NIHR Statistics Group

10th Annual Conference Newsletter 2026

Theme: Statistical integrity in health and care research

contents

Introduction and Reflections P.1
Early Career Morning P.2
Our plenary speakers P.3
Breakout sessions P.4
Posters and rapid fire talks P.8
News and upcoming events P.9

Our tenth annual Conference took place in Sheffield from 18th to the 19th of June at The Edge. The event showcased a variety of talks and presentations focused on the conference theme, Statistical Integrity in Health & Care Research.

A unique feature of the NIHR Statistics Group conference is to provide a forum for applied statisticians to discuss ideas and challenges they encounter and much of this discussion takes place within the breakout sessions. The conference ran 12 such sessions.

Introduction and reflections on conference

Andy Vail - Group co-leader

“I enjoyed this 10th conference and was particularly pleased that it has managed to retain its informal and welcoming approach. It continues to focus on sharing practical advice for hands-on statisticians and supporting early career researchers. Thanks to Daisy and her team on the conference organising committee for the programme choices and smooth running of the event”.

Daisy Gaunt - Conference organizing committee chair

"It was fantastic to see such a wealth of research presented at the 10th annual NIHR statistics group conference, and to see so many new and returning attendees. I found the presentations on the importance of sharing data and code, and how to do this safely, and transparently helpful and will be encouraging my colleagues to consider this. My highlight was listening to all the rapid fire talks, as it's not an easy task to compress your complex research into 3 minutes."

Liz Hensor - Group co-leader

“Our 10th annual conference was well attended, and it was wonderful to see such a variety of talks and breakout sessions aligned with our theme of statistical integrity in health and care research. This was a very timely theme in the current research climate, and I particularly enjoyed the plenary talks, which highlighted how we can all contribute to improvng research culture, the Better Methods Better Research programme, and methods to identify problematic trials in meta-analysis.”

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Early Career Morning: Thurs 18th 10am-1pm

The ECM was hosted by the NIHR Statistics Career Development Group

This is an opportunity for early career statisticians to find out more about the NIHR Statistics Group and how to make the most of the conference. As well as a brief introduction to the Group, there is a series of short talks from invited speakers, and an exercise to get to know the other attendees.

Introduction: Dr Gordon Prescott

Dr Gordon Prescott welcomed the attendees to the Early Career Morning (ECM). Gordon gave an overview of how the Career Development Group works and what it does. He also introduced the structure of the wider Statistics Group and described opportunities to get involved with the Group's activities.

Interactive session: How Robust Are Our Conclusions? An interactive workshop on sensitivity analysis, with a focus on missing data - Ines Rombach

This interactive session from Dr Ines Rombach addressed the question of 'what is and isn't sensitivity analysis?'. Ines emphasised the importance of evidence being robust in order to not cause any harm to patients. Attendees completed a task where they needed to decide in groups whether a process was a sensitivity analysis. The tasks led to a lot of interesting discussions, and some disagreements!

Talks chair: Dr Jacqueline Murphy

Talk: Better methods through better peer review: Perspectives from the Peerspectives program - Jessica Rohmann

"When you first start reviewing, one of the biggest challenges is striking a balance between being too broad and too detailed"

Dr Jessica Rohmann provided an overview of the role of peer review in scientific journals and the importance of the role of the scientific journal editor and the peer reviewer. She also shared frequently encountered challenges of a peer reviewer such as finding the right language and tone and getting little/no feedback on the usefulness of your review. Jessica advised to select papers for review that ECRs felt like they could learn from and was meaningful to them. Details of the semester-long Peerspectives reviewer training course can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/peerspectivescourse

Talk: Career progression as a Statistical Epidemiologist from MSc to MCR - Leo Westbury

Dr Leo Westbury shared an overview of his role as a Statistical Epidemiologist and the range of his day to day activities. He provided details of his first role as the lead statistician in a major collaboration. He also highlighted the challenges of a statistical role such as the lack of opportunities to develop leadership and management skills.

Talk: FAIR data principles - Matthew Parkes

Dr Matthew Parkes began with an overview of 'open research' and the benefits such as that it increases transparency, reproducibility and standardisation. It can also help to reduce avoidable research waste. Furthermore, 'good practice' is becoming mandatory practice. He went through the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and how they can be applied to both data sets and code.

Thoughts on the mentoring scheme from Career Development Group leader Gordon Prescott:

I would like to thank everyone who agreed to be a mentor. Ten mentees were linked at the conference or shortly afterwards.

Our Plenary Speakers

Opening speaker: Dr Puja Mehta

Yale University

Trust, Conflict & Authorship in Academic Collaborations

Dr Puja Mehta explored the concept of trust in academic collaborations and used a model of Bayesian evidence to demonstrate this dynamic; we begin with a prior level of trust, but this should be updated based on our experience. Bi-directional honest and caring feedback can help build trust. Dr Mehta demonstrated how conflict can be either constructive or destructive, and how in constructive conflict the aim is to understand, not to win. One way to disagree well is to use the 'chunk up and down method'. Authorship symbolises currency and trust; however, inappropriate authorship has been normalised, such as 'ghost' or 'coercive' authorship. She demonstrated the different sources and abuses of power and why these can be difficult to challenge while encouraging attendees to 'understand your own power and those around you'. She outlined resources providing practical authorship governance guidance including the UKRI Research Integrity Toolkit.

The discussion included how to 'pick your battles', how to handle conflict with colleagues, and the ordering of authors and how it can misrepresent the amount of work that was contributed.

Plenary speaker: Professor Olivia Wu

University of Glasgow

NIHR Better Methods, Better Research (BMBR) – and what that really means

Professor Wu explained the purpose and scope of BMBR funding, and encouraged attendees to get involved in peer review and funding committees. She highlighted the importance of considering the impact of patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) in methodology research, and detailed other funding opportunities for methods research and cross-fertilisation with other programmes.

Importantly, Professor Wu said that two-way communication was welcomed, and that applicants were encouraged to write to explain issues that require expansion of remit or budget. She emphasised that NIHR does care about methods and methodologists.

There were discussions around receiving panel feedback that methodology is too complex, Professor Wu acknowledged this difficulty and emphasised the value of having methodologists on panels. There were a number of questions about PPI work for complex methodology, which may require more funding over greater time. Professor Wu advised researchers to write to the programme if they were often unable to deliver their research within the limits.

Closing speaker: Dr Jack Wilkinson

University of Manchester

Too good to be true? Statistical methods for identifying fraudulent clinical trials

Dr Wilkinson discussed the prevalence of fraudulent trials in systematic reviews and how these trials come to be included, such as that an assessment of risk of bias will assume all the trials are valid.

He further outlined why retraction status is unfortunately not a good measure of trustworthiness. The research team decided instead of developing a tool to detect fraud it was more useful to develop one to assess the trustworthiness of a study.

Dr Wilkinson presented methods for assessing the trustworthiness of clinical trials with and without access to the individual participant data, and described his team's efforts to create a series of tools (INSPECT-SR, INSPECT-IPD) for this purpose. Methods for trustworthiness assessment are new to almost all of us working in health research, and he argued that we have a responsibility to promote sound methods for this purpose.

During the Q&A Jack explained that the risk of bias tool should be used after the trustworthiness tool, and that although the new tool still involved subjective judgements, it provided a framework to express them.

Breakout session 1

How to demonstrate "promise of the intervention" when applying for funding for a clinical trial? Introducing the Promise guidance.

Jack Wilkinson / Lesley-Anne Carter

Jack Wilkinson began the session with an overview of the PROMISE study which focuses on the 'promise' of an intervention. Many funders require evidence of promise when considering a bid for a clinical trial however there are no current guidelines about how promise should be demonstrated. The PROMISE study aims to develop guidance for demonstrating the promise of an intervention. Jack explained the key domains of the guide that had come out of their consensus process, which included public and non-public members of funding panels, clinicians, statisticians, qualitative researchers, health economists, and experts in implementation science.

Attendees provided their thoughts on the guidance via a Mentimeter survey. They also submitted feedback on the grant application template for applicants and reviewers with a group discussion on the layout and structure.

Emerging issues in designing studies of diagnostic medical devices, including artificial intelligence

Sue Mallet / Nuria Porta

This breakout session was organised by the NIHR Statistics Imaging Studies Group. In this engaging session, Sue Mallett highlighted the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare/education. She started with the definition of medical devices and how the regulatory positioning switched to looking at intended purpose, which defines the risk to patients and defines the class of technology. Regulation is based on risk, where devices with a higher risk profile need to undergo stricter evidence and validation requirements.

In a small group exercise participants used several diagnostic examples to test out existing online resources and to identify where additional tools could be helpful. The session highlighted the complexity of requesting AI approval. Participants gained practical insights into regulatory pathways, common pitfalls in AI research.

Stronger collaboration between researchers, clinicians and regulators is needed to ensure safe, effective and clinically relevant AI tools.

SIGMA-S: Statistical Innovation and Guidance on Methods and Analysis in Surgery

Deborah Stocken / Neil Corrigan / Gemma Ainsworth / Callum Vyner / Anna Perry

The presenters outlined how evidence generation including clinical trials of surgical interventions can be poorly designed, resulting in variable uptake into practice and subsequently impacting patient care. Some of the key problems are that surgery can be adopted in practice before efficacy has been shown, clustering by surgeon, the learning curve based on surgical experience, and variability in perfomance.

SIGMA-S is research adapting and evaluating early phase statistical methods and/or novel multi-phase optimisation methods to the surgical environment.The research team are aiming to develop statistical guidance for surgical trials to address some of these issues.

Attendees learned more about nuances specific to surgical trials, and the latest statistical research to improve the quality and quantity of clinical trials of surgical interventions, to improve the evidence generation pathway of surgical innovation. They were advised not to rely on the average treatment effect, but instead to consider variability across treatments.

Breakout session 2

ADDITIONAL PARALLEL SESSION

The rapid emergence of AI tools in research and statistical practice

Dr Gordon Forbes / Nick Beckley-Hoelscher

The rapid emergence of AI tools in research and statistical practice raises a central question for the NIHR community: what should change, and what must remain essential to preserve rigour? This breakout session, run by the NIHR Statistical Literacy Group, explored how AI can support statistical practice while safeguarding the rigour, transparency, and ethical standards that underpin high-quality research.

The researchers provided an overview of practical applications of AI in statistical research, illustrating how current tools may contribute to future practice. This was followed by a focused discussion of the ethical and methodological considerations that accompany AI integration, including reporting standards, traceability, and implications for research governance and peer review.

The session involved several interactive sessions where attendees could try out different AI functions, such as using R to pass prompts to OPEN AI to summarise statistical models, and using an AI program to produce clinical trial statistical analysis plans from protocols. There was a discussion on privacy risks to using AI.

Results of a review of statistical practices in qPCR experiment design, analysis and reporting, to inform development of best-practice guidelines

Chris Jones / Orsolya Zempl

Quantitative PCR (qPCR) is used extensively in laboratory science, but results are prone to poor reproducibility due to lack of statistical rigor in the design and analysis of qPCR experiments. This breakout group reported results from the first stage (literature review) of an NIHR Statistics Laboratory Studies group project which aims to develop guidelines for robust statistical design and analysis of qPCR experiments. The results of the literature review were presented as a basis for discussion of the issues identified, and prioritisation of items for inclusion in the guidelines.

This was a targeted review of 18 ‘better’ journals carrying research using qPCR. The review found that the quality of the statistics was very low - only one prospective sample size calculation had been performed (and this was wrong), the typical sample size was n=3, and there was poor reporting of methods for p-values. The wider aim of this project is to improve reliability and reproducibility by offering specific guidance as to how to design, analyse and report experiments using qPCR.

The group also discussed ideas for follow-up work to quantify the effect of the guidelines on experimental reproducibility.

Ophthalmology: Handover, Legacy and more ...

Catey Bunce / Irene Stratton

The Ophthalmology Research Section was established in 2012 with a mission statement of "Raising the Quality of Statistics in Ophthalmic Journals”. To date the group has had 14 publications in the British Journal of Ophthalmology entitled "Ophthalmic Statistics Notes”. In addition, Prof Bunce co-authored a shorter series “Simplified Ophthalmic Statistics" with trainee Ophthalmologists which were published in Eye News. Meetings have been supported by the Biomedical Research Centre at UCL and Moorfields Eye Hospital.

The aim of this session was to identify new leaders and committee members for the ophthalmology working group, or to discuss how to secure the group's legacy if none could be found. The group has potentially identified a new leader but will recommend that the group is re-launched under their leadership with a new submission and outline of aims and objectives for the steering committee to approve.

Discussion focussed on the importance of making sure that the correct methods were being used; therefore, in future the group might focus on offering workshops for statisticians, clinicians and others working in ophthalmology research to increase the uptake of the statistical guidance the group has already published.

Breakout session 3

Routine data research: from codelists to reproducible pipelines

Jianhua Wu / Jessica Harris / Julian Matthewman / Matthew Franklin / Kathryn Richardson

Routinely collected health and care data (electronic health records, registries, administrative datasets) underpin an increasing proportion of NIHR-funded research, service evaluation and policy work. However, research in this context is often threatened less by 'fancy' modelling choices and more by opaque, inconsistent decisions about data definition, cleaning, linkage and analysis pipelines. This breakout session from the NIHR Statistics Routine Data Group explored how apparently mundane decisions, such as codelists, phenotype definitions, handling missingness, time-varying exposures, linkage quality, population denominators, and analytic reuse across sites, can introduce serious bias, undermine reproducibility and reduce trust in routine data–based evidence.

The session started with a brief overview of the NIHR statistics routine data group, which was formed to address the issues encountered by NIHR-affiliated statisticians working on complex, routine datasets. They provide a networking group for statistical researchers involved in the analysis of either established databases or routine data that has not been pre-processed. The group provided an introduction to best practice in using clinical codelists. They gave a summary of their guidance checklist for code list development and shared different approaches to making codelists, including examples of using AI for this task. They presented lessons from target trial evaluation and a summary of the 2025 Transparent Reporting of Observational Studies Emulating a Target Trial (TARGET) guidline, using an example of target trials in mental health research. The audience were urged to look into other frameworks for target trial emulation.

To define the core statistical competencies that all Medicine and Health postgraduate research students should develop regardless of research area

Christina Easter / Laura Quinn

The overall aim of the session was to identify the foundational statistical skills that enable postgraduates (PGRs) to confidently engage with quantitative evidence, apply appropriate analytical methods within their projects, and understand statistical results in the wider research literature. The session explored the challenges of teaching statistics to a diverse PGR cohort, gathered participant perspectives on essential statistical content, and reviewed approaches to implementing different statistical software.

The researchers provided an overview of the structure and goals of a course in development to provide PGR students with core statistical competencies across different disciplines. They outlined some of the challenges they had faced including differing needs, varying knowledge and the time available to engage with the course. To restructure the course effectively means including PGRs, leads, and statisticians to implement recommendations.

The central component of the session involved small-group discussions in which attendees brainstormed essential statistical competencies. Groups then prioritised their top essential skills, using a voting method to rank the suggestions. The session finished with a wider discussion in which participants could provide feedback from their own experiences and offer suggestions. These included framing the course as career development and emphasising it will help students to find jobs, giving more structure for students to follow; and labelling the course as research skills development instead of statistics to make it sound less intimidating.

INSPECT-IPD workshop

Calvin Heal / Jack Wilkinson / Jamie Kirkham

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are considered the gold standard for evaluating health interventions. However, it is now evident that some RCTs contain false data, and others have been entirely fabricated. The INSPECT-SR tool assesses the trustworthiness of RCTs using the information in the trial report and related documents, to identify these "problematic" studies. However, where individual-participant data (IPD) are available, a more thorough assessment of trustworthiness is possible. The facilitators are therefore developing INSPECT-IPD (Investigating Problematic Clinical Trials with Individual Participant Data), an extension to INSPECT-SR that can be used when IPD can be obtained. By combining empirical evidence with consensus methodology, they have developed a draft tool to determine which checks most effectively identify problematic RCTs using IPD, which will then be refined through user testing. This session aimed to introduce the draft tool, provide training in using it by applying it to real examples, and gather feedback from participants.

The facilitators showed how to identify issues with trustworthiness of data, and then proposed checks that participants voted on. They highlighted the danger of pattern detection in random sets. One useful indicator is the absence of correlation where anticipated (harder to fabricate than distributions). Others are auto correlation between rows and data repetition (human fabrication but not an AI).

Conclusions were that one of the main challenges is persuading researchers to share IPD, and the need to incorporate these methods into all statisticians' toolkits.

Breakout session 4

Integrating patient and public perspectives on digital data collection into trial design and repeated-measures analysis

Annie Wright

This breakout session examined how patient and public perspectives on digital data collection can inform statistical decisions in the design, implementation and analysis of health and care research. Findings were presented from a survey co-designed with PPIE groups that explored the acceptability of different digital approaches to data collection, including wearable devices, patient-reported outcome measures and access to routine medical records.

Exploring acceptability of digital data collection in trials allows researchers to optimise decentralised clinical trials (DCTs) to patient preference, improving acceptability and accessibility. The presenter introduced simulation work that evaluates how these insights should shape decisions on when and how often to collect data, and how these choices influence trial analyses.

This session included two discussion activities - participants were first asked to consider how acceptability findings should influence design decisions in trials collecting repeated measures. The second activity explored how choices between sustained-effect vs. single-time-point analysis could impact trial efficiency and engagement from trial participants.

The session concluded that in the project/research lifecycle, PPIE is central in several places. This engaging session gave attendees the opportunity to learn how to incorporate PPIE evidence into statistical and operational design.

A practical introduction to the Multiple Imputation DOCtor ('midoc') R package for dealing with missing data

Elinor Curnow / Rosie Cornish

This session provided a practical introduction to the Multiple Imputation DOCtor ('midoc') guidance software (https://elliecurnow.github.io/midoc/) for dealing with missing data, with a particular focus on the advantages and disadvantages of complete case analysis (CCA) versus multiple imputation (MI), a flexible and frequently-used missing data method.

The presenters highlghted that it is important to establish a missing data workflow - consider what/how data are missing. Reasons for missing data can often rely on contestable assumptions – whilst it is important to consider the most appropriate analyses, it is also best to consider sensitivity analysis. Midoc also developed as a decision making tool, comparing MI vs. complete case analysis.

The presenters recommended using a missingness DAG (directed acyclic graph) to represent causes of missingness, even if the question is not causal. The 'dagitty' website can be used to draw DAGs. There is a shiny app https://elliecurnow.shinyapps.io/midocrct to run middoc outside of R.

The researchers demonstrated a range of tools on the platform. After each short demonstration, attendees got a chance to test these tools on the web-based (code-free) version of 'midoc' using a simulated health dataset, followed by a whole-group discussion where attendees gave feedback on 'midoc' and asked questions about analysis with missing data in general. The session provided a good basis to start exploring missingness and MI methods.

Launch of the Oral Health Working Group

Jing Kang / Sam Leary / Amin Vahdati / Ke Zhou

This breakout session convened researchers, statisticians, and practitioners working in oral health-related areas. The facilitators introduced the newly established Oral Health Working Group, outlined its rationale, aims, scope and planned activities, and invited feedback from participants to shape the group's priorities and direction. There were short talks from Sam Leary, Amin Vahdati and Ke Zhou, then a discussion facilitated by Jing Kang.

The group is composed of clinicians and non-clinicians with statistical training. The group will spend the next six months planning out their activities and will provide opportunities for capacity building for early career researchers.

There is a misuse of statistics in oral health research; the group will categorise types of misuse of statistics according to dental specialty and represent them visually. They plan to identify gaps in statistical methods or interpreting of analysis results in oral health using statistical techniques. The group will generate statisical notes and publish in a dental journal; identifying relevant topics to work on before publication.

Discussion included the distinctive challenges in oral health research, opportunities for collaboration with other initiatives and networks, funding opportunities, impact and visibility of the working group, use of AI tools, and sustainability of the workforce in this area.

Those interested in the application of statistical methods to oral health research were encouraged to join the group. If you are interested in joining, please contact group leaders Jing Kang (j.kang@kcl.ac.uk) and Sam Leary (S.D.Leary@bristol.ac.uk).

Posters and rapid-fire talks

Presenters had 3 slides and 3 minutes to present their work

We were pleased to receive 33 poster submissions from members. These were presented either in-person or online-only; the physical posters were available to view during the breaks and created a lot of interesting discussion, and networking opportunities.

Everyone who submitted a poster had the opportunity to present a rapid-fire talk either in person or online; 22 people opted to present their work in this format. The broad range of research presented made for two remarkably interesting and fast paced sessions. The speakers are listed below.

Day 1 Name	Title
Ngianga Il Kandala	Strengthening Statistical Integrity in Health and Care Research: ARC Wessex Analytic Hub Approach
Alasdair McIntosh	AF screening to prevent ischaemic stroke – a comparison of machine learning approaches to unbalanced binary classification (The ASPIRE Study)
Alexandra Wong	Comparison of Traditional Cox Models to Machine Learning Methods for Predicting Adverse Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes
Harry T. Mason	Neurodegenerative diseases and related risk conditions following COVID-19
Katie Scandrett	Data Visualisation Methods Used to Compare Diagnostic Test Accuracy in Evidence Synthesis: a Systematic Review of Current Practice
Fernando Valentim Bitencourt	Periodontitis as a Determinant of Impaired Quality of Life among People with Diabetes
Maggie Qiao	Accelerated Titration in CRM Early Phase Dose-Finding Trials: Balancing Efficiency and Risk
Christopher Mwema	From ICH E9(R1) to the Operating Theatre: Estimands and Causal Methods for Time-Dependent Treatment Switching in Surgical Trials
Elisa Allen	Upholding statistical integrity of real-world data analysis: Experience of ICHP's Real World Evidence, Innovation and Implementation services
Xiaoran Lai	APT-SAP: Developing consensus-driven statistical analysis plan guidance for randomised trials using adaptive and platform designs
Eleanor Temple	Reducing missing data: Expanding the statistician's role in trial design
Wilfried Lakena	Examining the Association between Risk of Bias and Trustworthiness of Randomised Clinical Trials studies (RCTs)

Day 2 Name	Title
Tom Parry	Evaluating latent class modelling as the reference standard for interim analysis of multi-rater multi-case diagnostic test accuracy studies
Yanwen Zheng	Periodontal Health, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Mortality: Evidence from a U.S. National Cohort
Mengxuan Zou	COVID-19 and Respiratory Conditions in Vaccinated and Unvaccinated People
Brier A. Rigby Dames	Entropy-Based and Node-Dispersion Approaches for Detecting Phylogenetic Signal in Ordered Traits with Application to Amyloid Plaque Classifications
Neil Hansell	Mitigating Bias in Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) Estimation Due to Missing Data: A Simulation-Based Study Evaluating Imputation Methods
Dr Susanna Dodd	The role of core outcome sets in increasing statistical integrity in health research
Hrishikesh Mukundan	Bayesian sample size calculations for SPaCIS cluster randomised controlled trial
Matthew Parkes	Opening Up Code Sharing in Healthcare Research
Zewen Lu	INSPECT-JR: A tool to check trustworthiness of randomised controlled trials in journal reviewing process
Lizzie Fisher	Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in Secondary Data Analysis: A Targeted Review

Congratulations to our prize winners

Over the course of the conference attendees submitted their votes for the best poster and rapid-fire talk, with the winners being:

Best poster

First: Alisdair McIntosh

Second: Christopher Mwema

Third: Lizzie Fisher

Best rapid-fire talk

Joint first: Zewen Lu

Joint first: Matthew Parkes

Second: Xiaoran Lai

News and upcoming events

New website

The group has a new website: https://statistics-group.nihr.ac.uk/

Here you can find details of all of our working groups, events, publications and more. There are slides and recordings available from many of our previous events.

New LinkedIn group

The group also has a new LinkedIn group to join where you can interact with other members: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/17862047/

Upcoming events

Imaging Studies Working Group

Webinar series: Prospective imaging research design and conduct (PROVIDENT) considerations for clinical trials and studies using imaging

Each session will feature presentations and small group activities toshare experience of design and conduct in prospective imagingstudies and will be based on the published PROVIDENT considerations.

04/11/2026 10-11:30am	**Image acquisition, processing and storage**
18/11/2026 1:30-3pm	**Logistics for reader image interpretation**
27/01/2027 12:30-2pm	**Data flow, QA/QC, monitoring of processes and data**

Get involved

The Group is run by its members, for its members. There are a number of ways that you can contribute to the Group's activities:

Contribute to our annual conference

At the conference there are lots of opportunities to get involved, from organising or presenting during breakout sessions, acting as a facilitator, presenting a poster and rapid-fire talk, or signing up to be a mentor or mentee.

Join the conference organising committee

Working in pairs, members of the organising committee take responsibility for different aspects of conference organisation, such as the breakout sessions, posters and talks, and plenary speaker arrangements. The committee jointly decide on the theme of the conference, make decisions on logistical matters, and draft the programme.

Join a Working Group committee

Committee members plan and organise workshops, meetings and webinars throughout the year, and contribute breakout sessions and posters at the annual conference. They also produce publications on methodological issues in their subject areas, often collaborating with researchers from other disciplines across the NIHR.

Suggest an event or a new Working Group

If you are aware of a particular methodological challenge in health and care research that is not covered by our existing Working Groups and events, please get in touch. We can give you support to organise a preliminary event to gauge interest and decide whether there is scope to create a new working group. We can also support you in organising one-off events.

Please supply three named contacts and an outline of the purpose and objectives of the event. If there proves to be scope for a new Working Group, we can provide an outline proposal for you to complete. The steering committee, membership of which is drawn from working group leaders, will discuss the proposal and, if approved, the new group will be initiated.

Contact us

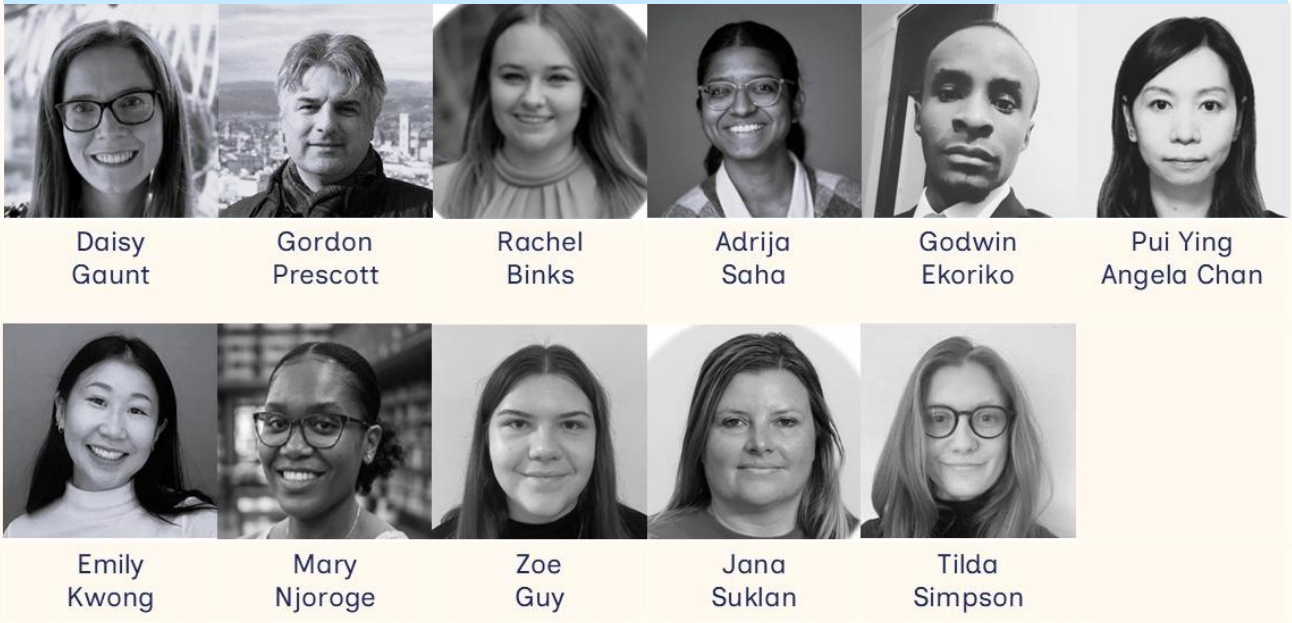
If you are interested in any of the above or would like to know more, please email nihrstatisticsgroup@leeds.ac.uk.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of the staff at The Edge in Sheffield, and Martin Mason and Chris Daily from Multicord AV Services, for all of their hard work in helping the conference to run smoothly.

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to conference this year, we could not have done it without you.

The 2026 Conference Organising Committee



SAVE THE DATE

The 2027 conference will be held in Sheffield 17th-18th June

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

NIHR Statistics Group