

Lisa Ballard

Lisa is a research fellow at the University of Southampton, with a degree in psychology, a master's in health psychology and a doctorate in health psychology she completed earlier this year. Lisa has worked in the primary care sector for ten years in smoking cessation research and behaviour change interventions. Her currently role is in Clinical Ethics and Law researching consent and behaviour change in clinical genetics. In her spare time, she plays roller derby (rugby on wheels basically) and helps to organise the Sunday Assembly Southampton, a secular community group whose motto is 'Live better, help often, wonder more'.

Outline of Research (Part Time, Secondment)

Family communication of results from the 100,000 Genomes Project: designing an on-line intervention

Lisa is carrying out a qualitative study to explore ways in which patients can be encouraged to share genetic health information with their at-risk relatives. This is important because the result of an individuals' genomic test can predict risks in close relatives but research has shown that patients do not always communicate their results to all at-risk relatives. Without such information, relatives can be left in the dark and unable to make informed decisions about their own testing, screening programs, or preventative treatment. To date there have been several interventions designed to aid family communication of genetic results, although most have proven ineffective and have no theoretical underpinning.

Firstly, Lisa will interview participants from the 100,000 Genomes Project and explore ways of increasing patients' capability, opportunity, and motivation to encourage communication of relevant genetic test results, and ameliorate potential psychosocial concerns surrounding such communication. Secondly, using the data from the interviews, she will develop an online intervention based on the latest behaviour change theories and frameworks. The intervention will not only be practical and effective, but also grounded in patient experience and opinion, acceptable to patients and useful for specialist and non-specialist health professionals.