

Sharai Chitando, Lead Research Nurse (South East London Cancer Research Network, **Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust**)

I lead and manage research teams based at 7 sites (4 trusts) across South East London Cancer Research Network (SELCRN). I came into nursing after a career in the private sector as a Retail Analyst and a Commercial Manager for large petrochemical companies. I obtained a nursing degree from Kingston University in Surrey and post qualification my experience has been specifically focussed on the field of cancer nursing.

Prior to my current role I firstly worked as an Advanced Haemato-Oncology Practitioner and later as a Research Nurse in Upper GI, Urology and Phase 1 tumour groups. I have also obtained a BSc (Hons) in Cancer Nursing. I was appointed to the role of Lead Research Nurse in 2009. The role has evolved since my appointment mainly due to the restructuring of SELCRN in the same year. I believe that I have developed and contributed significantly to establishing the role whilst resolving numerous interesting challenges associated with setting up a new team. During this period, I have developed key leadership skills to successfully lead teams based at multi-sites. In addition to my main job I also provide training on the following modules at King's College London University:-

- Introduction to Cancer Care and
- Clinical Trials Roles and Responsibilities of Healthcare Professionals