

UK Electronic Cigarette Research Forum

The UK E-Cigarette Research Forum (UKECRF) is an initiative developed by Cancer Research UK (CRUK) in partnership with Public Health England (PHE) and the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies (UKCTAS). The purpose of the forum is to bring together tobacco control policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and the NGO community to discuss the emerging evidence and knowledge gaps about e-cigarettes in order to develop knowledge and understanding, inform policy and practice, and to share best practice. The group also seeks to identify research priorities, generate ideas for new research projects and enhance collaboration between forum participants. As far as we are aware, no other equivalent national forum exists in other countries.

Cancer Research UK is the most active research funder supporting work on e-cigarettes in the UK and the forum provides a platform for CRUK funding opportunities (Tobacco Advisory Grants Committee and Population Research Committee) to e-cigarette researchers. A number of forum members are currently conducting e-cigarette research funded by CRUK, and an increasing amount of TAG applications are resulting from discussions and collaborations made at these meetings. We are currently funding over 40 studies on e-cigarettes, in the topics of cessation, safety/health impact, marketing and tobacco industry involvement, regulation, inequalities, perceptions, population trends and behaviour.

The UKECRF holds three meetings per year, chaired by Prof. Ann McNeill (Kings College, University of London) and co-hosted by Prof. Linda Bauld (University of Stirling) and Martin Dockrell (Public Health England), and coordinated by CRUK's Tobacco Control Policy team. Reports are disseminated to members after the meeting, including a summary of research questions identified during facilitated discussions. An update of ongoing e-cigarette studies (both CRUK-funded and external) is included in the reports.

CRUK and UKCTAS (through the University of Stirling) also provide a monthly email digest of emerging e-cigarette research. These updates are circulated to forum members and a wider network of academics and other professionals with an interest in e-cigarette research. The mailing list is quickly growing and now includes over 300 recipients, including a number of colleagues based outside of the UK.

Previous Agenda Items:

- Measuring e-cigarette prevalence and products: youth and adults
- Research to measure the impact of the EU Tobacco Products Directive
- E-cigarettes in mental health settings
- E-cigarettes and stop smoking services
- Data on e-cigarettes submitted by manufacturers to MHRA and PHE
- E-cigarettes in prisons
- E-cigarettes for lung cancer patients
- E-cigarettes in the media
- E-cigarettes and indoor air quality
- E-cigarette Marketing: Current Research and Policy
- Comparing the inhalation risks of emissions from "reduced harm" nicotine delivery devices

- Young adults' understandings and experiences of e-cigarettes
- E-cigarettes and young people: Findings from the DISPLAY study

Delegates:

- Senior and junior researchers
- Representation from devolved governments
- Colleagues from the DH, PHE and NICE
- Local tobacco control and regional tobacco control alliance members
- Tobacco advocacy groups (i.e. the three ASH's)
- Please contact alyssa.best@cancer.org.uk for a full list of delegates

Upcoming Events:

- UKECRF Meeting (May 23rd, 2017)
- UKECRF Parallel Session – European Conference on Tobacco or Health (ECTO), Porto, Portugal (March 2017)