

RESEARCH AWARDS

Dr Bridget Harris, Clinical Research Specialist in Critical Care at the Western General Hospital was shortlisted for the RCN Research Society Akinsanya Award for 'Innovation in Doctoral Studies in Nursing'. This is for her study 'Heat loss from the upper airways and skull: studies of direct brain cooling in humans'. She was presented with her certificate at the RCN International Research Conference in Harrogate on 17th May 2011

Bridget, along with her colleague Professor Peter Andrews have also just been shortlisted for the BioQuarter Innovation Awards 2011 for their company CerebrAid™. 10 prospective companies have been

shortlisted and the winner and runners-up will be announced at an awards lunch in central Edinburgh on 7 July.

RESEARCH COMMUNITY EVENT 7TH APRIL 2011

50 people from across the 4 institutions attended the first NMAHP Research Community event. We had identified approximately 90 people (clinical and academic) who are actively involved in NMAHP research.

Melanie Hornett, Nurse Director and Lynne Douglas, AHP Director outlined the current priorities and challenges in NHS Lothian, recognising the financial situation and the need to deliver safe, equitable, effective and person-centred care. They highlighted a number of areas where they hoped that NMAHPs would contribute to and lead the research agenda:

- Falls prevention & bone health
- Patient safety
- Telehealthcare
- Patient experience & reported outcome measures
- Recovery from acute illness
- Improving outcomes in all areas, including long term conditions and early years.

The three Heads of Schools - Dr Jayne Donaldson, Edinburgh Napier University, Professor Liz Bondi, University of Edinburgh and Dr Fiona Coutts, Queen Margaret University – then outlined their respective research priorities. The focus thereafter was on the implementation of the Lothian NMAHP Research Framework through the establishment and development of the Research Community.

All participants participated in three 'speed dating' activities designed to allow individuals to meet each other and have a focused discussion about their research interests. The subsequent group work addressed 3 questions around 'what next?' in terms of action by individuals, the Framework Leaders (identified below) and the organizational leaders. Some key themes were:

- ❖ **Individual** – going on Boot Camp programme, seeking a mentor, building up contacts, thinking creatively about funding, obtaining an honorary contract.

NHS Lothian: Juliet MacArthur, Andy Peters, Dr Rhona Hogg, Dr Janet Hanley

University of Edinburgh: Professor Pam Smith

Queen Margaret University: Dr Fiona Coutts

Edinburgh Napier University: Professor Catriona Kennedy

- ❖ **Framework Leaders** – clarifying the fit between NHS Lothian & HEI priorities, setting up a database of contacts and research interests, sharing information about people and projects, establishing research clusters, facilitating more events (both general and specific to clusters), developing web-based information, engage with operational managers. (These are all being worked on at present).
- ❖ **Organisational Leaders** – continuing commitment and help others recognising the NMAHP contribution to research, encouraging operational managers to embed research culture and buy-in of the Framework, including research in workforce planning, KSF/PDP.

Evaluation of the event was very positive, with people valuing the opportunity to network and recognise other people's roles and interests. A number of early career researchers felt that it had been an inspiring opportunity.

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

From the evaluation forms there was a clear interest in establishing research clusters to take forward collaborative programmes of research. The following were identified as potential areas:

- Therapy intervention for neurological patients
- Learning Disability/ vulnerable groups
- Long term conditions
- Critical Care
- Cancer and Palliative Care
- Public Health
- Mental health
- Addictions
- Stroke
- Falls
- Women's Health
- Early years
- Community nursing

Critical Care is already well established as a NMAHP research cluster, as is **Learning Disability**. Work has already started establishing a cluster in **Cancer and Palliative Care** with some exciting opportunities with **Edinburgh Napier University** including the funding of Masters in Research studentships (see page 3). Other work has been initiated with **Reproductive Health** and **Mental Health**, along with some early planning around **Falls**.

BOOT CAMP 2011

The 2011 Research Boot Camp commenced on 25th May at Pollock Halls. 11 individuals from the four institutions are taking part in the 9-month programme that focuses on publications and grant applications. The Boot Camp activities include climbing Arthur's Seat and walking up Salisbury Crags – which have been found to be an excellent opportunity for networking and discussion.



UPDATE ON CARC SCHEME

Critical Care (NHS Lothian & University of Edinburgh): Dr Pam Ramsay, Advanced Practitioner (Clinical Research) and Corrienne McCulloch, Senior Practitioner (Clinical Research) have been in post since the beginning of January. Their programme of research focuses on recovery from critical illness.

Pam is principal investigator on the RELINQUISH study: **RE**covery from Critical Illness: a **L**ongitudinal **Q**ualitative exploration of perceive healthcare and **S**upport needs among survivors: developing timely interventions following **H**ospital discharge. In addition she is working with staff in the three ICUs in Lothian to look at ways of improving patient experience and the possibilities of establishing patient-centred follow up and a patient-led support group. Corrienne has commenced her PhD at the University of Edinburgh and will be examining the effectiveness of patient diaries in promoting recovery from critical illness.

The University of Edinburgh will be funding a MRES studentship to complement this current work and it is hoped that this will be advertised over the summer for commencement in September 2011. For more information please contact Dr Pam Ramsay, pam.ramsay@luht.scot.nhs.uk or Professor Pam Smith, pam.smith@ed.ac.uk, or go to the website <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health/nursing-studies/research/projects>

Substance Misuse (NHS Lothian & Edinburgh Napier University): The second demonstration site has been awarded to Substance Misuse. The central theme of this research programme is how people's lives can be changed as a result of service redesign in alcohol and drugs services. The key drivers for the redesign are the Scottish Government's recovery agenda, partnership working (involving service providers and service users), a new care pathway, integrating drug and alcohol services, and the Government's HEAT targets to reduce waiting times. The research will focus on how professionals respond to this change, how this affects their therapeutic relationship with service users and their families, and service users' experiences of care within the context of their wider families and communities. The research will comprise a framework which makes explicit the service model being adopted, the theory of change underpinning that model, and the reappraisal of the model and theory during the life of the programme.

This demonstration site is currently in the early stages of organising recruitment to their two CARC Scheme posts. For more information please contact Professor Lawrie Elliot l.elliott@napier.ac.uk.

Queen Margaret University: To date it has not been possible to award a third demonstration site which fits with the original vision of the CARC Scheme (i.e. post doctoral and doctoral posts). It has recently been agreed that QMU will offer an alternative model that will entail the recruitment of two candidates to Senior Practitioner (Clinical Research) level i.e. two part-time PhD posts and no post-doctoral post. The focus of the research is currently under discussion with NHS Lothian.

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH UNIT (HSRU)

HSRU is now fully up and running with a core team of staff in place. Please visit the website www.hsrु.ed.ac.uk to find out about the advice they can offer on project planning, assistance with grant applications, statistics, health economics, record linkage, and qualitative research.

CANCER AND PALLIATIVE CARE

NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Napier University are working together to develop research around two themes:

- Living with the consequences and experiences of treatment for cancer
- Palliative care for patients with a life-limiting illness

4 nurses – Linda Sherwood, Vivienne Wilson, Fiona Dawson and Ruth Meenan - will shortly be commencing a Masters module in research methods, which will lead on to an opportunity for two candidates to take forward their research proposal to undertake a MRES (2 years part-time).

CRITICAL CARE SYMPOSIUM

Members of the Scottish Critical Care Interdisciplinary Research and Liaison Group (SCCIRL) led a symposium at the RCN International Research Conference in Harrogate on 16th May 2011.

The session 'Critical Care across the Continuum' was chaired by Dr Janice Rattray, University of Dundee and involved the following presentations:

- Clare Kydonaki, staff nurse ICU at the Western presented from her PhD study 'Weaning from mechanical ventilation: a starting point to critically ill patients' recovery.
- Dr Lisa Salisbury, researcher at University of Edinburgh presented findings from a feasibility study evaluating the role of a generic rehabilitation assistant in promoting ward-based recovery following critical illness.
- Dr Susanne Kean, Research Fellow at University of Edinburgh focussed on experiences of families with an adult family member in intensive care.
- Dr Pam Ramsay, Post Doctoral Research Fellow in critical care at the Royal Infirmary examined issues from her PhD study relating to quality of life of survivors of a prolonged critical illness.



The researchers have an ongoing collaboration with Griffiths University in Queensland, Australia. Leanne Aitken, Professor of Critical Care Nursing, Griffith University presented their programme of research on strategies to improve long term recovery from critical illness. Copies of the presentations are available:

http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/380896/2011_RCN_research_S3.pdf