

# The development of the Research in Hospices (RiH) group: Supporting junior researchers in children's hospices



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Background	Aim
Little research is undertaken in children's hospices due to various (lack of research governance, indemnity arrangements, research taking place in silos). Recognising these barriers and leveraging connections made through CoPPAR, this led to the development of the Research in Hospices (RiH) group. The group began in October 2022, and has grown from 3 members to 18. Attendees include professionals such as Research Managers, Heads of Care, Medical Directors, Research Associates, and Research Nurses. A survey evaluation was conducted June-July 2023.	To describe the impact of the RiH group for junior researchers and develop Terms of Reference.

Methodology	Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Microsoft Forms survey was distributed to 18 members of the RiH group.</li> <li>Questions included both multiple-choice as well as open-text questions</li> <li>Items related to (1) to preferred format of the group (meeting frequency, virtual versus face-to-face, length of meeting, etc), (2) benefits and usefulness for attendees, (3) ideas for future meetings and general feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 participants completed to the survey (Figure 1).</li> <li>All participants reported the group as being moderately or very useful (Figure 2).</li> <li>The Terms of Reference were developed and discussed with the group. The final version was approved in September, 2023.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="1092 1394 1428 1810"> <p><b>Figure 1. Response Rate</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1491 1394 1911 1810"> <p><b>Figure 2. Usefulness Rate</b></p> </div> </div>

## Results: Part 2

<p><b>Reported attendee benefits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"It's ... beneficial to be able to share tips on managing studies and approaches to governance etc."</li> <li>"I feel that mutual support is the greatest benefit."</li> <li>"Good to make contacts that I feel I could call on for help."</li> <li>"Good source of networking and platform to discuss current projects."</li> </ul>	<p><b>Feedback received and acted on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"To share any conference/event dates at meetings or via mailing list"</li> <li>"We have shared a conference calendar to ensure awareness of opportunities."</li> <li>"Good to have time for questions and to talk with the group."</li> <li>"We set aside time at the beginning and end of each meeting to discuss concerns, bring topics of interest, and seek support."</li> </ul>
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## Conclusion

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RiH group fills a gap for junior researchers and children's hospices to become research active and support each other to build research capacity.</li> <li>Attendees report the group is useful, and has benefits in terms of networking, supporting governance processes, and sharing resources and learning.</li> <li>Terms of Reference have been agreed and hosted on a closed Facebook group, "Research in Hospices (RiH) Group," (see QR code).</li> <li>While the group has demonstrated positive impact for attendees, maintaining sustainability is a priority.</li> </ul> <p><b>If you are interested in joining, please get in touch with us <a href="mailto:aneita.pringle@shootingstar.org">aneita.pringle@shootingstar.org</a> or <a href="mailto:sbutler@helenanddouglas.org.uk">sbutler@helenanddouglas.org.uk</a>.</b></p>	
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