

Celine Lewis

Celine Lewis is a behavioural scientist based at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Celine's main area of interest is the psychosocial impact of genetic and genome technologies, in particular how patients and families relate to and make decisions around personal genetic information, and the subsequent emotional and behavioural impact.

Celine has a bachelor's degree in philosophy, a master's degree in medical ethics and a PHD in health psychology. Her dream job would be presenting Desert Island Discs and she recently dressed up as an ice-cream and drove around India in an Ambassador Taxi to raise money for charity.

Outline of Research (Full Time, Postdoctoral)

Exploring and enhancing decision-making about genome sequencing among young people

During this two-year post-doctoral fellowship conducted at Great Ormond Street Hospital, Celine is hoping to capitalise on young people's involvement in the 100,000 Genome Project. The aim of her research is to gain insight into young people's (11-21 years) motivations and attitudes towards whole genome sequencing (WGS), including their knowledge and understanding of WGS, their motivation for consenting, their appreciation of how WGS results might impact them and their views regarding receipt of secondary findings. To do this Celine will interview young people who have been invited to take part in the 100,000 Genomes Project. This research will provide data that will be valuable to the development of policy recommendations and professional guidelines tailored to this age group.

A further aspect of her research will be to develop and evaluate an animation that explains genome sequencing to young people. Celine intends to do this by conducting a randomised controlled trial to examine; (a) whether the animation increases knowledge about WGS, (b) whether the animation impacts young people's hypothetical willingness to undergo WGS; and (c) young people's satisfaction with the animation. If the animation is well received, it could be a valuable communication aid for healthcare professionals explaining WGS to young people.