



**Ruth Levey. Specialist Respiratory Physiologist, The Great North Children's Hospital**

I'm a respiratory physiologist at The Great North Children's Hospital. I have worked here for 5 years after starting out my career in the world of adult lung function before a change of direction to the wonderful world of paediatrics.

Over 5 years we have grown from a lab filled with only a few spirometers to a dedicated paediatric lab with the ability to perform a wide range of simple and complex lung function tests.

Understanding how to communicate with a range of patients to achieve the best possible results has been a great learning curve; from pre-schoolers to teenagers transitioning to adult services. And I continue to learn on a daily basis!

I am in huge support of the work being carried out by the North East Paediatric Partnership, particularly the Beat Asthma campaign. I have lived with asthma for almost 30 years and feel incredibly passionate about the work being done to improve asthma care, increase awareness and educate the masses!

I feel it is extremely important to support quality-assured spirometry being used outside of a 'specialist centre' to aid in the diagnosis and management of patients with respiratory disease, and in this case particularly asthma.