

INVENTIVE INVOLVEMENT | WITH PATIENTS & THE PUBLIC

Working with PPI Contributors to speak at events

(see also: Dissemination)

What this involves

This is one method of disseminating the results of your research, whether at professional conferences or public events.

What are the benefits of PPI Contributors speaking at events?

Benefits can include enabling your message to have more impact simply because public speakers about research are still comparatively unusual and an increased reach as your PPI Contributor may have access to additional speaking opportunities than you.

Depending on the PPI Contributor it could give them useful additional skills, or help with self-confidence. It could also enable your project to develop a useful Patient Advocate who could speak at events independently.

You will need to work together to agree the content of both of your presentations and this process will help encourage the PPI Contributor and ensure a coherent overview.

When this might be a useful/appropriate approach:

This may be a particularly helpful approach in any situation when you have had a lay person as a co-applicant or lay people have been involved in co-production of your research.

It may also be a helpful approach if the patient's perspective gives a different angle on your research results which will make the presentation you do jointly have more impact on the audience.

How can you work with PPI Contributors to speak at events?

Consider this as an option in any speaking opportunities you are given. Invite a PPI Contributor to co-present with you or to present instead of you.

Ask your PPI Contributors if they are able to speak to any groups they are connected to.

Let your communications team know that you are looking for speaking opportunities.

What are the drawbacks of this approach?

Your PPI Contributor may go off script in a 'live' event and you could lose control of what is said. (Your preparation work with them can help to minimise this risk)

Resources:

- 'Transitions to palliative care for older people in acute hospitals' Health Services and Delivery Research Nov 2013 Christine Ingleton
- Tom Grew has lymphoma cancer and speaks about his diagnosis and treatment as a teenager, as well as about his participation in research. <http://www.invo.org.uk/find-out-more/getting-involved/public-information-pack-whiteboard/>
- The European Respiratory Society annual congress has patient speakers so embedded in their programme that they have guidance for patient speakers on their website (erscongress.org/programme-2017/information-for-faculty-and-abstract-authors.html). The nature of their engagement is described in this [BMJ article](#).
- In this example from the [World Health Organisation](#) patient speakers are involved in producing webinars: [You're kidding, right? Patients to help with antimicrobial resistance?](#)
- Clinical trials unit at Medical Research Centre video. 4.20 minutes into this film a PPI Contributor speaks about giving talks at professional conferences: [How do patients make a difference to our research](#)