



**AUGUST 2023**

# OPRI NEWSLETTER

STRIVING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF  
PATIENTS THROUGH REAL LIFE RESEARCH

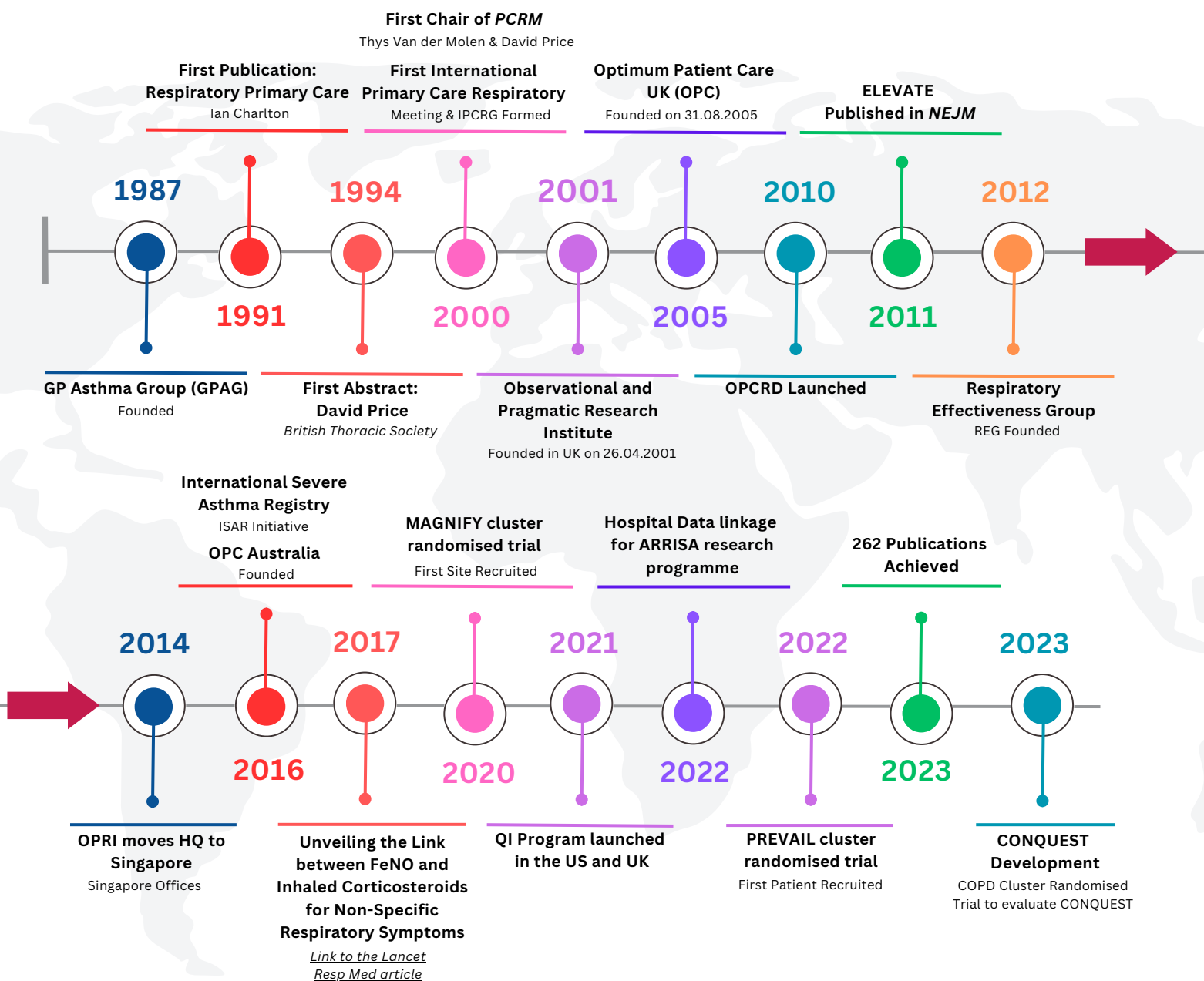
*Volume 1*

## WHO WE ARE

We are an independent research organisation distinguished in building and accessing global data sources to drive change in clinical practice around the world.

For the past 22 years, we have delivered real-world evidence that improves patient lives by bridging the gap between academia and the industry.

## 22 YEARS OF DELIVERING RESEARCH IN REAL LIFE



We deliver clinical trials, database research and disease registries globally thanks to our valuable network of collaborators



## OPRI KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Application of an algorithm to analyse patterns of intermittent oral corticosteroid use in asthma

John Haughney, Trung N. Tran, Heath Heatley, Arnaud Bourdin, Andrew Menzies-Gow, David J. Jackson, Ekaterina Maslova, Jatin Chapaneri, Derek Skinner, Victoria Carter, Jeffrey Shi Kai Chan and David Price.

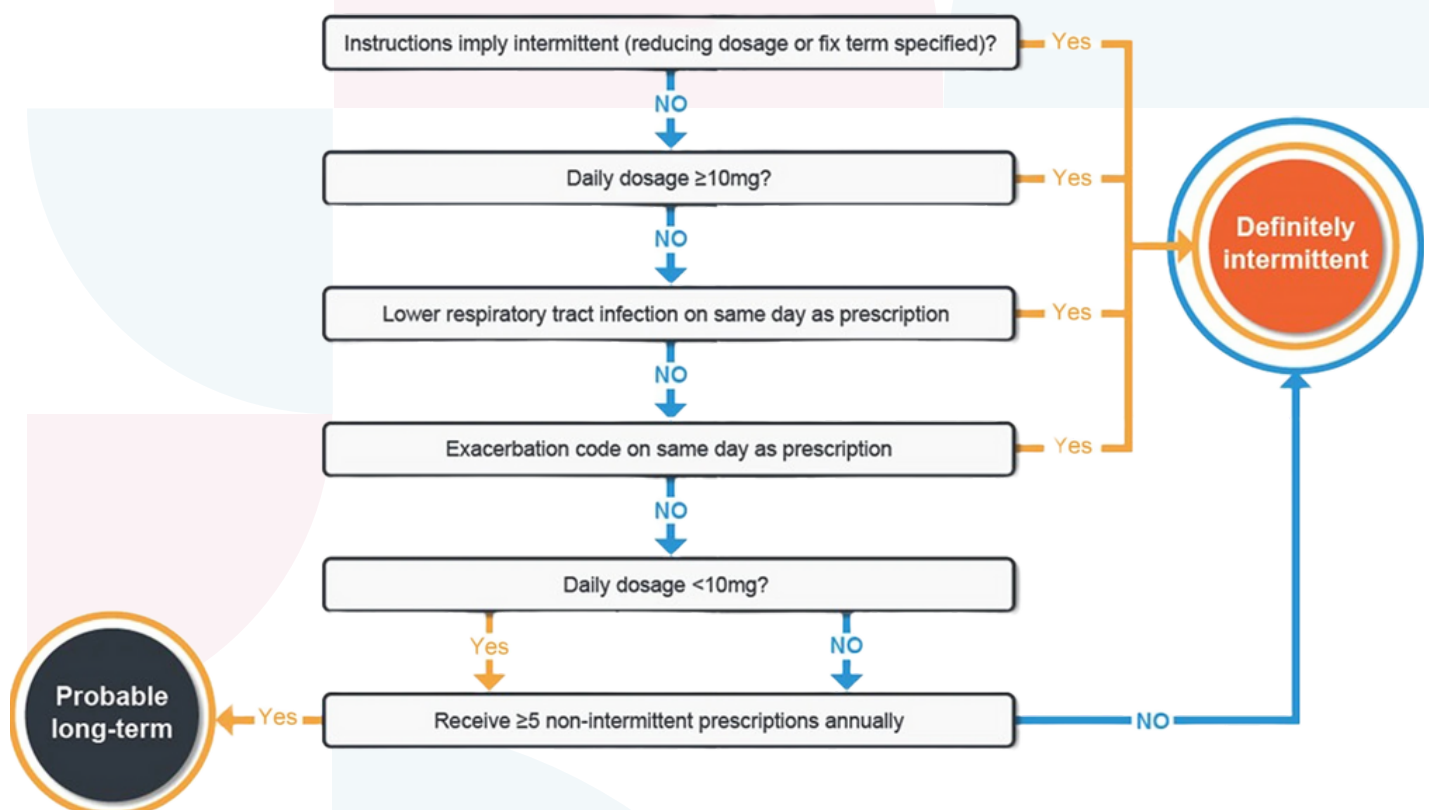
*npj PCRM, 2023.*

#### Aims:

- Describe and quantify patterns of intermittent OCS prescriptions in patients with asthma according to a novel algorithm identifying intermittent prescriptions.
- Assess the distribution of these patterns by Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) treatment step, short-acting  $\beta$ 2-agonist (SABA) use and age.

#### Key Messages:

- One-third of patients receiving intermittent oral corticosteroids for asthma only had short gaps (<90 days) between oral corticosteroid prescriptions sometime during follow-up.
- Increasing frequency pattern was more likely in patients with greater asthma severity and with more short-acting  $\beta$ 2-agonist use at baseline.
- Our approach may provide a clinically relevant representation of intermittent oral corticosteroid use in asthma.



**Figure:** Illustrates OPRI OCS algorithm to classify intermittent and long-term OCS use

AstraZeneca funded the study and had a role in the study design and data interpretation

Click [here](#) to read the full article

## OPRI KEY PUBLICATIONS

### Identification of key opportunities for optimising the management of high-risk COPD patients in the UK using the CONQUEST Quality Standards: an observational longitudinal study

David M. G. Halpin, Andrew P. Dickens, Derek Skinner, Ruth Murray, Mukesh Singh, Katherine Hickman, Victoria Carter, Amy Couper, Alexander Evans, Rachel Pullen, Shruti Menon, Tamsin Morris, Hana Muellerova, Mona Bafadhel, James Chalmers, Graham Devereux, Martin Gibson, John R Hurst, Rupert Jones, Konstantinos Kostikas, Jennifer Quint, Dave Singh, Marije van Melle, Tom Wilkinson, and David Price.

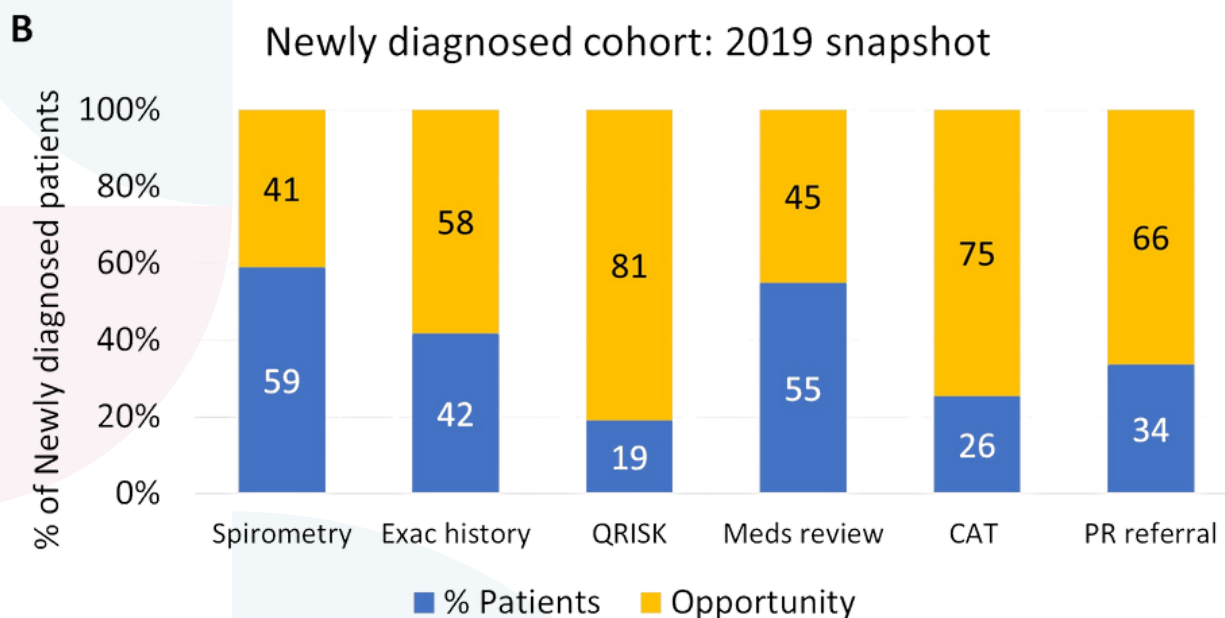
*Lancet Reg. Health Eur, 2023*

#### Aims:

- The aim of this research was to evaluate the management of high-risk COPD patients in the UK by comparing it to both national and international management guidelines and quality standards, such as the COLlaboratioN on QUality improvement initiative for achieving Excellence in STandards of COPD care (CONQUEST).
- The main comparison was carried out in 2019, but trends spanning from 2000 to 2019 were also analyzed.

#### Key Messages:

- Using UK primary care data, an observational study has indicated significant possibilities for enhancing the early diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and monitoring of patients with high-risk COPD.
- The study revealed that it is feasible to decrease the chances of heart or breathing-related problems by identifying patients who are at risk of experiencing events like heart attacks or strokes.
- This can be done by offering support to quit smoking, exercise or education programs, and conducting annual reviews and vaccinations for COPD.



*Figure: Illustrates the extent of these opportunities for patients newly diagnosed in 2019*

*This study was conducted by the Observational & Pragmatic Research International Ltd and was co-funded by Optimum Patient Care and AstraZeneca*

Click [here](#) to read the full article

## OPRI CONFERENCES



### Respiratory Effectiveness Group (REG) Summit | 16-18 March 2023



#### Identifying opportunities for optimising the management of high-risk COPD patients in Australia: an observational study

Presenter: **Alexander Evans**

##### Summary of Key Messages:

- A large percentage of active diagnosed COPD patients can be considered to be high-risk.
- There is a substantial opportunity to improve the assessment, treatment, and follow-up of patients diagnosed with COPD in Australia.



##### Summary of Key Messages:

- **9 Global Steering Committee members** attended the CONQUEST event, representing 9 different countries across 3 continents.
- The committee explored the **application of the global Opportunity Analysis protocol** in other countries, beyond the UK, USA, and Australia.
- **Trial progress** was discussed for both the UK and USA, reviewing preliminary patient identification numbers and the impact of COVID-19 on reducing rates of exacerbations.



## OPRI CONFERENCES



### Respiratory Effectiveness Group (REG) Summit | 16-18 March 2023



#### Developing sustainable disease registries in clinical practice" at REG's workshop, "Next generation health guidelines: how to integrate Real-World Evidence & Evidence-Based Medicine

Presenter: **Professor David Price**

##### Summary of Key Messages:

- ISAR is a successful model of collaboration and improving data quality.
- ISAR's quality improvement initiatives that will standardise care and integrate registries into clinical care define ISAR's future, while also providing a sustainable registry model.

This workshop was attended by representatives of organisations such as the ATS, ERS, GOLD, FDA, GINA, and EAACI.

##### ISAR Sessions

1. ISC Closed Meeting 2023
  - 41 attendees total (including in-person and remote)
2. ISAR Open Research Meeting 2023
  - 50 attendees total (including in-person and remote)
3. ISAR Plenary Session
  - 6 presentations on "ISAR BEYOND 2023"

##### Summary of Key Messages:

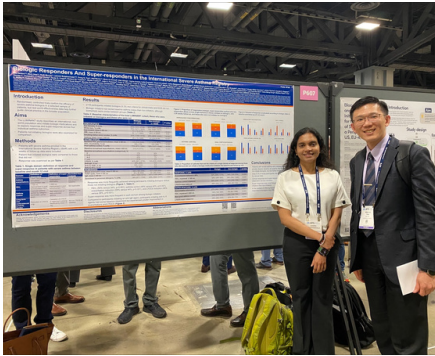
- **ISAR's achievements:** ISAR has exceeded targets in country and patient recruitment (~18,000 patients from 26 countries with prospective and retrospective data) and research (23 projects, 13 publications and 40 abstracts).
- **Future of ISAR:** The ISAR Steering Committee discussed quality improvement initiatives, results from round 1 of the Delphi study on ISAR's key research variables as well as potential research ideas.



## OPRI CONFERENCES



American Thoracic Society | May 19-24 2023

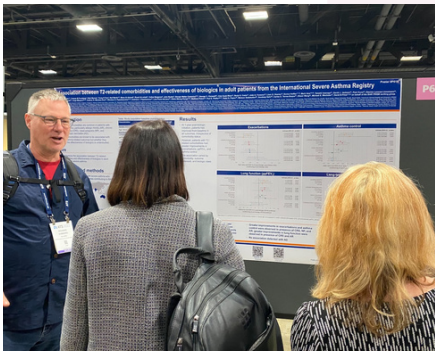


**Biologic responders and super-responders in the International Severe Asthma Registry (LUMINANT)**

Presenter: Lakmini Bulathsinhala

**Summary of Key Messages:**

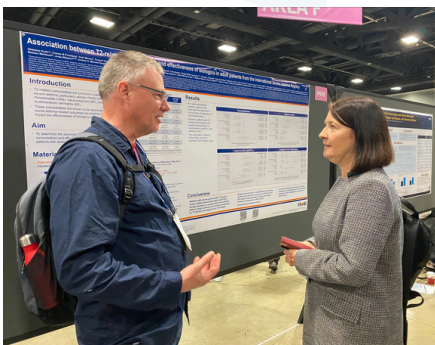
- Patients with severe asthma who initiated biologics had greater disease severity at baseline than those who did not initiate biologics, but biomarker levels were similar
- Super-response was more frequent amongst biologic initiators than non-initiators
- In the context of differing baseline impairment, response to biologics may differ by biologic class


**Association between T2-related comorbidities and effectiveness of biologics in adult patients from the ISAR (PRISM Objective 3)**

Presenter: Richard Hubbard

**Summary of Key Messages:**

- Patients with severe asthma with a T2, upper airway-related comorbidity might benefit from biologic therapy to a greater extent than patients without, likely as these comorbidities are proxies for T2-asthma, the target of anti-T2 biologics
- These results highlight the importance of systemic evaluation for comorbidities and a multidisciplinary approach to their management in patients with severe asthma



***We are further delighted to announce that ISAR has received a 3-year extension for further research and projects in Severe Asthma!***



## OPRI CONFERENCES

# ATS 2023

American Thoracic Society | May 19-24 2023

### CONQUEST

Collaboration On Quality Improvement Initiative  
for Achieving Excellence in Standards of COPD Care.

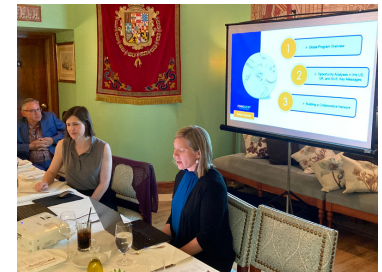
- Having held 4 dedicated programme events across 2 days, the **CONQUEST team** met with their **US collaborators** in Washington, DC to discuss trial progress and seek input from national and locality steering committee members on the **impact of COVID-19 on COPD exacerbation rates** and the **optimisation of high-risk patient identification processes**.
- Moreover, with more than 15 international respiratory experts and advisors in attendance, these gatherings also provided a platform to discuss dissemination opportunities for our soon-to-be-published **US Opportunity Analysis manuscript**, and **future plans for programme rollout in the US**, driving our programme forward.



### OPRI

Observational & Pragmatic Research Institute

- 10 OPRI Research Faculty members, met to discuss **future publications and research outputs**, over two separate sessions hosted at ATS 2023, alongside leading researchers from the UK, Europe and US.
- The sessions were an **invaluable opportunity to brainstorm** and identify gaps in global respiratory research, unanswered questions and future areas of interest.
- **At least 10 potential new research ideas** were defined; some expanding on existing OPRI publications in high-risk asthma and COPD. The feasibility of these ideas will now be progressed by the OPRI research team, with attendees offering resources and connections to support these further. We look forward to sharing further updates during the OPRI research faculty meeting planned at ERS 2023. If you are interested in joining us, please express interest [here](#).



UPCOMING  
EVENTS

*European Respiratory Society (ERS), Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR), British Thoracic Society (BTS)*

UPCOMING  
EVENTS



## OPRI ACADEMIC THEMES

### OPRI Funded Research and Development

#### Invited Commentary *Respirology Journal*

*What have we learnt from real-life research in asthma and COPD? Standards and novel designs for the future*

 September 2022

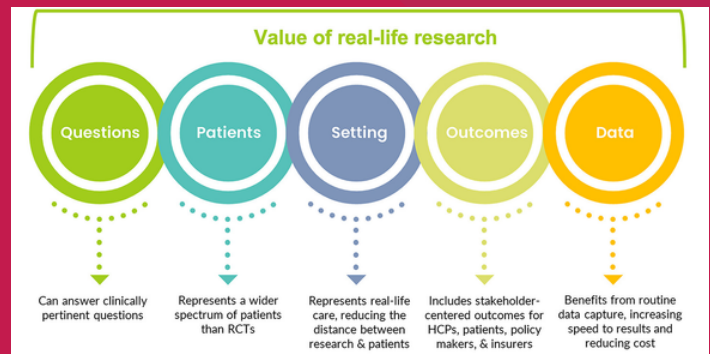


Figure: The value of real-life research

#### Key Messages:

- Real-life research has high external validity (generalizability) and can answer research questions that may be unfeasible for randomized controlled trials.
- Real-world evidence in asthma and COPD influences clinical guidelines and sets quality standards for patient care.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



#### Invited Article *European Respiratory Journal*

*Oral corticosteroids in asthma and beyond: moving forward*

September 2022 

#### Key Messages:

- Understanding the **trajectories of OCS use** for identifying patients at risk of intensive OCS use and potential OCS-related morbidities is critical.
- Research and establishment of **pragmatic strategies for avoiding OCS use**, or for limiting OCS use to only when absolutely necessary is important.
- Investigations of **biologic minimisation of OCS-related morbidities** in conditions are warranted
- Wider and deeper investigations on the **treacherous nature of OCS** are a worthwhile effort.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

## OPRI FACULTY

### **OPRI Welcomes Prof Richard Hubbard, Epidemiology Lead**

I am a clinician and epidemiologist based at the University of Nottingham. My interest is answering practical questions in respiratory medicine using epidemiology and routinely collected health data. I am interested in both the causes of disease, and in health care models for people with lung disease.



I have worked with UK primary care data since 1997, and also use hospital data from the UK and USA. I was previously the academic lead for the UK National Lung Cancer Audit.

My current research projects relate to idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer, but I am also interested in allergic disease and provision of care for all people with lung disease.

I teach epidemiology and statistics to undergraduate and postgraduate students. I have supervised 17 PhDs to completion and I currently supervise 3 PhD students.

I have known of OPRI's research for many years and I joined OPRI in September 2022. The main attraction for me in joining OPRI was to work with a new team of people using real world data to try to answer pragmatic questions. My hope is to provide experience and advice on epidemiological studies using real world data.

[@Richard Hubbard on LinkedIn](#)

### **OPRI Welcomes Pedro Avila, Senior Clinical Trials Manager**

I have a degree in Cardiac-Respiratory Physiology. After graduating in 2009 in Porto, Portugal, I moved to the UK in 2011 and worked for many years in the NHS as a Respiratory Physiologist. I started working in research at UCLH, which was the reason why I then decided to explore the “research world”.



I worked for a few years as Clinical Trials Manager in a private research unit (specialising in COPD and Asthma trials). In the past 3 years, I was the director of clinical research at Queen Anne Street Medical Centre and was responsible for all the clinical trials activity within the unit.

I'm joining OPRI as Senior Clinical Trials Manager and will help the OPRI team with the planning and implementation of new trials, and help with oversight of a few of the current ones like PREVAIL and MAGNIFY.

I am very excited to join and work alongside the OPRI team and to be delivering high-quality research and help improve patient outcomes.

I'm from Sao Jorge Island, a very small island part of the Azores Archipelago, Portugal (literally the middle of the Atlantic Ocean) and love cooking and exercising.

[@Pedro Avila on LinkedIn](#)

## CONTACT US

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## COLLABORATE WITH US

Interested to join the **CONQUEST** network? Contact us at [info.conquest@optimumpatientcare.org](mailto:info.conquest@optimumpatientcare.org)  
Collaboration On Quality Improvement Initiative for Achieving Excellence In Standards of COPD Care.

Interested to join the **ISAR** network? Contact us at [isar@optimumpatientcare.org](mailto:isar@optimumpatientcare.org)

Email us at [dprice@opri.sg](mailto:dprice@opri.sg)

## JOIN US AT OPRI

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