

## Patient and Public Involvement in Research

### Ten Top Tips for *Mentoring in Practice*

These Ten Top Tips were generated by a group of PPI reps and researchers convened at CLAHRC NDL on 29 November 2012. This is one of three linked papers that together form the *Mentoring in Practice* resource:

- Questions for Researchers and PPI reps to consider in establishing a working relationship [here](#)
  - Commentary on the Questions [here](#)
  - These Ten Top Tips for researchers.
1. Take notice of what PPI reps are saying and feed back to them what you did with their comments.
  2. Harness the skills, talents and experiences of PPI reps and help them develop.
  3. Don't make assumptions about what PPI reps know, how intelligent and educated they are and what they are comfortable discussing. Make materials accessible where needed, but without 'dumbing down'.
  4. From time to time, ask for feedback about how the working relationship is working out.
  5. Build PPI into research projects from the beginning and throughout the study.
  6. Maintain an on-going relationship rather than drop people as soon as you have used their expertise.
  7. Both parties share responsibility for putting the other at ease and staying in touch.
  8. The PPI rep should take a constructive interest and be a critical friend.
  9. Ask each other for information and take responsibility for keeping the other person informed, without drowning them in written materials. This requires both parties to be well organised.
  10. Be friendly and courteous by acknowledging emails, checking transport arrangements are in place, thanking people for their contribution and including them in social events.