

ACHA

Academic Centre for Healthy Ageing

**Community Advisory Group (CAG)
Volunteer Chair**

Candidate Information

April 2025



ACHA Community Advisory Group (CAG) Volunteer Chair Advert

Job title	Chair of ACHA's Community Advisory Group
Term	Fixed term for 2 years
Remuneration	This is a volunteer role. We are currently working on a reward and recognition policy, so in future it may be possible to compensate volunteers for their time. At present though, only expenses are reimbursed.
Reports to	ACHA Engagement Manager
Accountable to	ACHA Director
Hours	Approximately 2 half-days per month
Location	Remote/Whipps Cross Hospital

What is ACHA?

The Academic Centre for Healthy Ageing (ACHA) is a new research, education and training centre from Barts Health NHS Trust and Queen Mary University of London, funded by Barts Charity.

We work closely with local people and health and care staff in north east London to improve care and support for people as they grow older.

Why is it important?

People are living longer, but not always with good health and wellbeing. We want to make sure older people's lives remain as healthy, productive, independent and enjoyable as possible. We will do this by carrying out research in real world care settings, creating high quality evidence of what works best, and connecting with national experts and networks ACHA aims to deliver real benefits to our local community.

What is the CAG?

ACHA's Community Advisory Group was created to ensure the views of patients, carers and members of the public are represented, to provide advice and influence decision-making within ACHA.

We want the views and needs of our diverse local communities to inform everything we do: our research, our education programmes, and, mostly importantly, how we should design and deliver health and care services to improve the ways in which people can grow older.

By bringing local knowledge and lived experience to the table, the CAG ensures that ACHA's work is inclusive of the needs of our diverse population and truly impactful.

About the Role

Role description

Working in partnership with colleagues within ACHA, across the Trust, the University, the health and care system and the community, the CAG Chair will set the tone for the role of the local community in shaping ACHA's approach to research and health and care transformation.

The Chair will be a representative of the local community, in attendance at the ACHA Board and Assurance Committee, exemplifying our PPIE values and representing the best interests of our patients and communities.

The role is vital to help build trust, share knowledge, and ensure that the community's voice is heard and acted upon. It's a chance to make a real difference by helping to create research that reflects the experiences and needs of those it aims to serve.

Key responsibilities include:

- **Leading the Group:** Facilitate open, honest and constructive discussion at meetings. Foster a culture of healthy and respectful debate, creating a space where diverse perspectives are heard and encouraging active participation from all.
- **Building Relationships:** Build strong connections between the community and researchers, helping them work well together and encouraging mutual respect.
- **Influencing Research:** Ensure that community input is considered in the planning and design of ACHA's work, helping to shape research projects that are relevant and of benefit to local people.
- **Supporting the Group:** Provide guidance and support to CAG members, helping them to contribute effectively and to uphold the behaviours and values set out in the volunteer agreement.
- **Representing the CAG:** attend ACHA's Board and Assurance Committee to represent community interests. This involves presenting the views and ideas of the CAG via a regular report.
- **Promoting ACHA's work:** Being an ambassador for ACHA within the community by speaking at engagement events and championing its mission within your networks.

Qualifying criteria

The Chair must demonstrate objective judgement throughout their term of office and promote a culture of openness and constructive challenge.

Due to the high-profile nature of this role within the ACHA governance structure, experience of chairing meetings and/or sitting on a board or panel is essential.

Being rooted within the local community is an important requirement for the role. This could be simply by being a resident of Waltham Forest or Redbridge, or through active involvement in community organisations or delivery of health and wellbeing services via the voluntary sector in the area.

How to apply

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit an expression of interest by no later than **9am on Wednesday, 23rd April** describing:

- What inspires or excites you about ACHA's mission. For more information about this, please visit our website at <https://acha.qmul.ac.uk/>
- Why you are interested in the role and your vision for the CAG.
- What you would bring to the role, including any relevant experience and details of your connection to the local area.

Applications should be sent to bartshealth.acha@nhs.net

All submissions will receive an automated response.

Important Note

Candidates must, as part of their application, declare any relationships which might impact on their ability to be independent upon appointment, or which may lead to a perceived concern around independence or independent judgement.

Further Information

If you have any questions about the role or the recruitment process, please contact: Tiffany Day on / tiffany.day1@nhs.net

Recruitment Timetable

Closing Date: 9am on Wednesday 23rd April.

Assessments & Final Interview: Monday 28th or Tuesday 29th April.

