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Dr Tessa Richards, senior editor at The BMJ, developed and led the journals patient and public partnership strategy and is now advancing its spread across The BMJ company. She trained and worked as a general physician, rheumatologist and a general practitioner before joining The BMJ. Here she has led the journals General Practice, Education and Analysis sections and established several influential series including the Overdiagnosis/Too Much Medicine series in addition to continuing part time clinical work. A regular writer and speaker on the importance and potential of patient and public partnership, she lives with stage IV cancer and pernicious anaemia, and is a carer for close family members , young and old, with rheumatoid arthritis, dementia, blindness and other long term conditions. (Twitter @tessajlrichards)