

# Q&A Coffee Sessions

with EDGE super users



## Super User Q&A: July 2023

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– Ellis Bramall, EDGE Project Coordinator, York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals



### USER PROFILE

**Name:** Ellis Bramall  
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**EDGE user since:** 2021

### 01

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

I started in research in an assistant role – printing, laminating, updating logs, etc. Then I started helping others with their IT needs and became known within the department as the one to go to when your computer just wasn't doing what you needed. It was William Roe from St George's who helped management to see the potential of EDGE. However, due to a gap in experience and understanding of online databases,

they required someone like me to break it down for them. Once we decided as a trust to unlock EDGE's full potential, I grabbed the opportunity to be the one to do it.

### 02

#### What does your role as EDGE Project Coordinator at YS Teaching entail on a typical day?

There is no typical day, that is why I love the job. In general, I spend time with teams and individuals, finding out their current processes and the different ways they like to do things. I then go away and come up with as many ideas as possible for where EDGE can come in and help. I present these ideas to the teams, and they let me know what would work for them and what wouldn't. With the ideas that would work, I go away and create the groundwork. I then train everybody up and create crib sheets to use. Then I am on to the next team! I find it fascinating learning about everyone's job roles and their responsibilities. I feel like I know research inside and out now. Although there is always plenty more to learn!

### 03

#### How does the participant and research landscape currently look like at YS Teaching?

We currently have over 100 studies open to recruitment spread across our 8 sites. We are set to achieve our target recruitment of 3,500 participants. At York, we are quite proud of our diversity when it comes to our portfolio with a strong mix of interventional, observation, non-commercial, and commercial studies. We even have a commercial manager who helps diversify our studies to help us develop our commercial studies in line with the high-level objectives.

### 04

#### How do you utilise EDGE in your daily role?

I am on EDGE nearly every hour, either testing its capabilities, troubleshooting for the department, or creating new forms, workflows, and reports for my team members to use. I eat, breathe, and sleep EDGE at the moment. It is all worth it when I come up with a new

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new system that improves workloads or allows us to visualise our data in a new way.

**05**

**You've been using EDGE for almost 2 years now. How has your use of EDGE changed and evolved during this short period?**

When I first came to the research department, we used EDGE purely for adding participants, and not much more. Even this was doubling on work since Excel spreadsheet logs were still in use. As a department, we now have forms and workflows galore to store relevant information and to keep internal processes running smoothly without delay due to miscommunications.

**06**

**As an EDGE Project Coordinator, what is your favourite functionality to use and why?**

My absolute favourite functionality is the finance aspect of EDGE, especially now with the release of EDGE 3. It has absolutely transformed how we handle our finance here in the R&D department. We can now easily input and organise invoices, which makes them easier to manage and track. It also offers features for generating financial reports, giving us a base to analyse the data to gain important insights on our current financial help. I cannot stress enough how much of a game changer it has been.

**07**

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

Due to my role, we are now continuously looking to develop our use of EDGE. I have worked

behind the scenes and now I have started talking to our delivery teams to improve their processes with the use of EDGE. Our main goals are now to get delegation logs and safety reports onto EDGE, whilst removing our use of our Excel documents for participant tracking.

**08**

**The EDGE Conference 2024 has recently been announced for next spring. What are you most looking forward to?**

I am looking forward to meeting other users, sharing my knowledge and hearing theirs. Different perspectives are key to improvement, so this event is a brilliant opportunity to get together and learn from each other. I am also looking forward to unwinding with my colleagues with a drink in our hands.

**09**

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

Change is often scary, so changing people's minds and getting them on board can be tough, but I love the challenge. I like finding how different people have different ways of working and learning, and then moulding these all together to find a process that works best for everyone.

**10**

**Describe one of your team's greatest achievements:**

We recently hit 50,000 recruits back in December! We are immensely proud of this as a team. We work incredibly hard and the support and love we have for one another is bar to none.

**11**

**One research superpower that you wish you**

**possessed:**

I would love to have the ability to automatically generate regulatory documents.

**12**

**The best thing about living in York:**

I live in the countryside, but I am only a 15-minute bike ride from the city centre. I can be walking through a field one minute, and then enjoying a drag show with a view of the minster the next!

**13**

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

People are often surprised to learn that I live in a caravan! But I wouldn't have it any other way.

**14**

**One thing that inspires you:**

Completely cheesy but it's true. My team constantly inspires me with the amount of support and love that we have for each other. When one of us is having a bad day/week, the others make up for them in spades and know that when they are down the team will have their back.

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