

...with Davina Hewitt

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Why did you move into the clinical research field?

I have always been interested in finding out why we do things the way we do, whether it is a specific treatment, patient pathway, or investigation/surgical procedure. My curiosity fuelled my need to know more, and clinical research has allowed me to learn and increase my knowledge of best practice and the future of disease management for patients.



What does your role as a Urology Research Sister entail on a day-to-day basis?

My day-to-day role is a mixture of screening clinic and theatre lists to identify suitable participants for my clinical trials. It also involves managing data input, site file management and data queries, managing and running a research clinic each week, sample handling and storage, overseeing onsite monitor visits, conducting feasibility for new upcoming studies, as well as follow-up visits for ongoing trials.

What do you find fulfilling about working with patients?

I really love the relationship that is built between the patient and nurse. I know each of my patients individually and I treat them as I would like a member of my own family to be treated. I am always honest and believe this is a key aspect of why I have such good relationship with my patients.

It is really satisfying to know you have helped a patient or their carer/family in some way or another, be it small or large.

How do you utilise EDGE in your everyday practices?

I use EDGE to document that I have recruited a patient into a trial. I input the information onto EDGE the same day that I, or my PI, has consented the patient. I also use EDGE to check my recruitment figures and targets regularly to help me keep on track.

What personal skills do you feel have been enhanced by the deployment and familiarity of EDGE?

EDGE has enhanced my organisational skills, IT skills, and communication skills through its usage, as my core team of colleagues can see my activity in terms of recruitment per month. It gives me focus and structure to see how my activity is, has been, and what is still to be achieved.

I have made it a part of my recruitment routine so it is no extra effort to input the details. I like that it is all in one place.

Which aspects of EDGE provide the most pleasure and satisfaction?

I find it satisfying that the trial data is on one database. I enjoy using EDGE as a whole, but I understand that I still have not yet used it to its fullest capability. I would love to in the future.

One thing that you most love about your job:

Making a difference.

One thing that makes you laugh:

Sneezing... I don't know why it makes me laugh, but it always does!

One of your greatest personal achievements so far:

Having my two children. Professionally, it would be starting my post-graduate degree study.

One thing that inspires you:

Learning... It is a continual curve and process that provides everyone with an opportunity to find out and explore something new.

One clinical superpower that you wish you possessed, and why?

To recruit all patients into clinical research trials to give them hope, and to encourage the future of research in medicine.

One great thing that you think clinical research has achieved:

Finding out the reason behind why miscarriages occur, i.e., NK Trial.

One hope for the future of clinical research:

To find the cure for cancer.

One way in which EDGE resembles your personality:

Being organised.

Catch Davina's talk, "How we use EDGE to successfully collaborate between clinical and non-clinical teams" at the ASPIRE EDGE Conference on February 28th.