

CARRii's inaugural annual scientific meeting: Accelerating national action on respiratory health

St Hilda's College, Oxford – 29th October 2025



Monica Fletcher, OBE, Chief Executive, CARRii

CARRii's inaugural annual scientific meeting brought together over 100 researchers, clinicians, innovators and patient partners from across the UK at a critical moment for the health service. With respiratory viruses already contributing to early increases in hospital admissions, the meeting opened with a clear reminder from **Professor Julian Redhead, national clinical director for urgent and emergency care**, that **“the greatest predictor of the extent of the crisis is the flu numbers.”** The challenge is both predictable and pressing, positioning CARRii to lead a coordinated national response.

CARRii: A national engine for applied respiratory improvement

Founded in February 2025, CARRii has rapidly become the central UK hub for applied respiratory research, innovation and implementation. Its mission is unequivocal: ***to reduce NHS winter pressures and to tackle respiratory inequalities.***

CARRii's structure, built around the themes of prevention, connected care and optimised clinical care - supported by specialist platforms for data, methodology, patient and public involvement and postgraduate training - creates a UK-wide network capable of driving change and converting research into real-world improvements at pace and scale.

Evidence designed for system change

More than 60 abstract submissions reflected the depth of respiratory research already active across the network. Twelve were selected for oral presentation, spanning:

- community management innovations for acute respiratory infections
- real-world patterns in RSV, influenza and COVID-19
- winter risk prediction modelling
- environmental exposures and children's lung development
- unmet diagnostic needs in chronic respiratory disease
- primary care capacity and compounding pressures
- data-driven insights into absenteeism, exacerbations and seasonal surges

The programme showcased evidence that not only characterises problems but points decisively to actionable, scalable solutions.

From innovation to implementation

A dedicated innovation session focused on the practical adoption of tools that can transform frontline respiratory care, including point-of-care diagnostics and simplified lung health assessments. Discussions underscored the importance of designing interventions that are implementable across integrated care systems - reflecting one of CARRii's core strengths: its outward-facing drive to turn research into real-world impact.

Connecting research with policy

A policy-focused session explored how applied respiratory research can more effectively influence national and local decision-making. Contributors highlighted strategies for aligning evidence with government priorities, anticipating upcoming policy shifts, and supporting long-term NHS transitions toward prevention, digitally enabled pathways and stronger community-based care. The message was clear: research designed with policy adoption in mind has the greatest likelihood of shaping change.

Collective priorities for the year ahead

Delegates identified several high-impact opportunities for reducing winter pressures, including:

- expanding vaccination uptake
- strengthening public information and health literacy
- improving air quality and environmental protections
- early risk identification
- enhanced community-based prevention
- development of a coordinated CARRii prevention bundle

A springboard for national impact

The meeting closed with a strong sense of shared purpose and momentum. Insights from the day will guide CARRii's strategic agenda, inform national policy and partnerships and shape a larger spring meeting.

CARRii is now firmly established as the UK's leading driver of applied respiratory research, innovation and implementation - uniting experts across disciplines to deliver the practical solutions the NHS urgently needs.

If you are interested in joining please contact

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