

# Meet our Primary Care Research Centre Core Public Contributors



**Tressa Davey**

Since retiring to the Isle of Wight just before Lockdown, I have been looking for meaningful ways to spend my new free time. I have enjoyed doing volunteer work in mental health/suicide prevention and with our blind community here on the island. Then, a few months ago I came across an opportunity that really excited me - Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) - and since then, it has been an absolute honour to be able to make a small contribution to health and social care research, a subject that has always been close to my heart. My academic background is in Psychology (BSc) Health Psychology (MSc) and Counselling Psychology (PGDip) but I was not able to continue my

research interests at the time due my daughter's health. Nonetheless, those interests have remained with me throughout my life. My work history has been broad and interesting and range from senior Civil Service management in the Department of Health and Social services to teaching and counselling in the UK and overseas and, more recently, to work within the NHS ambulance service and in Primary Care. Although wide-ranging, the general theme running through my education, training and work experiences has always been my keen interest in health and social care, particularly in the biopsychosocial aspects. On a personal level, I feel grateful to have had a rich, varied, sometimes tough, but overall wonderful life. So 'giving back to the community' is very much the goal - an how lucky to be able to do that by joining the team as a core public contributor, a role that is interesting, challenging *and* worthwhile.

**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 University of Southampton. In January 2020 and 2021, I was a selector for the University of Southampton, Faculty of 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. I attend coffee mornings facilitated by ARC Wessex.





### Abdiwali Elmi

My name is Abdiwali Elmi, I lived, studied, and worked in Southampton for the last 16 years. I graduated from the University of Southampton with Social Policy degree in 2011, completed Postgraduate Diploma in Community Leadership and Law at SOAS University in London and currently doing master's in governance and corruption at Sussex University in Brighton. I worked in the public and voluntary sectors for over 12 years as youth worker, working with young people in care as well as those who are neither in employment, education, or training (NEET), Safeguarding coordinator for Southampton children services, Training and Consultancy coordinator for local Disabled People's Organisation called SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living, and Accessibility Officer for the Office for National Statistics leading Disabled People's engagement with the 2021 National Census. All the jobs I did were

related to public engagement and inclusion, which I believe is strongly relevant to this role. Diversity and inclusion are best achieved when represented in the discussion table, therefore, I make conscious effort to ensure underrepresented voices are heard, which is why I am joining the Primary Care Research Centre's Core Public Contributor. I am currently volunteering with SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living as an elected member of their management committee.

### 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. Primary Care research is something that I am passionate about, to be in this position and to know that I am somehow making a positive difference health research is something I'm very proud of.

### Sonia Newman and Kate Henaghan-Sykes

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