

Early Career Researchers Using Scottish Administrative Data (eCRUSADers) promotional video transcript

Hi I'm Elizabeth Lemmon. I am a Research Fellow in Health Economics at the University of Edinburgh and founder of eCRUSADers.

1. What is eCRUSADers?

eCRUSADers is a blog site and network for early career researchers who are working with administrative data in Scotland.

2. What is administrative data?

Administrative data is data that is collected as a routine part of service delivery. This can include hospital records, tax and benefits data, social care data to name a few.

3. Why did you set up eCRUSADers?

I set up the eCRUSADers platform when I started my position at the Edinburgh University. Ironically, I found myself in a place I had been before- waiting for access to data with no real idea of when I would get it. So, I wondered if there was maybe something I could try to do to try and improve the situation, not just for me but for other researchers as well. I felt that researchers early on in their careers were especially important to think about given they are more likely to be completely new to the field with fewer contacts and they are often employed on short term contracts and moving between institutions. This can mean that the challenges of using administrative data, including lengthy waits for data, are more acute for ECRs.

4. What is the purpose of eCRUSADers?

The purpose of eCRUSADers is to provide a platform for sharing information and experiences among the Scottish ECR community. Its goal is to enhance our understanding of what is working and where there is room for improvement, to help keep Scotland on the trajectory of becoming a world leader in research using administrative data, which, ultimately is aimed at improving the lives of the people living in Scotland.

5. What do others have to say about eCRUSADers?

- **Peter Hall, Reader in Health Economics and Medical Oncologist at the University of Edinburgh** "Using administrative data for research can be a real minefield for early career researchers" "The peer support provided by eCRUSADers is invaluable because it enables some insight for researchers before they get access to data to help them work out what's possible and how best to pitch a data request "
- **Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician, Scottish Government** "I've seen many examples of where research using administrative data has saved time, money and lives" "The eCRUSADers initiative is great, because it helps early career researchers to quickly understand how to make the most of this opportunity, and to do that in ways that ensure the ethical and secure handling of data that the public will support"
- **David Henderson, Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh** "I really enjoy the course and conference round ups on the eCRUSADers website, particularly if I haven't been able to attend them because it helps me keep up to date with developments in administrative data research".

- **Catherine Hanna, Oncologist, Glasgow** “I’ve found the researcher experience posts on the website really useful” “It’s also useful to know that we face similar challenges when doing this type of research”
- **Dionysis Vragkos, Senior Research Coordinator, Electronic Data Research and Innovation Service (eDRIS), Public Health Scotland** “The eCRUSADers platform offers a great source of advice for any researcher wishing to bring their research proposal to eDRIS. By providing a variety of informational posts from a conversation with eDRIS, to applying to the Public Benefit Privacy Panel, the platform provides great help to new as well as existing researchers, so that they can make the most out of their interactions with our services.”
- **Alison Stone, Coordinator, use MY data** “Our members understand the value of using and linking patient data including with administrative datasets. The People Make Data blog series on the eCRUSADers platform does great work in highlighting the value of involving patients and the public in that research and of doing that at the earliest possible stage” “Elizabeth has created a great platform to share information and learn from each other, it really is an educational two-way street”.

6. What is next for eCRUSADers and how can others get involved?

I have lots of ideas for future posts for eCRUSADers and I am constantly looking to add Researcher Experience posts to the site. So, if you’re a researcher and you want to share your experiences or if you have any ideas for content that you think would be useful then I am very keen to hear from you.

I also run a blog series on the site called People Make Data. This series is really about recognising that administrative data belongs to people and it is vital that we include them at every step of the way. In the series I speak to organisations who are promoting the safe use of patient data for research and I also speak to people, to find out about how they feel about us using their data for research.

So whether you are a researcher, an organisation or a member of the public, you can get in touch with me by emailing the eCRUSADers inbox- here is the email address here ecrusad@ed.ac.uk. And if you want to get any notifications about new eCRUSADers content you can click join the crusade on the website to subscribe.