

# Q&A Coffee Sessions

with EDGE super users



## Super User Q&A: Aug 2023

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– Alice Grant, Research Portfolio Manager, London North West University Healthcare NHS FT



### USER PROFILE

**Name:** Alice Grant  
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**EDGE user since:** 2013

### 01

#### How and why did you move into your current role within clinical research?

I always consider myself very lucky to have landed a job in the R&D department at the Royal Surrey, where I worked my way up from being the R&D Administrator to the role of Research Governance Team Leader. After over 10 years, and now that my children have grown up and I no longer need to do school runs, etc., I decided that it was time for a change, to widen my knowledge of Research, and to see how things were done

differently at another Trust. During the 10 years that I worked at the Royal Surrey, I learnt a lot but felt that there was a lot more to learn elsewhere.

### 02

#### What does your role as Research Portfolio Manager at LNWH entail on a typical day?

As Research Portfolio Manager I look after all of the research within one of the Trust Divisions. My division is Integrated Clinical Services for which the main areas of research are Oncology, Haematology, and Genetics. At LNWH there are 6 Research Portfolio Managers and although we all work on different areas, we all support each other. Every day is different and involves working on different parts of different studies so I may work on the governance checks for one study and then budget negotiations for another. Along with the research set up processes, I have also been tasked with improving the use of EDGE at the Trust, so this is an extra project on the side of my day-to-day tasks which I am really

enjoying. I typically have approximately 10 -15 studies in set up at any one time and work with the Delivery teams and PI's to complete the set up.

### 03

#### So, you have previously worked at a different Trust prior to joining LNWH and have been using EDGE since 2013, that's a whopping 10 years! Tell us how you have utilised the system over this period of time?

At the Royal Surrey EDGE was used extensively and just before I left, we were working on rolling out the use of the finance function. During my time at the Royal Surrey, I created workflows and attributes (now known as Forms and Fields) to ensure that all required data could be collected on EDGE. I created reports to present at meetings on a weekly basis to be able to update other members of the team on the set-up progress of studies.

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## 04

### **Now working at LNWH, are you using EDGE any differently to your previous Trust?**

Yes, very differently. LNWH have not previously had the resources or the time to fully invest in EDGE and to use it to its full advantage. Studies had been logged but the details not kept up to date. Workflows and attributes (forms) had been created but not used by everyone, so the data was very inconsistent. I really hope to be able to get everyone using EDGE more in the near future.

## 05

### **What are your and your Site's plans for using and developing EDGE over the next 6-12 months?**

Now that I have been tasked with improving the use of EDGE at the Trust, I have started to create workflows for the R&D team set up, for the delivery team set up and am also working with the pharmacy team to create their set up workflow. We are constantly adding to the forms to capture additional data to enable us to eventually be able to report on the studies at the Trust. I have created a study set up report to replace a "Set up Tracker" and am now using this at our Bi-weekly meeting with the team leads and support services to go through all the studies in set up. I am planning an "EDGE Day" in the next few weeks to provide further training for all of the delivery teams to encourage them all to use EDGE as their "Go To" place for all the study documents and improve the amount of data captured. Once I have all of the delivery teams on board, I would like to work on the PI's and encourage them to use EDGE to be able to keep an eye on recruitment and to be able to log on and print the PIS wherever they are. I have had meetings with our finance lead, who is very keen to use EDGE to improve the

invoicing process, and we are hoping to start with putting the finance details on EDGE for the non-commercial studies with funding to start with and eventually look into using the finance tool to upload the ICT to use the function for commercial studies.

## 06

### **What is your favourite EDGE functionality to use, and why?**

The most useful function that I have found on EDGE 3 is the "Add me" to a study feature which I have been using a lot in my new Trust to gain access to studies that have been created in the past. Other than that, my favourite function is Reports. I use Reports on a regular basis to keep up to date with all of the studies I have in set up.

## 07

### **The next EDGE Conference is taking place in April 2024, are you planning on attending and if so, what are you most looking forward to?**

Yes, I believe my place has been booked, even though I had only just started at LNWH, I kept mentioning the conference to my manager hinting that I would really like to go, and the hints worked. I am looking forward to learning more about EDGE and networking with other users.

## 08

### **What is your "bigger picture?" That is, what do you find most fulfilling about your job?**

I think that for everyone in research, we ultimately want to help patients. I love to see a study from the start of set up through to opening and then recruiting patients. AT LNWH it is great to see the number of studies we are

opening and recruiting to is growing all of the time.

## 09

### **One clinical research superpower that you wish you possessed:**

To be able to know everyone, their names, and roles, automatically at my new Trust. It has taken me a while to get to know everyone's names and I still struggle with names of the people that I do not work closely with.

## 10

### **One thing that people might not know about you:**

My favourite thing to do is going to the theatre, especially musicals.

## 11

### **The best thing about living in Surrey?**

Surrey, (especially where I live in Guildford) is a lovely place to live. We have the best of both worlds, a great town for shopping / socialising on my doorstep. 10 minutes' walk and I am out in the countryside and 30 minutes on a train, and I am in London. I am really enjoying the balance of working in London going in 2 days a week and working the other 3 days from home.

## 12

### **One thing that inspires you:**

It is great to work with the R&D team at LNWH and knowing that we are all working together to get to achieve our goals and ultimately to help the patients.

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