

We are delighted to announce that the SPELL Study has joined the NIHR Associate PI Scheme.

The NIHR Associate Principal Investigator (PI) Scheme is a six month in-work training opportunity, providing practical experience for healthcare professionals starting their research career. The Associate PI Scheme links NHS health professionals who aren't research active with a study Principal Investigator (PI) who will act as a mentor to the Associate PI at the same site for a period of 6 months.

A checklist of activities relating to study management at site is completed which allows the Associate PI to learn research leadership skills and the Associate PI is awarded a certificate on completion of the scheme for their training portfolio.

For more information about the scheme, please visit: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/health-and-care-professionals/career-development/applying-to-be-an-associate-principal-investigator.htm>

Before you get started, we highly recommend you watch the trainee application instructions video, this can be found following the link above or here: <https://youtu.be/ZrCSMAIUw6U>

We require you to disseminate the information that our study has joined the NIHR Associate PI Scheme to your site and encourage prospective Associate PIs to get involved in the Scheme for our study. Please use the flyer provided to advertise the Scheme at your site to encourage prospective Associate PIs to get involved.

### Prospective Associate PIs

To register for the Scheme, applicants need to fill out the Associate PI Scheme Applicant Registration Form here: [NIHR Learn: APISP - Apply to become an Associate PI trainee](#)

This form has 4 sections and should take roughly 10-15 minutes to complete.

Please also write to your local PI and the SPELL study team ([SPELL@ndorms.ox.ac.uk](mailto:SPELL@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)), to let them know that you will be applying to the scheme.

Details required for completing the application:

- **CPMS ID:** 57141
- **Trials unit:** Surgical Intervention Trials Unit (SITU)
- **Study Coordinator:** Megan Stone / [SPELL@ndorms.ox.ac.uk](mailto:SPELL@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)
- **Chief Investigator:** Tim Theologis

**In order to be awarded your status as an Associate PI**, it is necessary to complete the Associate PI Checklist. This is done on the NIHR Learn platform, please see the link and guidance

here <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/health-and-care-professionals/career-development/applying-to-be-an-associate-principal-investigator.htm> (Steps 4 and 5) over the next six months.

It is possible to move to a different site during your time on the Associate PI Scheme as long as the study is running at the new site and the Local PI at the new site is happy to continue mentoring you.

Confirmation of your API status will not be awarded until your checklist has been uploaded, signed and approved.

### Local PIs

Local PIs will also be sent a toolkit by the Associate PI Scheme when prospective Associate PIs begin to register for the Scheme, so they can further understand what their role as the mentor to the Associate PI entails.

All Local PIs will also be asked to approve any prospective Associate PIs for their site so that you can ensure the applicant can perform the Associate PI Scheme role. Please ensure that you respond promptly to the approval email.

The Associate PI Scheme will be of great benefit to our study, as it will increase support for the study at sites, hopefully increase the speed at which the study is delivered, and research has found that studies that have Associate PIs benefit from increased recruitment.

We would really appreciate your support in driving engagement with the Associate PI Scheme for our study.

Please email (SPELL@ndorms.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions, or you can contact the NIHR Associate PI inbox at and [associatepischeme@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:associatepischeme@nihr.ac.uk)