

PAHI Newsletter | Issue 1

Welcome to the First PAHI Newsletter

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Physician Associates for Healthcare Improvement (PAHI) Newsletter. We are pleased to have you join us as we embark on this journey to support and advance the Physician Associate (PA) profession in the UK and Ireland.



Over the past few months, we have been hard at work developing resources to assist PAs and healthcare professionals in their research and professional development. We are excited to announce that **Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities on research topics** will be coming soon. These CPD sessions are designed to equip PAs with the knowledge and skills needed to engage in and contribute to healthcare research effectively.

We have also been actively involved in research efforts and are pleased to share that **we have submitted our first papers to peer-reviewed journals for publication**. These submissions mark an important step in PAHI's commitment to contributing to the evidence base for the PA profession.

Our Plans for PAHI

As a Community Interest Company (CIC), PAHI operates as a not-for-profit organisation. Our primary aim is to reinvest any profit we generate back into initiatives that support the PA profession and improve patient care. Specifically, we plan to:

1. **Fund Research to Improve Patient Care:** We aim to support research projects that have the potential to directly enhance patient outcomes, ensuring that the PA profession continues to contribute meaningfully to the healthcare system.
2. **Fund Research Education:** We are committed to fostering the next generation of researchers by providing funding for research education, particularly for PAs who are looking to expand their expertise and contribute to the field.
3. **Launch a Peer-Reviewed Journal:** A longer-term goal for PAHI is to establish a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to PA research. This journal would provide a platform for publishing high-quality studies and reviews, further advancing the body of knowledge within the PA profession.
4. **Establish a Research Consultancy Arm:** We are also excited to announce the launch of PAHI's research consultancy arm. This new service will provide expert support in areas such as health services research, policy analysis, clinical audits, healthcare data analysis, and workforce planning. Our consultancy is designed to assist healthcare organisations and professionals in conducting impactful research that ultimately improves patient care.

In This Issue:

- [A Guide to Research Degrees](#): Explore the various research degree options available to PAs, including Master's and Doctoral programmes, and learn how these can help you advance your career and contribute to the field.

- **Using AI as a Research Assistant:** Discover how Artificial Intelligence, specifically ChatGPT, can streamline your research process by automating repetitive tasks such as managing email correspondence for Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. This article explores how AI can save time and enhance efficiency, allowing researchers to focus on analysis and critical thinking. This is the first in a series on leveraging AI in research.

Call for Contributions: Research Undertaken by PAs

We are excited to begin compiling a new resource: a directory of research undertaken by PAs in the UK and Ireland. This initiative aims to highlight and showcase the significant contributions that PAs are making to healthcare research.

If you are a PA who has published work, we invite you to contribute to this directory. Please send the following details to **info@pafhi.org**:

- **Title of the Work**
- **Author(s)**
- **Topic**
- **Keywords**
- **DOI**

Your contributions will help us build a comprehensive repository that reflects the breadth and depth of PA-led research. We look forward to receiving your submissions and sharing your work with the wider healthcare community.

Welcoming the Founding of CMAPs

PAHI is also pleased to welcome the establishment of the College of Medical Associate Professionals (CMAPs), an independent body dedicated to representing and advocating for Medical Associate Professionals (MAPs).

CMAPs has been formed by former elected members of the board of the Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA) in response to the increasing constraints within the traditional medical royal college structures. CMAPs aims to ensure that MAPs, including Physician Associates (PAs), have a strong and independent voice that truly reflects their needs and aspirations.

PAHI fully supports the foundation of CMAPs as a professional representative body that is independent of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). We hope that the FPA will work towards migrating its functions and responsibilities to CMAPs as quickly as possible to ensure seamless and effective representation for PAs and other MAPs.

Encouraging Membership in UMAPs: Your Union for MAPs

In addition to supporting CMAPs, we encourage all Medical Associate Professionals (MAPs) to consider joining the Union for Medical Associate Professionals (UMAPs). UMAPs is dedicated to representing the interests of MAPs, ensuring that your voice is heard in matters of employment rights, working conditions, and professional development. By joining UMAPs, you can help strengthen the collective voice of MAPs across the UK and Ireland.

Stay Connected

As always, we encourage you to stay engaged with PAHI. Your input and participation are vital to the ongoing advancement of the PA profession. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best regards,

The PAHI Team