**Tim Coats, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences (26.05.22)**

My name’s Tim Coats, I’m a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Leicester, and I’m based down in the Emergency Department down in Leicester Royal Infirmary.

In my day job in the NHS in emergency medicine, I work as part of a big team. I work in a team often of twenty, thirty, or even forty people providing emergency care for Leicester and Leicestershire, so actually this type of multidisciplinary working is just normal for me and has been throughout my professional life.

Highlights of my interdisciplinary experience in research have been working with groups that are providing clinicians with clinical decision support systems. These are mathematical models which are presented to clinicians or patients to help them make decisions about people’s care. What started me on this path of interdisciplinary working is that I had problems that I wanted to solve; I didn’t have the skills to solve those problems myself, so I had to get in contact with a whole group of people that had the different skills that I needed to actually bring together and solve the problem. So that naturally becomes interdisciplinary working.

So, a really exciting interdisciplinary project we’re involved in at the moment is constructing a predictive model for patients who’ve suffered major trauma. We’re predicting the patient-reported outcome measures at six months after injury, and we’re doing that while they’re still in hospital with their original injury.

The main challenge I come across working interdisciplinary is each of these groups speaks a different language, and I think that might actually be where my role comes in, because I know perhaps enough about the expertise in each of these areas to be the translator in terms of the impact that your research makes, and also getting funding for research – sometimes when you’ve got these different angles coming in a funder will get, you know, a dozen different applications, all from the same angle, but then you’ve got something that’s a bit interdisciplinary, that’s looking at things in a slightly different way, and that sort of stands out from the crowd, so I think it is a way of making your research stand out a bit.

My recommendation for starting is I think go and talk to people you wouldn’t normally talk to, go and listen to what other people are doing outside the silo that you’re usually in, and there’s quite a lot of opportunity to do that.

I love walking from the hospital – I have collaborators in Space Science, so walking up to the Space Science Building, which is right at the top of campus, I usually take a slightly longer route and go up through Victoria Park and turn right, and just sometimes take five minutes to sit in the sunshine near the war memorial, looking down the hill, looking at the university, and seeing the park around me, so that’s one of my favourite, favourite walks.