



*“Working with the CLAHRC has given me the opportunity to work with researchers in an outstanding academic environment. It has been an invaluable experience to be surrounded by PhD students and academics in a university setting to understand how research works outside an Emergency department!”*

Funded by Health Education England (HEE), working across North Central and East London (NCEL), our Academy delivers a research fellowship scheme for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. It aims to raise levels of research activity amongst these groups and develop future research leaders.

Imogen Skene is a Senior Clinical Research Nurse in the Emergency Department at Barts Health NHS Trust. Imogen obtained a BSc in Adult Nursing at the University of Southampton and an MRes Clinical Research at City University London. She has worked as an emergency nurse in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Imogen applied for the CLAHRC Fellowship after completing a Masters in clinical research:

*“During my Masters I conducted research into trauma patients’ experiences of care in the emergency department. This gave me the confidence and inspiration I needed to develop a clinical academic career and I realised a PhD was the next step on that pathway! I applied for the Fellowship to give me the time and guidance to prepare, and the opportunity to work within an academic research unit in a university setting and develop my ideas.”*

Imogen’s research interest stemmed from NHS practice:

*“My experiences as an Emergency Department (ED) nurse has made me passionate about providing high quality evidenced based care and this initially made me transition into a*

*clinical research nurse. It’s important to do research in this setting, as it helps doctors and nurses to know how best to treat patients who attend, often seriously ill and distressed. My research focuses on exploring the experiences and beliefs of those involved in engaging with research in this setting. Research conducted in EDs is a small but growing area”*

During her Fellowship Imogen conducted a multi-site study *Clinical research practitioners perceptions of informed consent to research in the emergency department*, conducting focus groups with staff from different UK emergency departments. Reflecting on her year with us she commented:

*“It’s given me the opportunity to work with researchers in an outstanding academic environment. It’s been an invaluable experience to be surrounded by PhD students*

*and academics in a university setting to understand how research works outside an Emergency department! I have developed skills and knowledge training made available to me, and worked on the Academy’s ‘Becoming Research Active’ course to hone my teaching skills.”*

Other benefits included engaging with patients:

*“I had the opportunity to present my initial project plan to the CLAHRC Research Advisory Panel who were brilliant and provided feedback which I used in development of my proposal”*

At Bart’s Imogen is raising awareness of research:

*“I set up a placement for student nurses with the ED research team - we were short-listed for the 2017 Nursing Times awards (clinical research nursing team of the year).”*