

# Ms Eleanor Holden

Eleanor (known as Ellie) is a healthcare scientist, specialising in Radiotherapy Physics. She works part time between a clinical role at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital and a FMLM Leadership fellowship at NHS England, with the Office of the Chief Scientific Officer.

Ellie entered healthcare science by enrolling on the Medical Physics stream of the NHS Scientific Training Programme in 2014, following an MSci Physics degree at the University of Birmingham. Specialising in radiotherapy, Eleanor completed the STP in 2017 and went on to secure a permanent role in the radiotherapy department at her training host, Guy's and St Thomas's. As part of Ellie's MSc in Clinical Science, she undertook a research project into developing an MRI-only treatment pathway for radiotherapy prostate patients, and continued the theme with an elective to The Christie, to complete research on Sarcoma treatments for one of the country's first MR-Linacs, which was subsequently presented at an international oncology conference. After registration Ellie continued to be interested in the role MRI could have in the radiotherapy pathway, as well as taking a bigger interest in brachytherapy, student teaching and mentoring, and the operational side of radiotherapy physics. She also enjoys a good chunk of data analysis when given the opportunity, particularly identifying links between clinical interventions and patient outcomes in order to improve future patient care – like many healthcare scientists, she enjoys the prospect of a good time to devote to research!

In January 2020, Eleanor embarked on what was planned as a year-long sabbatical travelling the Americas; however, the Covid-19 pandemic forced an early return to the UK at the end of March, at which point she volunteered for redeployment in the Guy's and St Thomas's Medical Physics department, leading to a number of new adventures!

As part of the Covid response, in March 2020, Ellie was redeployed to the Clinical Engineering team at Guy's and St Thomas's. In her redeployment, Ellie worked with a small team of redeployed staff and trainees to develop new Trust-wide work streams to manage logistics of delivery, distribution, and storage of medical equipment purchased for the pandemic response. Ellie remained with the Clinical Engineering team for the remainder of 2020, to continue developing the medical device procurement processes. Collaborating with the external stakeholders, Trust procurement and finance leads, and medical equipment management services, she applied Lean principles to develop processes which increased the oversight of Clinical Engineering over new purchases to reduce risk from unsafe devices entering the system, or devices not being managed appropriately.

Ellie came to her current Fellowship from a 9 month secondment with the national PPE Programme, where she lead on workstreams to reduce the environmental impact of PPE. In this role she had exposure to several government departments, working most closely with policy and strategy colleagues in DHSC to review and develop the national PPE strategy, and to contribute to parliamentary questions and rolling briefs. Her main objective was to coordinate efforts across the NHS to introduce several reusable PPE items, working with NHS Trusts, GPs, national IPC and central procurement, advising on due diligence of products and appropriate device management, and gathering evidence to present a case for change for the main Decision Making Committee. Whilst the wide use of PPE is hopefully reducing, Ellie hopes that her work to improve the profile of reusable alternatives and support industry to

develop clinically acceptable options, will lead to a more sustainable PPE offering in the future.

Having successfully applied for the Faculty of Medical Leadership Programme's Fellowship, Ellie is now working at a national level on the Workforce worksteam within the Office of the Chief Scientific Officer. She is enjoying developing her understanding of the wider NHS governance and operations, and the opportunity to influence national policies on behalf of healthcare scientists.

