

...with Idris Aurangzeb



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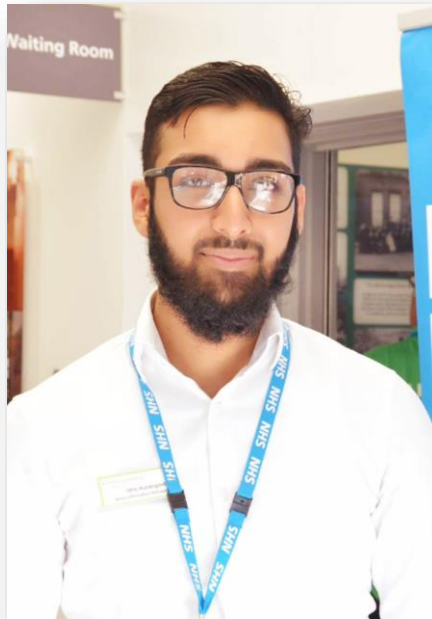
How and why did you move into your role as Senior Information Manager at LTHT?

I previously worked as a developer in Corporate Information at LTHT. I applied for the Senior Information Manager position as it sounded like an exciting challenge. There was also a lot of flexibility to develop the role further, including the systems and processes within Research and Innovation across the Trust. I felt that I could help drive change in research at Leeds with my skills in the world of technology.

What does your role entail on a daily basis?

I must say that no two days are the same. Some of my responsibilities are:

- Managing EDGE
- Addressing bugs and issues identified in our systems and PowerBI
- Following up on study performance and advising accordingly
- Delivering EDGE training for new starters and advanced training for existing users
- Meeting with research teams to provide solutions through EDGE for their studies (i.e., completely getting rid of excel screening logs and capturing this information in EDGE)
- Explore reporting solutions in conjunction with research teams, and particular projects
- Dealing with many different IT and Information related requests that come from researchers all over the Trust. This sometimes includes supporting and advising research teams on software that they intend to use as part of their studies



- Working on multiple projects within the department (e.g., our Digital Forms project).

How do you utilise EDGE in your daily role?

I am one of the lead administrators for EDGE. Overall, I am responsible for the system at LTHT. I oversee all development and changes to the system at LTHT.

How does using EDGE and PowerBI help to shape and inform clinical management decisions?

EDGE and PowerBI together helps research teams to better manage their research performance, manage their team workload, and improve data quality for their studies. Research teams have now also started to use EDGE and Power BI as their only method to record all activity related to their studies.

Which aspects of EDGE in conjunction with PowerBI provides the most pleasure and satisfaction?

Definitely the visuals that can be created using the data that we capture in EDGE, and how easy it is to access performance information and the power to share it with just a few clicks! Since we have established the link between the two systems, it has been extremely satisfying to see the impressive level of engagement that we now have with our principal investigators, as well as the Trust board who are now actively monitoring research activity and performance.

You ran your first EDGE and PowerBI training workshop in Leeds on 26 June. How did it go?

We were blown away by how many people were interested in the work we have done.

Over 40 people attended our seminar last week. The feedback that we received was very positive, and we were encouraged to hear that people are keen to learn more skills in how to create dashboards. We were also happy to read that most of the people would love to attend further training with us in the future.

Do you plan to run any more training sessions in the future?

We are definitely considering offering further hands-on training sessions in Leeds in the future to provide these skills. This would take place in one of our IT suites, so that users can truly create a dashboard using the data from their organisations!

The quickest way for new users to become an expert using EDGE and PowerBI to provide intelligence reports:

The easiest way to learn is to install PowerBI on your computer, extract data from EDGE, pull into PowerBI and have a play around. You cannot break anything, so there's nothing to worry about there. You will learn a lot from just playing around! You can also google for PowerBI videos that are also very helpful. And there are so many videos and articles on the internet to help you to teach yourself PowerBI!

One thing that you love most about your job:

I think it's the people I work with within our department and across the Trust. And working closely with researchers and providing them with solutions that will support them in carrying out their research.

One hope for the future of EDGE and PowerBI?

It would be awesome if EDGE were to introduce a digital forms function to enable research departments to create form templates. Every NHS organisation in the country would be able to replace their paper intensive processes with support services with one digital system, EDGE. This is something that we are hoping to do through the OneForm project that we spoke about at the training workshop last week. Doing this would provide every NHS organisation with powerful insights, leading to better research, well informed decisions, and better performance management. The ultimate goal would be to get our patients involved and to be global leaders in clinical research and innovation that is translated into patient benefit at pace and scale.

One challenge that you think clinical research faces:

I feel that the ultimate challenge research teams face is capacity. Not having enough capacity to take on more exciting research projects that would benefit our patients due to not having enough time and resource, and not being able to capture useful information around potential participants and those who were ineligible. However, the R&I department provides support wherever we can. For example, some research teams across the Trust have now discontinued the use of their paper based and MS excel logs and replaced them entirely with EDGE using the patient attributes function to capture additional key information. This can be reported easily and shared widely with colleagues.

One research superpower that you wish you possessed:

A magic wand! To just give everyone more time to be able to deliver all the exciting projects have initiated around EDGE that will all help us deliver faster, easier research in Leeds.

One thing that inspires you:

Knowing that the work we are doing here with EDGE and various other projects will benefit our patients simply inspires me and drives me to do more.

One of your greatest achievements:

One of my greatest achievements in my current role is implementing our new reporting infrastructure through EDGE and PowerBI and bringing together our support services across the Trust to deliver the digital OneForm project (I know, I know, I did say one but couldn't resist!).

The weather was suitably scorching last week (and shows no sign of cooling down any time soon!) Your favourite place to go on holiday, and why:

I'd remain within the country if it was warm as last week! I have previously been to a cottage in Ingleton, and I'd love to go back there again. Somewhere quiet to escape from the hustle and bustle of the city and away from technology. (Yes, this is me the tech geek saying this! 😊).

And finally, one piece of EDGE functionality that resembles your personality:

Attributes without a doubt! They are just so customisable and underpin everything. And, of course, having good attributes myself!