

North East and Yorkshire
Genomic Medicine Service

Genomics News

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April 2023

Welcome to the April edition of 'Genomics News'

As you may know, it's Bowel Cancer Awareness month and we're delighted to feature an article from Dr Nick West on how our region is leading the way in identifying people at risk of bowel cancer and delivering the most appropriate treatment.

In this issue, we also cover:

- A call for new members for our Patient and Community Forum – please pass the information on to anyone you know who may be interested
- Everyday and Extraordinary – ctDNA and The Liquid Biopsy
- Genetics Advice in Pregnancy
- Upcoming Chief Pharmaceutical Officer visit
- Genomic Laboratory Hub – updates to the National Genomic Test Directory and local rare disease order form
- Meet Lindsay O'Dair, our Lead Genetic Counsellor, and the wider GMS team

You can also help spread the word about genomics, by following us on social media – and by telling your friends and colleagues about what you learn at every step of your genomics journey.

Please get in touch (hello.neygenomics@nhs.net) if you have a story to share and look out for our new podcast series coming soon.

News



Expert blog from Dr Nick West

Dr Nick West explains how the North East and Yorkshire are using genomics and pioneering new approaches to tackle bowel cancer.

Nick is an Honorary Consultant in Gastrointestinal Pathology at The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Leeds and our NEY Genomic Laboratory Hub Lead.

[Read more here](#)



Help us champion the voice of patients in genomic medicine

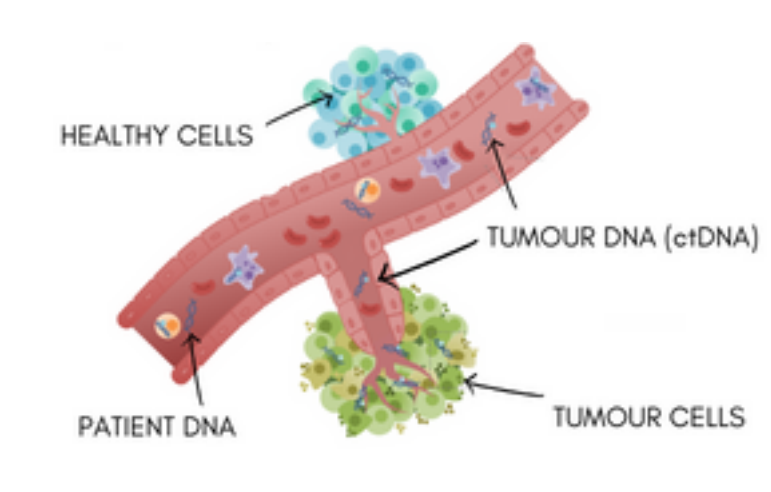
Our Patient and Community Forum is a group of people with direct or family experience of genetic testing, who share their time to bring the voice and views of patients and public into the decision-making processes of the NEY GMS.

Their views and insight contribute to our planning, service development and new resources. And we're now looking for new members.

Who we're looking for:

- Someone with lived experience of genetic testing, as a patient, carer or family member
- Alternatively, someone with a demonstrable interest in genomics
- Able to contribute to discussions, listen, and acknowledge the opinions and experiences of others in the group
- Living in, or have received care in, the North East and Yorkshire region
- Our group aims to represent our region as a whole, and we are particularly keen to hear from people from under-represented groups, including those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds

[Read more here](#)



Everyday and Extraordinary – ctDNA and The Liquid Biopsy

Rapid advances in genomic technologies mean that the insights gained from a simple blood test could be signalling a new dawn for cancer diagnostics.

What is circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA)? And, how can we use it to spot cancer recurrence early and offer targeted treatments?

[Read more here](#)



Chief Pharmaceutical Officer to visit the NEY GMS

David Webb Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for NHS England will be visiting the region for a genomics themed visit.

Hosted at Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals Trust on 27 April, the visit will provide an opportunity to share information about the NEY GMS and our approach to embedding genomics into mainstream medicines optimisation and pharmacy practice.

'We're really looking forward to David's visit and the opportunity it presents us to inform him about our ongoing work in pharmacogenomics and precision medicine'
(Emma Groves - Lead Pharmacist NEY GMS)

Midwifery



Require Genetics Advice in Pregnancy? Then send a GAP email enquiry

Genomic tests are advancing rapidly and we are now able to detect conditions that were previously impossible.

The accelerated nature of change may leave you with a gap in your knowledge, and mean you're unsure about which families should be referred to clinical genetics.

As part of the fetal genomic transformation project we have worked together to design a simple method of gaining advice from the clinical genetics team in these situations.

[Read more here](#)

Genomic Laboratory Hub



National Genomic Test Directory

New tests and amendments have been added to the National Genomic Test Directory as part of the April 2023 update.

The Test Directory specifies the genomic tests commissioned by NHS England, eligibility criteria and the technology used. There are currently tests covering 3200 rare diseases and more than 200 cancer indications.

If you have a question or want to find out more about the Test Directory, please email england.testevaluation@nhs.net



Updated Test Order Form for Rare Disease Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)

There have been some minor updates to the Rare Disease WGS Test Order Form and the current version is now v1.3.

You can access this form via a link on our [website](#) and selecting 'View Test Order Documentation'.

Please ensure that the correct version is used when referring patients. If you have any queries, please [get in touch](#).

Meet our team



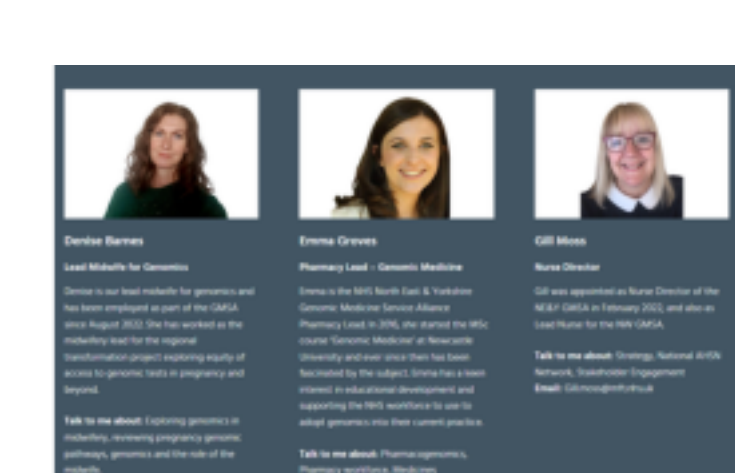
Meet our Lead Genetic Counsellor

"The mainstreaming of genomics is massive. We're on a journey and everyone needs to build on their genomics knowledge."

Lindsay O'Dair explains how our understanding of genomics and technology is revolutionising patient care.

Lindsay, Lead Genetic Counsellor for the NEY GMSA, is GCRB registered and has been working in genetics for over 20 years. Her substantive position is based in the Northern Genetics Service (at Newcastle), where she is one of the Lead Genetic Counsellors and Deputy Clinical Lead.

[Read more about our audience with Lindsay here](#)



The wider GMS team

We recently added biographies of the wider GMS team to our website. Check it out to explore who has the expertise to help you with your genomics questions.

[View our team here](#)

Learning and Development



Learning and Development

[GenNotes chapter on Oncology](#). More chapters coming soon.

Facilitating genomic testing: A competency framework - A cross-professional competency framework to facilitate and consent patients for genomic testing.

Genomics in the NHS: A clinician's guide to genomic testing for rare disease (Launched end of February)

Genomics 101:

- Genomics 101: Genomics in Healthcare
- Genomics 101: Inheriting Genomic Information

Funded course: [Genomics and Counselling Skills](#) (Closing date 22/05/23)

Upcoming events



Upcoming events for your calendar

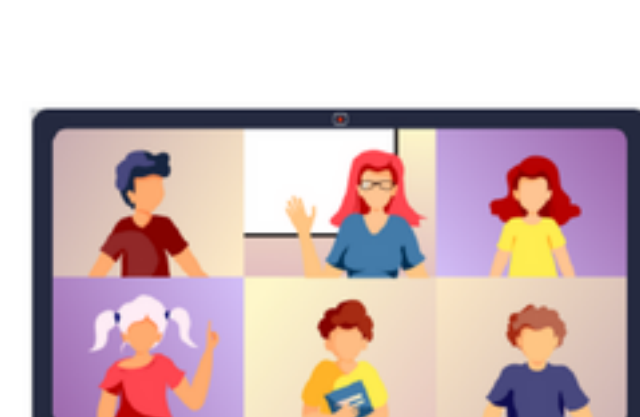
REEF webinar series: Lynch syndrome (19 April, 25 May & 22 June)

Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Gene Testing – 2023 Online Workshops (18 Apr, 23 May, 11 July)

Linking Academia with Genomics Education (LinkAGE)4: Repurposing drugs for rare disease (20 April)

Think Genomics: Primary Care Genomic Education Programme (various dates)

On-demand content



Pharmacogenomics 101 & Research in Mental Health

The latest Lunch and Learn webinar - **Pharmacogenomics 101 & Research in Mental Health**, is now available to watch on our YouTube channel.

You can watch it here, along with the previous Lunch and Learn, and other Genomics content.

If you are interested in pharmacogenomics and other genomics in pharmacy content, you can sign up to our [Genomics Pharmacy Network Newsletter here](#)

Follow us for the latest updates

The North East and Yorkshire NHS Genomic Medicine Service (GMS) brings together regional Clinical Partners, the Genomic Laboratory Hub (GLH) and the Genomic Medicine Service Alliance (GMSA) Partner Trusts: The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.



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