Developing a toolkit for patient and public involvement in antimicrobial medicines development research: breaking new ground

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INTRODUCTION

Patient and public involvement (PPI) in antimicrobial medicines development research is a new and exciting area. It has the following potential benefits:

- Helps ensure that research addresses patients' needs
- Improves participant recruitment and retention rates
- Contributes to successful dissemination of findings

However, there is currently no literature focusing on PPI in this area.

THE PPI TOOLKIT

COMBACTE-MAGNET

Combatting bacterial resistance in Europe – molecules against Gram negative infections (www.combacte.com):

A consortium seeking new ways of treating multi-resistant bacterial infections

Work Package 6i (WP6i): Clinical coordinating centre

- University of the West of England (UWE), PPI team
- North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT), Medical Microbiology professionals
- Patient and Public Involvement Panel for Antimicrobial Drugs (PPIPAD)

Aim: To provide evidence-based guidance on how to carry out PPI throughout the antimicrobial medicines development lifecycle.

Target audience: All who are involved in medicines development research, especially antimicrobials, including:

- Principal Investigators and research team members
- Other academics
- Commercial organisations i.e. pharmaceutical companies
- Patient and public contributors

Toolkit content

- **Basics of PPI**: Conceptualisation; Who to involve? When to involve?
- **Creating links**: Recruiting people; Ethics/consent processes
- **Planning PPI**: Strategy; Costs & payments; Training & support
- **PPI in medicines R&D**: Agenda setting; Clinical trials; Regulatory review
- **PPI approaches**: Consultation; Collaboration
- **Evaluating PPI**: PiiAF; Realist evaluation; 'Cube' framework

R&D: Research and Development
PiiAF: Public Involvement Impact Assessment Framework

Working in partnership with a patient panel

Challenges

- Establishing a new patient panel as none/few exist in the field of infectious disease and microbiology
- Panel members had valuable "lived experience" but need support to be effective contributors

Enablers

- ✓ Information about relevant topics, e.g. antimicrobial resistance, medicines R&D, clinical trials, ethics
- ✓ Active discussions
- ✓ Increased knowledge and confidence improved quality of contributions

Collaborating with European project partners

Challenges

- Less familiar with PPI:
  - Where and how PPI fits into research process
  - Benefits of PPI in antimicrobial medicines development research
- Need support to optimise PPI throughout the process

Enablers

- ✓ Workshops to explore the different roles of PPI throughout the medicines development lifecycle
- ✓ Workshop output and feedback contribute to further toolkit development and improvement

CONCLUSION

We have learned some key strategies to change perception and increase receptivity towards PPI in antimicrobial medicines development research. These not only facilitate the toolkit development process, but can potentially be applied to other challenging acute clinical research areas.

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***Photo**: Some of the members of PPIPAD*

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ND4BB COMBACTE MAGNET

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