

RECOVERED TRIAL ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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Being involved within the RecoverED trial has opened exciting opportunities to further my skills within the research field. This has happened by completing the associate Principal Investigator (PI) scheme with the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). NIHR state 'The Associate Principal Investigator Scheme aims to develop health and care professionals to become the Principal Investigators (PIs) of the future'. The scheme is for a period of 6 months in which you work with guidance of the PI of a study in learning the skills involved to become a PI.

Before starting the scheme my knowledge of a PI role within a study was limited. It became apparent that the PI plays a vital role in the over seeing of the study, this is shown through the checklist involved within the scheme and the regular meetings with the PI. I found the weekly meeting with the mentor particularly useful in completing this scheme although at times it can be difficult to try and fit these in due to other pressures both the PI and associate PI can face. This scheme has allowed me personally to develop critical skills and be more aware of the work going on to ensure the study is carried out in a measured and rigorous way.

The associate PI scheme has sparked further interest into completing research and being involved in more studies in the future. It is a great way for health professionals who may have limited access to be involved in research play an active role while learning the processes.