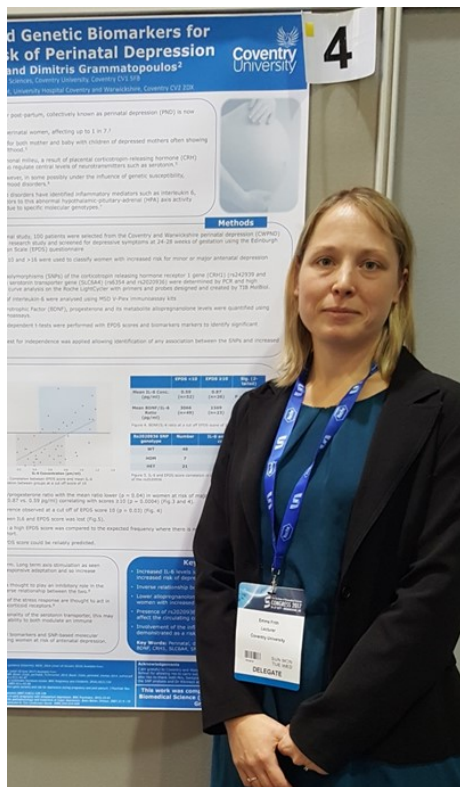


Emma Braybrook - Biomedical Scientist/ PhD Student



Whilst working as a Biomedical Scientist at UHCW, my first experience of clinical research came about as part of my MSc project in 2015, investigating the potential molecular and inflammatory mechanisms of perinatal depression. The skills I developed and experiences offered, ignited my interest and I became involved whenever possible in additional projects. In particular, I was keen to continue my work around women's health and mood disorders.

In the same year, I moved into a lectureship position at Coventry University, where I specialised in Clinical Biochemistry and NHS laboratory placements for Biomedical Science students. I also completed a PGCert for teaching in higher education. My interest and involvement in

research intensified and alongside creating and managing student projects, I continued my own research. To take my interest in my chosen field further, in 2018 I embarked on a part-time PhD under the supervision of Professor Grammatopoulos. I am now a Research and Training Manager for Clinical Biochemistry and Immunology, whilst continuing my PhD studies investigating potential inflammatory and epigenetic biomarkers for predicting risk of postnatal depression during pregnancy.

Carrying out a PhD whilst working full time is not easy, but it brings amazing opportunities. I've been the recipient of a £10k scientific scholarship from the Association of Clinical Biochemistry and a £5k award from the Robert Gaddie Memorial Fund. I was also fortunate to be awarded funding from the Warwick University R&D group, which enabled me to travel and work at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore where I was trained in the use of pyrosequencing to detect changes in DNA methylation. I have also been selected to present posters at various conferences, with my entry for the 2019 R&D Summit coming first in the NMAHP category. I very much enjoy both the clinical and academic sides of my role and the opportunity to be involved in innovative research that has the potential to improve patient pathways. If you are interested in becoming involved in research, I would recommend finding out about the research that your department or colleagues are undertaking and get involved.

