

Gloucestershire Retinal Research Group

Who are we?

We are the Gloucestershire Retinal Research Group (GRRG) and are led by Professor Peter Scanlon based at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Prof Scanlon is also the Clinical Director of the NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (NDESP) in England, which coordinates eye screening for people with diabetes. The Diabetic Eye Screening service takes photographs of the back of the eye like the one below, to make sure that diabetic eye disease is detected early and the risk of blindness or loss of sight that can occur is reduced. We are always looking for ways to improve the service.



An image of the back of the eye

What does the research group do?

The GRRG carries out research into diabetic eye disease, including new screening techniques and treatments. The group also takes part in research projects that are led by universities, other hospitals or from pharmaceutical companies. We ask patients who come to screening appointments in Gloucestershire if they would be interested in taking part in studies which are suitable for them.

Importantly, we also design and run studies from ideas that have originated within our group. For these studies we especially need help from patients who use the service so that we can include their views, which are vitally important, if we are to make sure that the research is the right thing to do.

How can you help us?

We are not asking you to take part in research but to work with us when we are developing new projects. We have a number of ideas for research studies on how we might be able to improve the care and treatment we give to people with diabetic eye disease but you may also have ideas that we could work on. We know, by listening to patient's first hand experiences we are more likely design studies that are relevant to the care patients want to receive.

We are interested in forming a group of people living with diabetes who would be interested in discussing potential studies. This will help us to decide if the studies are appropriate and would be of interest to other patients. You may also be interested in becoming a patient adviser on a project team which would involve supporting the development of research projects, helping to write information that is understandable to patients and helping to publicise the findings from studies once they are complete.



Your contact details

<u>Name</u>
<u>Address</u>
<u>Telephone number</u>
<u>Email address</u>

Please return to Dr. Julie Hapeshi either by:



Email: julie.hapeshi@nhs.net



Post: Dr. Julie Hapeshi, GRRG Office,
above Oakley Ward, Cheltenham General
Hospital, Sandford Road, Cheltenham,
GL53 7AN

Register your interest

If you are interested in helping us, please complete the attached form with your contact information and we will get back to you. Eventually we would like to meet in person but we will not be able to do so until the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted and it is safe. If you don't mind meeting via a videoconference call in the meantime, we would love to hear from you.

However, if you would like more information to help you to decide whether to join us, please contact the group coordinator Julie Hapeshi by email julie.hapeshi@nhs.net.



Thank you for taking the time to read this and we hope to hear from you soon.

CAN YOU HELP?



We are looking for people living with diabetes to volunteer help to the Gloucestershire Retinal Research team.