

Q&A Coffee Sessions

with EDGE super users



Super User Q&A: April 2025

“I am super excited to present at the upcoming EDGE Conference Together 25. The session will showcase users who embarked onto a remarkable journey of learning, sharing, and innovating the potential of some of the key functions including finance, forms, and reports with an aim to track resource allocation, research delivery, income generation and recovery in real time. I hope this session will pave the way for many others to feel empowered to step up and make research happen.” – Dr Shazma Bashir, Senior Research Coordinator, Barts Health NHS Trust



USER PROFILE

Name: Dr Shazma Bashir
Organisation: Barts Health NHS Trust
Job Title: Senior Research Coordinator
Email: s.bashir3@nhs.net
EDGE user since: 2024

01

Hello Shazma! Let's kick things off with the first question, how and why did you move into your current role within clinical research?

Having worked in various roles in academia and healthcare, I am very much familiar with the research operations environment and how crucial this can be in delivering impactful research. Given the depth and breadth of research landscape at Barts Health, I wanted to extend my support to build on our existing strengths while tackling some of the pressing challenges during unprecedented times, thus ensuring continuity in turning our

vision into a reality for improving lives.

02

What does your role as Senior Research Coordinator at Barts Health entail on a typical day?

My current role mainly involves supporting the finance management of research portfolio for Barts-UCL Cardiovascular (Cancer and Imaging) teams. This means coordinating all aspects of research lifecycle supporting funding applications, governance, contracts, study set-up and delivery. Each day brings something new to the table with an opportunity to collaborate with our dedicated stakeholders (internal and external) to achieve key milestones at every single stage. Also, providing useful insights on key performance metrics to enhance transparency and visibility so informed decisions can be made with respect to resource allocation. As continuous improvement is an integral part of an effective, efficient, and resilient system, I also take initiatives to review and contribute to process development and to advocate for enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

03

How does the patient and research landscape currently look like at your organisation?

Being one of the largest NHS trusts and leading healthcare providers in England, Barts Health place research at the heart of overall strategy and has been at the forefront of research excellence with exceptional partnerships including being the recent host to NIHR's North London Research Delivery Network for advancing research. Both the Trust and St Bartholomew's Hospital (SBH) led on commercial research activity over last financial year and were among the top trusts and sites for number of studies and recruitment nationally, also topped for the complexity of studies across top recruiting trusts regionally. SBH led on number of studies and recruitment across all sites whereas cardiovascular disease was the second highest recruiting specialty at Barts Health. Having said that, it is just a beginning of an incredible era of innovation by building on our key areas, creating new opportunities to support emerging

/continued...

themes, strengthening research infrastructure, and enhancing equity, diversity and inclusivity for us all.

04

You've been using EDGE for over a year. How do you utilise EDGE in your daily role?

EDGE provides great visibility and transparency of the research lifecycle in real time through its exceptional user-friendly interface for capturing, tracking and reporting valuable information. This means supporting rapid to extensive reviews of our research portfolio, data validation and verification, developing bespoke forms and reports to meet the individual needs, providing support with queries related to users' access and other aspects. I am further exploring ways to increase our utilisation of EDGE which will help shape the next steps for our research and wider community through proactively feeding back at relevant platforms as part of innovation and development.

05

As a Senior Research Coordinator, what is your favourite functionality to use in EDGE, and why?

This is such a powerful function to have specially to support time-sensitive queries during capacity pressures. Having access to a quick snapshot at the touch of button simply reflects how EDGE supports purpose-driven functions at its best.

06

You are officially confirmed to speak at the upcoming EDGE Conference in June, in celebration of 25 years of EDGE! Could you provide a sneak peek into your topic? What can delegates expect from your talk?

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showcase users who embarked onto a remarkable journey of learning, sharing, and innovating the potential of some of the key functions including finance, forms, and reports with an aim to track resource allocation, research delivery, income generation and recovery in real time. I hope our session will pave the way for many others to feel empowered to step up and make research happen.

07

Have you attended any previous EDGE conferences? If yes, what is your favourite thing about attending? If not, what are you most looking forward to at the conference in June?

I attended the last conference and apart from not realising even for a minute that it was my very first one for EDGE, the real stories were the key highlights for me and that's why research matters for us all. Hats off to everyone involved for making this a purposeful one!

08

What is one quick and simple magic EDGE hint/trick that you've discovered to assist you with research coordination?

EDGE is an exemplar of how EDI drives innovation. Introducing platforms like Shareedge promotes collaboration to learn, share, and innovate together that can be quite empowering and rewarding for us as a global community.

09

What are your/site's plans for using and developing EDGE over the next 6-12 months?

I am very keen in rolling out EDGE financials across all subspecialties at Barts Cardiovascular Research Department, supporting with meaningful reporting metrics, and further streamlining the local finance processes. Given the power of EDGE, I look forward to further exploring and maximising its potential in defining how the modern clinical research operates and how this can help in shaping

our research landscape. This also means continued collaboration with the wider EDGE community as we all are in this together.

10

What is your "bigger picture?" That is, what do you find most fulfilling about your job?

Doing the right thing and doing it right.

11

One clinical research superpower that you wish you possessed:

Inspire everyone to think research in everything we do. A must have superpower to establish what works, and what does not.

12

One thing that makes you laugh:

Career myths. By setting the record straight, believing in yourself and defining your own is all that matters!

13

One thing that people might not know about you:

First in family to receive International Scholarship Awards for pursuing higher studies.

*Interview by Ken Brackstone,
Clinical Informatics Research Unit
k.brackstone@soton.ac.uk*