**Cleft and Craniofacial Clinical Studies Group**

**Early Career Researchers Group**

This group aims to develop the capability, within cleft and craniofacial specialist services, to produce high quality research. The group is aimed at clinicians within the cleft lip and palate and craniofacial MDT who are planning to integrate research into their clinical practice and/or develop a career as a clinical academic. It does not matter how long you have been a qualified clinician.

**What does the group do?**

Activity of the ECR group will include:

* Specific teaching on specific research skills/aspects of undertaking clinical research from senior and experienced clinical researchers
* Supporting clinicians to develop a research question out of a clinical uncertainty and give guidance as to how they could undertake this work, through identifying a clinical setting or other group members or clinicians who may be able to help
* Setting up and supporting multi-centre/multi-disciplinary research projects (small or large) to develop research skills and contribute to national out-put across the MDT
* Giving support to clinicians thinking of applying, or in the process of applying to formal clinical academic training pathways
* Giving advice to clinicians in the very early stages of developing a proposal they are planning to submit to the Cleft and Craniofacial CSG for feedback
* Sharing and developing ideas
* Identifying available sources of funding

**How do I become a member?**

Please fill in an application form (copy attached) and send to the Chairs of the group. We ask that your Line Manager confirms their support of your membership as it is important for you to be supported by them in your aims and contribution to the group.

**What if being a member is not the right thing for me at the moment but I would like to access advice about a project I am thinking of doing?**

Clinicians who are not a member of the group but who would like to access the group for advice or feedback on a project idea can contact the Chairs to arrange to attend a meeting on a one-off basis to discuss their project with the group.

**Please contact us if you have any questions.**

**Lucy Southby Tom Dobbs**

Chair Vice Chair

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