

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
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Development of a Research Interest Group in the North West

Dear all,

Until very recently, the North West has been without a Parkinson's UK Research Interest Group (RIG). In other regions, these groups bring together local groups, volunteers and researchers, with the aim of creating stronger links between people living with Parkinson's and Parkinson's researchers. You can read more about Parkinson's UK's RIGs programme online here: <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/local-parkinsons-research-groups>

To rectify this situation, we've set the wheels in motion for a new North West Research Interest Group (NWRIG). We've already created a website, which is still in development, but you can have a sneaky peak here: <https://northwestparkinsons.org/>. We're also setting up a Facebook and Twitter page, and we'll add those links to the website as soon as they're ready.

We thought it would be a good time to reach out and ask for people to join us. To that end, I should first introduce myself: I'm a researcher at Manchester Metropolitan University, and I'll be the Chair for the NWRIG. Liz Nash, [Research Support Network](#) Manager, will be the Parkinson's UK liaison, and we have volunteers John Wilde and Matthew Sullivan on the organising team. I'd love to hear from you if you'd like to be involved in the group. 'Being involved' could of course mean anything: from being added to the mailing list through to helping out at committee level. In any case, please do send me an email to say 'Hi'.

Our first aim is to hold an online launch event in January. We're still settling on a date (depending on speaker availability), but as soon as we have confirmation, we'll send out the details. In the meantime, my email address is n.ray@mmu.ac.uk, and I'm very much looking forward to working with you.

Best Wishes,

Nicola Ray

