The Disability Matters Online Town Hall Circus.
What people said at the meeting

These slides tell you what people are saying at the Online Town Hall Circus

These slides are summaries; they give you the main points.

If you want to learn more, go through the big notes about the Online Town Hall Circus with a personal assistant, supporter, family friend, or carer.

Dan says hello to everyone at the Online Town Hall Circus and tells people that he is the main person running the Disability Matters research.

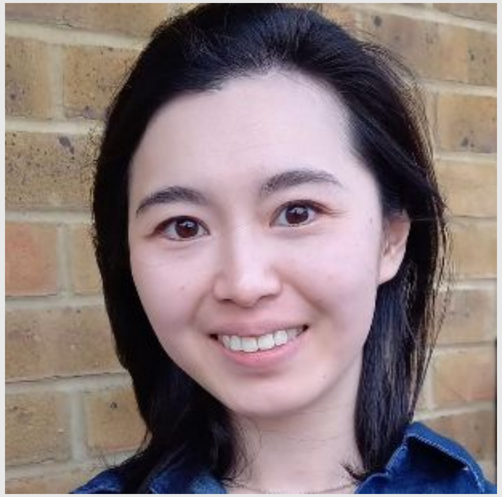
He tells everyone that he is a bald man with lots of fabulous clothes.

Dan tells us about the main points of the research.

These are to support disabled people around the world to get into doing research and to put disability at the centre of research, so that everyone can be included.

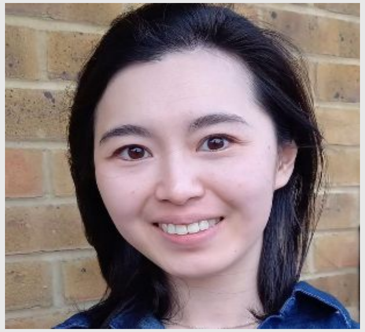
Dan also introduces the other people taking part in the Online town hall circus, who are part of the Disability Matters project.

He tells people that there will be lots of online meetings and activities, with the other partners in the future.



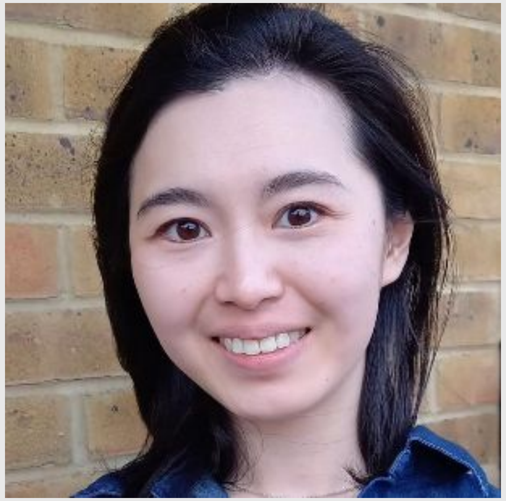
Christina says hello and tells everyone that she is working in the research team with Dan.

She tells everyone that she is an Asian lady with black hair.



She tells people about why this online event is called a circus. She says that a group of puffin birds, called a circus of puffins, are playful, colourful birds with a great social life.

We can learn from them and make everyone feel welcome and joyful!



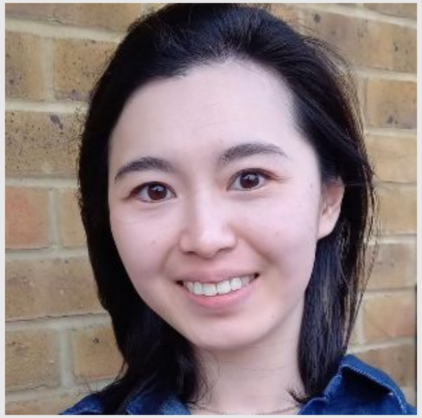
Christina tells us what will happen at the event and tells people that a question will be asked. This is the question:

How does putting disability in the centre of all we do change health research for the better?

Christina talks about housekeeping and reminds people that there will be British Sign Language

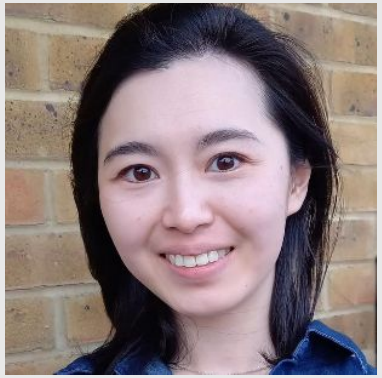
Live captioning

The event will also be recorded.



Christina says that people will try and speak clearly, not too quickly and that people are welcome to join in with any conversations.

She gives out some links where people can find all the information about the research.



Christina finishes by asking people to be kind to each other and give each other time, so that everyone can be included.

Dan and Rhea talk about years 1 and 2

Dan and Rhea start by talking about what has happened in years 1 and 2 of this research project that is happening across the world.

2023 → 2024 → 2025

Since 2023, lots of good things have happened.

They thank the Wellcome Trust who fund the research.

They also say how exciting this research is, because it puts disability in the middle of research so it can include everyone.

Dan and Rhea say that there are lots of partners around the world working together on Disability Matters.

These include disabled people in universities, big institutions and disabled people's organisations

Dan and Rhea talk about how people joined the research teams. They also tell us about how they have written articles and put these online.

They talk about helping more disabled people to become researchers by supporting them with grants and teaching support.

They talk about how important it is to get more disabled people into research.

It’s good and exciting to learn from each other.

Ankita says hello and tells everyone that she is also a researcher working on Disability Matters.

Ankita is a South Asian Indian woman with short black hair.

She is looking at part 2, which is about what disabled people think is most important for good health.

- She is also asking:
- Who gets to decide what is important?
- Whose voices are listened to for health matters?
- How can we make sure that disabled people from all over the world get to be included and taken seriously?

All over the world, disabled people still face inequality and continue to be not included in their communities.

This happens a lot with people who are poor, queer or in other ethnic communities.

Disability Matters wants to challenge this head on.

Part 2 of the research gives us an opportunity to do research **with** disabled people, not just about them.

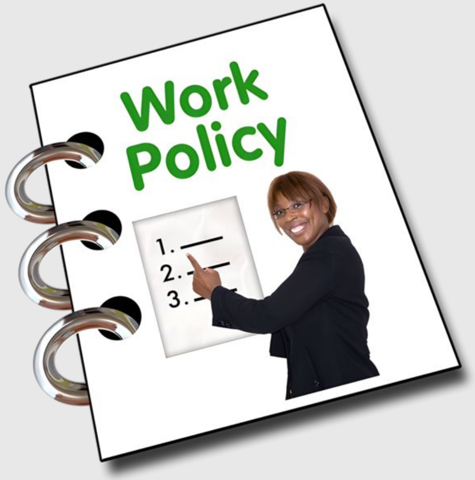
Ankita talks about India and the work they are doing with our partners in this research.

These partnerships are good for making research better and built on trust.

Ankita talks about workshops that are happening, which ask disabled people to share their hopes and dreams of what health could be, not just in the future but now.

She also talks about community story circles. These ask disabled people to tell stories through art, audio, video, poetry and silence.

This makes space for people who have been left out, which challenges bad ways of doing things that don’t include disabled people or treat them fairly.



The third thing Ankita talked about was the policy mapping workshops.

This means we will look at policies we already have and think about what is missing that makes them unfair to disabled people.

We will do this to imagine different ways of looking at policies that are creative and value, benefit and care for everyone.

We are building a research advisory group that is made up of people with disabilities and we pay them fairly.

We will ask for health goals that are based on what people know and what they want in life.

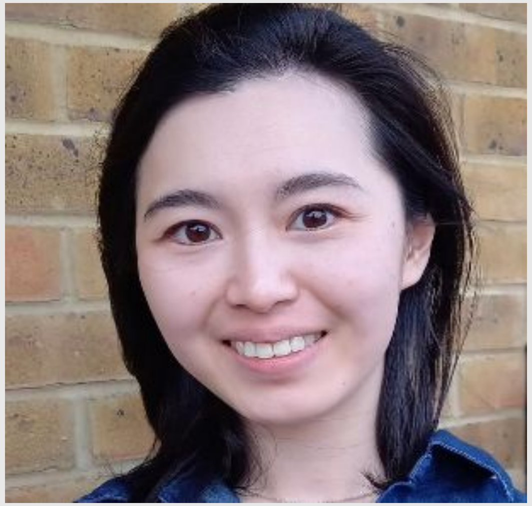
People with disabilities will always be involved, giving opinions and will drive the work forward.



Ankita asks:

What would build a world that would fully include and value disabled people?

This would be a big shift in power.



Christina says that right now, equality, diversity and inclusion are being threatened.

So, this work is very important.

Disabled people need to have safe places to go to talk together, think about the future and drive inclusion forward.

The research needs to stop others from excluding disabled people, which harms them and makes them feel helpless.

We remember that this meeting is called the Online Town Hall Circus because a group of puffins is called a 'circus'.

We want to bring joy and create new ways of doing things to include all disabled people in health research.

The **Second Act** is a question-and-answer session led by Dan.

There isn't any speech notes for this.

Raise your hand if you want to ask a question.

There is a short break to change over to the panel session.

This is different to the coffee breaks because it will only take a few minutes.

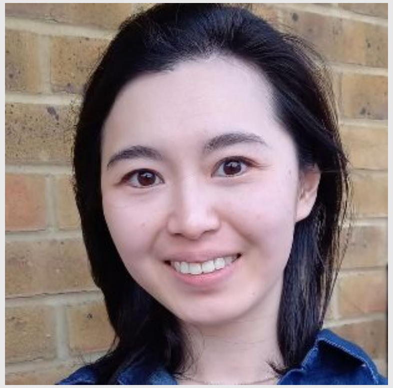



The Third Act is a panel discussion.

This is led by Jacquie Nicolson, with Dr Katherine Deane and Professor Kate Sang.

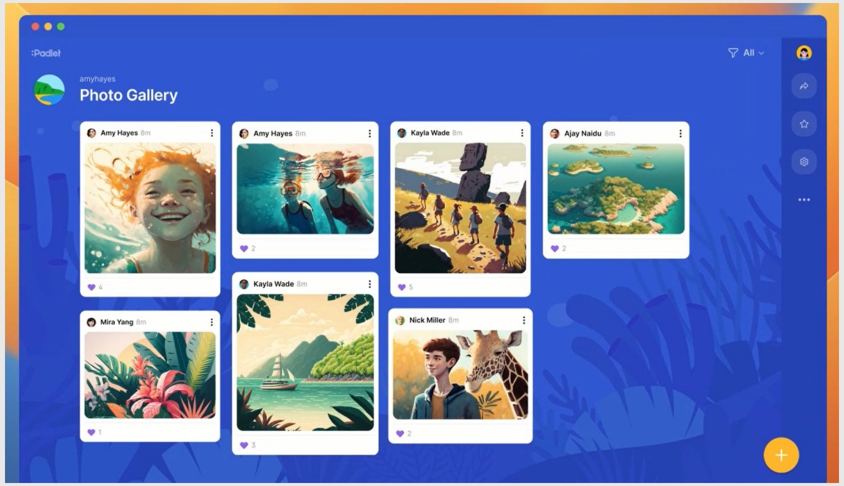
These people are experts in equality, diversity and inclusion and they work to support disabled people in different ways.

Please listen to the debates and join in if you want to.



Christina closes the session by thanking the people on the panel and everyone who joined the Online Town Hall Circus.

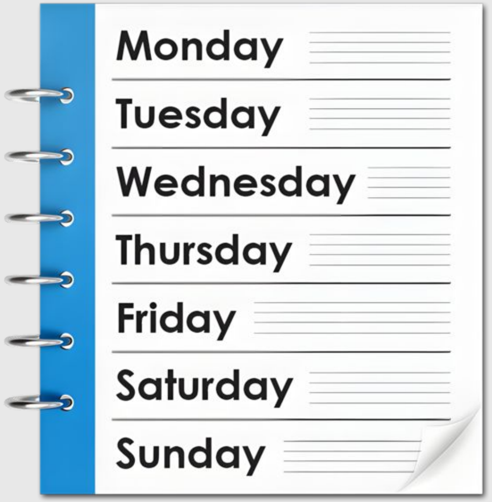
There is a short survey for people to fill in.



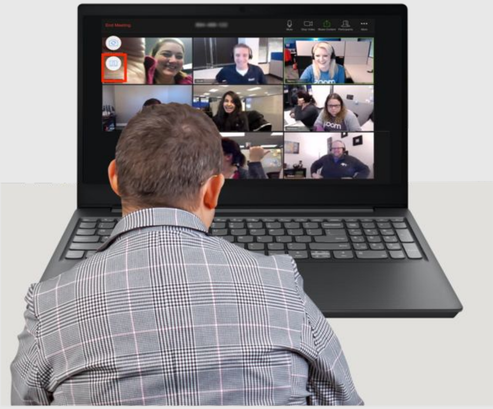
People can carry on talking on the Padlet board.

- Ask for help from a personal assistant, supporter, family friend, or carer if you are not sure how to use the Padlet board.

- This will stay open for one week after the event.



If you want to stay behind for the aftercare reflection session, which is called ‘rafting’, it would be great.



Rafting means connecting together.

We will be running more events soon.

Speakup
Self Advocacy

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SINGAPORE

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