

## CARRii House of Commons Launch Event Report 2025

### A Groundbreaking Launch for Respiratory Health

On 24 February, the Centre for Applied Respiratory Research, Innovation and Impact (CARRii) was officially launched at the House of Commons. This UK-wide initiative brings together leading experts to tackle the urgent challenges in respiratory health, with the aim of reducing hospital admissions and addressing health inequalities. Hosted by Jim Shannon MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Respiratory Health, the event highlighted the critical need for translating cross discipline innovative research into genuine impact across respiratory care.

### Driving Impact Through Research & Innovation

CARRii is co-directed by Professor Sir Aziz Sheikh OBE (Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford) and Professor Chris Griffiths (Queen Mary University London). The centre aims to reduce hospital admissions for asthma, COPD, and respiratory infections by 20% over the next decade, while also narrowing health disparities in respiratory care.



*Professor Sir Aziz Sheikh.*



*Professor Chris Griffiths*

### Thought Leadership and Expert Insights

The launch event featured keynote speeches from Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam, former Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Lord Lionel Tarassenko, a leading expert in healthcare technology and Sarah Sleet, CEO of Asthma + Lung UK. Their insights reinforced the urgency of addressing respiratory diseases through cutting-edge research and technology.

A key theme was the need to bridge the gap between research and real-world impact. The UK is a global leader in high-quality research, but true innovation requires translating findings into scalable trials and real-world studies that provide evidence of patient benefit and health system improvement.

Sarah Sleet highlighted the pressing need to tackle health inequalities in respiratory care, ensuring that innovation reaches the people who need it most. Her call for stronger collaboration between researchers, policymakers and patient advocacy groups reinforced CARRii's mission to drive meaningful impact.

Professor Lord Lionel Tarassenko highlighted that the UK has the diverse databases, AI expertise and big data tools necessary to advance diagnostics, prognostics and next generation treatments. He emphasised that by leveraging these resources, we can better articulate the economic benefits of reducing respiratory disease burden and tackling health inequalities.

Cross discipline collaboration is key. Solutions must be driven by partnerships between patients, policymakers, and industry, with impact embed from the beginning to ensure they are needs-led not just research led. As Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam pointed out, the learnings from COVID-19 demonstrated that well-resourced collaboration between academia, industry and government can rapidly produce the stimulus and evidence needed for policy driven innovation.



*Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam*



*Professor Lord Lionel Tarassenko*

By fostering these partnerships and focusing on implementation at scale, CARRii will help transform respiratory care, benefiting patients, healthcare systems and the wider economy.

**Monica Fletcher OBE**, Chief Executive of CARRii, emphasised the centre's commitment to translating research into practice:

*"We will influence policy, train and embed researchers in clinical settings, and collaborate with industry partners to drive innovation. Most importantly, patients will remain at the heart of our work."*



*Monica Fletcher OBE*

## Call to Action: Join CARRii

CARRii is bringing together researchers, healthcare professionals, industry leaders, and the public to transform respiratory health. By joining us, you can **contribute to groundbreaking research**, innovative solutions, and policy-driven change that will reduce hospital admissions and improve patient outcomes.

Let's work together to **drive real impact** and ease the burden on the NHS. Whether through research collaborations, clinical partnerships, or industry engagement, your involvement can **make a difference**.

**Get involved today:**

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