

Meet our Primary Care Public Contributors

Jean Hughes, John McGavin and Hazel Patel will be job sharing the Public Contributor role with our recently awarded SPCR grant funding.



Left to right, Jean Hughes, John McGavin, Hazel Patel.

Jean Hughes

I retired in 2018 after a 20 year career as a Social Worker. In 2004, I qualified as Practice Educator. I undertook a further postgraduate diploma specialising in children and young people in 2010. I then worked in Portsmouth's Asylum Seekers Team, Portsmouth Children's Child Protection Team, and for the last 15 years of my career, in the MOD (Portsmouth) supporting service personnel and their families, supervising colleagues, including social work students/caseworkers. In 2019, I undertook training to be a Simulated Patient at the UoS, however, due to Covid-19 this situation has remained on hold. The intention is to do this virtually in 20/21. In January 2020 and January 2021 I'm a selector for the UoS Medicine. In February 2020, I became involved in ARC Wessex. I've worked with/ remain involved with various researchers and I have undertaken PhD reviews with Public Contributor colleagues. During lockdown and albeit at a reduced level now, I attend weekly coffee mornings facilitated by ARC Wessex.

John McGavin

I did my MA and PhD at Edinburgh, and moved to the English Department in the University of Southampton in 1975, where over the years I did most jobs including Head of Research, Head of Department, and Assistant Dean (postgraduate). I retired in 2015 and have remained active as Emeritus Professor of Medieval Literature and Culture, with continuing research projects involving Toronto, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. I have written a number of books in the area of literature and history; have experience in supervision, mentoring, team working, chairing meetings and will shortly do my last spell on a Research Excellence Framework subpanel. I have always enjoyed teaching and believe in the importance of personal encouragement, outreach, mutual aid, and an inclusive university whose different parts help each other, and which benefits the wider community. Hard to say all this without sounding like a prig, but there you

are! I'd be very happy if I could help any colleague in the department – primary care and medieval culture may be very different in substance, but academic and research problems are often common to different disciplines.

Hazel Patel

I have lived in Southampton now for over 21 years. I serve my community as a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator - I simply welcome the newcomers and transmit all the incoming information from the police. About two years ago, with retirement from the university looming ahead, I made a decision to satisfy my curiosity in a more meaningful way and delve into the delights of medical research, and as a result am now totally captivated. I have had the opportunity of working across the country with various universities, exploring every area of the research cycle. I have addressed and discussed with researchers plotting their first projects, helped with converting academic and medical terms to lay language, and expressed my 'not so qualified' opinion before a table of learned and at times intimidating professionals. I have deliberated over reams of funding applications, and cast my vote at several sub committees regarding those applications. I have made effort to deliver the patient and public perspective, encourage practical outcomes, show active commitment to diversity and inclusion, and generally exhibit a positive impact on public health. I am honoured to be a part of this team and hope that I will be an asset that will assist you the researchers in a small way to reach your goals and produce results that will make a meaningful difference in our world.

Sonia Newman

Patient & Public Involvement Officer (Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays)

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