milestone and one the Research Office wanted deleted was created by one of the non-lead sites. On this occasion, upon completion of that milestone the decision was then created for all sites to review. Consequently, the lead site then submitted an additional external HREC annual report milestone which led to two milestones being created for all three sites to make a decision on.

The findings of this investigation were reported back to the Research Office and notified them that when decisions with outcomes are created in REGIS there is no function in REGIS to delete the acknowledged decision.

This case underscores the risk of workflow disruptions due to unnecessary milestone creation in REGIS and can occur with any process in REGIS. The system operates on an expected workflow, where the lead site generates the milestone for the CPI (Coordinating Principal Investigator) to submit the report on behalf of all sites involved in the study. Any deviation from this process can lead to situations like the one described in this report.

If you would like to discuss milestone's further, please reach out to the REGIS support team or find out more about Governance Milestones by accessing the following document [Processing Governance Milestones.pdf \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Introducing Professor Claire Vajdic: New PHSREC Chairperson

Audience: Researcher/Research Office

Professor David Roder recently retired from the position of Chairperson of the NSW Population and Health Services Research Ethics Committee (PHSREC) after seven years of dedicated service to the Committee.



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Claire Vajdic as the new Chairperson of the PHSREC. Claire Vajdic is a Professor of Epidemiology at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales Sydney. She is a cancer epidemiologist and population health scientist leading national projects to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. She has expertise in data governance and the ethics of human health research, including previous experience as PHSREC Deputy Chair. Claire also works with governments and other stakeholders to expand the types of data available for health data linkage research, and to improve data access processes for researchers.

Claire and the PHSREC team (Chehani Alles and Patrick Borzycki) look forward to working with your teams in 2024. Please contact us on cinsw-ethics@health.nsw.gov.au if you have any queries.

Upcoming events and dates

Audience: Research Office/Researcher



2024 Events and Dates

REGIS Research Office Lunch & Learn 2024: Five Lunch & Learn webinars have been scheduled for 2024, **February 28, March 27, April 10, May 15 and June 12.**

Research Office REGIS Training: The first cycle of Research Office training will be held in **February** with three more cycles scheduled in **April, June and August.** [Register your interest here.](#)

Researcher REGIS Training: The first cycle of Researcher training will be held in **March** with three more cycles scheduled in **May, July and September.** [Register your interest here.](#)

Ethics and Governance Bi-Annual Roundtable: The forthcoming Ethics and Governance Bi-Annual Roundtable is scheduled for Thursday 14 March. Invitations and agenda to be sent two weeks prior.

Previous Versions of REGU/REGIS Newsletter

Audience: Research Office/Researcher

All previous version of the fortnightly email are available from the REGIS website: <https://regis.health.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/regis-office-webinars/>

REGU/REGIS Newsletter: Inspiring other units within OHMR and LHDs since February 2021