

NIHR Research Design Service North West client testimonial video transcript

Professor Simon Rogers

Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Simon talking

As a busy clinician, it's quite difficult sometimes to find time to develop research and I found the RDS was able to incorporate my clinical practice and helping to make there was clear agenda, clear focus, clear deliverables and really encouraging to make sure the grant application was fulfilling all the requirements required to make it successful.

The problem we often encounter when we are caring for patients who are getting over head and neck cancer is the huge physical, emotional and social aspects that having cancer treatment have on the patients.

What we found very early on in our research development was that there's many issues that the patients want to talk about that otherwise are not discussed.

If they are actually being given the opportunity and the permission to talk about things that they want to talk about and that is the entrance in that discussion, they find it hugely beneficial.

The mechanism that we worked on is call the Patient Concerns Inventory and this was designed in collaboration with the patients themselves and it gives them the opportunity to identify aspects of their care and worries that they might have to the consultation, to the clinic, so that these things can be talked about.

Sue talking

The first time I met Simon, he really impressed me with his commitment to his patients. He wanted to help them beyond just their head and neck cancer treatment. He wanted to give them holistic care.

He wanted to use the Patient Concerns Inventory to help them identify the questions that they wanted to ask their consultant, they might otherwise find very difficult to raise; which to me I thought was just a really brilliant idea.

Simon talking

And in fact the RDS reviewed several modifications to the whole submission for Research for Patient Benefit. Helping not only with the statistical side but also in the way it was worded for patients and because the Patient Concerns Inventory is impacting on quality of life and more importantly on the emotional aspects of having head and neck cancer. These are sort of parameters that aren't necessary main

stream cancer outcomes such as survival, such as recurrence and actually it took a lot of support to help frame the outcomes to make sure they were achievable in a randomised trial.

So not only was the RDS helpful in trying to discover the compelling argument as to why do this research, why is it appropriate for national funding, they were also there to help make sure the trial design and the way in which it was written was also robust.

Sue talking

With RDS support and most importantly with his own enthusiasm and determination, Simon put together an application for RfPB that was successful and now he is in the middle of running the trial to test whether or not the Patient Concerns Inventory will actually be effective in improving patient doctor communication in clinic.

Simon talking

The RDS North West I found was a group of expertise who were able to help guide and drive forwards the research proposal.

The wealth of experience they had was given in a very informative way, in a very positive way, was really instrumental to making a difference in this project.