

Working behind the scenes to save lives: our 250 Royal Surrey scientists

Did you know that there are more than 250 scientists working at Royal Surrey in a huge range of day-to-day support roles and research projects?

They are part of a 50,000 strong army of NHS Health Care Scientists involved in more than 50 separate scientific specialisms that help to save lives at Royal Surrey and around the UK. Despite their critical role, because they often work in the background they are among the unsung heroes of the NHS.

Between 11-15 March, Royal Surrey will be marking Health Care Science Week to highlight their work and to showcase some of the exciting opportunities that exist in this specialist field of health care.

Every lunch time, between 11.30am-2pm in the canteen there will be a focus on a different Health Care Science specialism:

- 11 March, Bioinformatics
- 12 March, Medical Physics, Radiotherapy
- 13 March, Biochemistry
- 14 March, Medical Physics, Diagnostic and Radiation Protection
- 15 March, Gastrointestinal physiology

You can also take an organised tour of departments to meet team members and find out more about their work. Places are limited, so if interested please book ahead [here](#).

Gail Distefano who has co-ordinated the week's events, with the support of trainee scientists in the Trust, said: "Health Care Science Week is an excellent opportunity to put the spotlight on the vital work that our scientists do behind the scenes. Health Care Scientists provide the scientific backbone of the NHS and their work underpins 80% of all diagnoses.

"We have four main groupings of scientists at Royal Surrey – laboratory (pathology) sciences, physiological sciences, medical physics and clinical engineering, and bioinformatics. They work in a range of disciplines across the hospital including biochemistry, audiology, medical physics and bio-informatics, to name just a few.

"There are a lot of [myths about Health Care Science](#) such as the misconception that there is no career progression to consultant level. We hope that during the week people will learn just how exciting and rewarding a career in Health Care Science really is!"