

RCN Research Society

1. RCN Research Society North West region Christmas event

09 December 2009, Manchester Metropolitan University, Elizabeth Gaskell Campus, Hathersage Road, Manchester M13 0JA. Voluntary 3.00GBP donation on the door.

4.30pm - Reception

5.15pm - Performance by Crystal Chords

5.30pm - "Santa Claus - an evaluation". Two experienced research teams will present their research proposals on how to investigate this important topic to the audience who can then vote upon which teams should be awarded the project. Chairing the event: Professor Annie Topping, vice chair, RCN Research Society

For further information contact Janelle Yorke, email: J.yorke@salford.ac.uk or Carol Haigh, email: c.haigh@mmu.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/communities/specialisms/research>

2. RCN Study of Nursing Care series

This groundbreaking series was commissioned by the then Department of Health and Social Services in England, and produced 12 reports, an introduction and a conclusion. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the RCN Research Society under the auspices of the RCN, this series has been digitised and is available to download as PDF files. Each week we will highlight one of the series.

"In 1966 the Royal College of Nursing was invited by the then Ministry of Health to undertake studies to develop measures of the quality of nursing care. The importance of the subject was well recognised, as were the difficulties, but progress is impossible if not start is made. The work began in 1967. The investigation of quality of nursing care is clearly a responsibility of the profession itself, but nurses, trained and experienced in research, are not yet available in sufficient numbers. The College project, therefore, includes provision for training and supervision for nurse research assistants by experienced research workers who give their time generously for the purpose." Extract from the foreword of the series by Dame Kathleen Raven, Chief Nursing Officer, DHSS

i) Series 2 Number 6, "Discharged from hospital", Ida Roberts, RCN, London, 1975.

[Abstract: *Discharged from hospital* is the only study in the SNC series in which an attempt was made to assess the effectiveness of care patients receive following a stay in hospital. One hundred and sixty four patients were interviewed within one week of discharge from hospital They were asked about their ability to perform a number of ordinary activities such as personal and toilet care, simple domestic tasks and essential shopping. Patients were also asked about help they felt they needed and who provided this. A scoring system was devised which permitted grouping of patients in different ways. Of the 117 patients who reported some incapacity 96 said that the compensatory care they received was satisfactory though much of this help was given by friends and relatives.]

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/research/rs/pubs/sinc>

Current Research Commissions

3. Department of Health Policy Research Programme (DH PRP) - Pre-Pregnancy Health and Care in England: Exploring Implementation and Public Health Impact

The DH Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites research proposals that can deliver high quality evidence about the organisational and implementation context of pre-pregnancy health and care before and between pregnancies and the public health impact in England.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

The submission deadline for consideration in the next round is 13 January 2010

4. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme - Clinical Evaluation and Trials

The NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme invites research proposals for clinical trials and evaluation studies on topics proposed directly by researchers, that are of importance to patients and the NHS.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/proposals/Pages/default.aspx>

The submission deadline for consideration in the next round is 14 January 2010

Fellowships/Studentships

5. PhD Studentships, Faculty of Health, University of East Anglia

A stipend (currently 13,290GBP per annum), UK/EU fees and some appropriate training costs is currently being offered for PhD Studentships. Please see the website for the specific projects.

Website: <http://www.uea.ac.uk/foh/PGR>

The deadline for receipt of applications is 11 December 2009

6. Research Training Fellowships, Dunhill Medical Trust (DMT)

The DMT Research training fellowship scheme is intended to develop research capacity in the fields of ageing, rehabilitation and palliative care. The fellowships are open to all registered clinicians, health professionals and scientists working within the NHS or recognized HEIs in the UK. Further information, including guidelines and application forms, may be obtained by visiting our website.

Website: <http://www.dunhillmedical.org.uk>

The closing date for applications is 08 January 2010

Research Training

7. Preskill, H., & Jones, N. (2009), "A Practical Guide for Engaging Stakeholders in Developing Evaluation Questions", Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

This guide provides the reader with a five-step process for involving stakeholders in developing evaluation questions, and includes a set of four worksheets to facilitate this process.

Website: <http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=49951>

Research Policy/Strategy

8. King's College London National Nursing Research Unit Policy+

Policy+ is a publication from the National Nursing Research Unit which aims to deliver brief overviews of evidence related to current policies affecting the nursing workforce in England, the wider United Kingdom and the rest of the world. Its aim is to make research evidence more readily available in an easily digested format for: policy makers; policy implementers; practitioners; the general public. Recent topics include:

i) Issue No 21: Nursing workforce and grades of qualified nurses. Is there a case for the UK nursing workforce to include grades of qualified nurse other than the registered nurse?

Debate continues about the hierarchy of skilled roles comprising the nursing workforce: should there be grades of qualified nurses other than registered nurses; should all registered nurses be prepared to degree level; and to what extent should the nursing workforce comprise staff not qualified as nurses? Such questions raise critical issues on how different configurations of staff impact on patient care outcomes and whether judgements can be made about their cost effectiveness. Against a background of challenging economic circumstances, this Policy Plus considers the implications for UK nursing of systematically reviewed international evidence on one of these questions; namely the impacts of including a second level qualified nurse in the skill mix of the nursing workforce.

Website: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/nursing/nnru/policy>

Research Governance/Ethics

9. Health Services Research Network briefing (2009), "The new research governance landscape", NHS Confederation

The UK NHS ethical review and governance system has undergone significant changes in recent years. By going through the steps a researcher needs to follow to begin a study - from clarifying if a study qualifies as research, to obtaining peer review, funding and a sponsor, to finally gaining all the relevant permissions to carry out that research - this Briefing describes how the research governance landscape across the UK has changed.

Website: <http://www.nhsconfed.org/Publications/Pages/TheNewResearchGovernanceLandscape.aspx>

Consultations

10. NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) Work programme Topic Reviews

CKS provide a source of clinical knowledge for the NHS about the common conditions managed in primary and first contact care. The knowledge is practical and reliable and helps healthcare professionals confidently make evidence-based decisions about the healthcare of their patients and provides the know-how to safely put these decisions into action.

CKS are keen to receive feedback on draft Topic Reviews. In addition to feedback from experts, professional organizations and patient groups, they are particularly interested to receive feedback from healthcare professionals who use the service. We can acknowledge your involvement on the CKS website and/or in a letter that you may wish to add to your continual professional development or appraisal folder.

Draft CKS topics available for feedback - deadline 1 December 2009

- i) Whooping cough
- ii) Osgood-Schlatter's disease
- iii) Itch - widespread

Draft CKS topics available for feedback - deadline 14 December 2009

- i) Glandular fever
- ii) HIV infection and AIDS

Website: http://www.cks.nhs.uk/about/getting_involved

Research Networks

11. UK Clinical Research Facility Network

Established in April 2008, the UK Clinical Research Facility Network (Network) supports a portfolio of activities embracing all Clinical Research Facilities (CRFs), NIHR Biomedical Research Centres and Units and those working in experimental medicine centres across the UK. Under the direction of the Strategic Planning Team the purpose of the Network is to share expertise and good practice between facilities. A major achievement during the past year has been the launch of the highly successful UKCRF Network portal. It provides a platform for sharing good practice, knowledge and expertise, opportunities for collaboration and information exchange, helps avoid duplication and underpins the Networks main objectives of promoting excellence and consistency in terms of CRF operation across the network. The UKCRF Network has become a recognised and invaluable focal point for the collaborative growth and sharing of translational clinical research expertise. The plans for the next 12 months will be to build on initial success and develop new initiatives. For further information about the UKCRF Network or to join the portal please

Contact: Shane Hoy, Operations Manager
Email: shane.hoy@manchester.ac.uk

User Involvement

12. INVOLVE report (2009), "Exploring Impact: public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research"

This new INVOLVE report explores the impact of public involvement through an in-depth review of published literature. It draws together a wealth of examples of how public involvement is conducted and what difference it is making. It also raises questions about the quality of the evidence for the impact of involvement, revealing huge variation in how this is assessed and reported. To download a copy of the full report or summary please visit the news section of the INVOLVE website.

Website: <http://www.invo.org.uk>

Knowledge Transfer - Finding the Evidence

13. Royal College of Nursing Library Services & Archives

i) RCN Research Series and RCN Study in Nursing Care Project

"A portfolio of research monographs published from 1970-1994 are worthy of a (re)visit. These texts of scholarship on an individual basis represent the early work of many of the founding nurse researchers in the UK. Some are seminal pieces of work, others the products of masters or doctoral endeavour. Many should be compulsory reading for those aspiring to undertake research, embarking on a research career or wishing to explore the foundations of contemporary nursing scholarship. As a collection they present understandings into what seem to be the recurring issues that confound the profession and still today demand our attention." Dr Annie Topping.

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/research/rs/pubs>

ii) RCN Steinberg Collection

The RCN Steinberg Collection is an unparalleled reference collection of over 1,000 nursing theses and dissertations, housed in the RCN UK library, London and RCN Archives. Set up in 1974, the collection contains a selection of influential nursing theses and dissertations from the early 1950's to the present day. You can search for theses on your subject through the online RCN Library Catalogue. Why not donate your nursing PhD, in print or electronic form, to become part of this prestigious collection? Select the thesis search option and enter subject keywords.

Contact: Billie Joel

Email: billie.joel@rcn.org.uk

iii) RCN historical nursing journal online

The project, funded by the Wellcome Trust, provides access to one of the first nursing journals, Nursing Record, from 1888 to 1956. This journal captures the world of nurses and hospitals and is a wonderful source for many fields of research, including women's history, gender, class, ethnicity, culture and colonialism. The journal includes articles, photos, illustrations and advertisements. The online journal which is freely available will be of interest to a wide range of nurses, from researchers to students undertaking their first essay on the history of nursing.

Website: www.rcn.org.uk/resources/historyofnursing/historicaljournals.php

iv) RCN Archives

The RCN Archives are the most important collections dedicated to the history of the nursing profession in the UK. Everyone is welcome to use this unique resource. They answer enquiries relating to the development of nursing and other healthcare professions and about RCN history.

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/library/archives>

14. CoCanCPG Database of Cancer Uncertainties (DoCU)

CoCanCPG (Coordination of Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines in Europe) is a European Commission funded consortium of 16 institutional partners from 11 countries. The UK's National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), working with the consortium, has developed this database of cancer uncertainties (DoCU) in the management of cancer that have been identified during guideline development. The overall objective of the project is to set up, within CoCanCPG, a framework and database for systematically identifying evidence gaps and formulating and prioritising recommendations for future research in cancer. These evidence gaps or 'uncertainties' can be highlighted during guideline development (including systematic reviews and economic modelling) or post-production (exploring the research recommendations and other standalone uncertainties in cancer management in the guidance). The database is a developmental project, which is being tested in this pilot phase. The pilot period ends at the end of January 2010. The database is funded by the EU and hosted and administered by NICE.

Website: <http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/researchanddevelopment/cocancpg.jsp>

15. The Pain Education Special Interest Group of the British Pain Society (2009), "Survey of undergraduate pain curricula for healthcare professionals in the United Kingdom. A short report", British Pain Society

If you would like to discuss this survey and report in more detail, or are interested in being involved in future discussions on pain education core curriculum for 2010, please contact Dr Eloise Carr, Chair of the British Pain Society Pain Education Special Interest Group, email: ECarr@bournemouth.ac.uk

Website: http://www.britishpainsociety.org/members_sigs_education.htm

16. NHS Evidence

The principle aim of the NHS Evidence service is to provide easy access to a comprehensive evidence base for everyone in health and social care who takes decisions about treatments or the use of

resources - including clinicians, public health professionals, commissioners and service managers - thus improving health and patient care. It provides access to a range of information types, including primary research literature, practical implementation tools, guidelines and policy documents. The NHS Evidence specialist collections filter the huge quantity of published research to ensure that you find only the best available evidence. The majority focus on particular health problems, with others focusing on specific patient groups and aspects of health services. Core to the work of the specialist collections is the production and dissemination of Annual Evidence Updates: these are produced for the most significant health problems affecting the NHS. They are designed to provide a straightforward and succinct overview of what new research and evidence has been published in those areas over the preceding 12 months, so that individuals, managers and commissioners don't need to spend the time searching. The specialist collection teams collect, analyse and present the evidence, classifying the resources according to their relevance to their topic, their quality and their likely implications for practice.

Spotlight on

- i) Heart failure - diagnosis
- ii) Pregnancy - obesity risk
- iii) Pregnancy - health inequalities
- iv) Depression - St John's wort
- v) Musculoskeletal pain - economic concerns

Website: <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

Knowledge Transfer - Practice Development

17. The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD)

CRD is part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and is a department of the University of York. CRD, which was established in 1994, is one of the largest groups in the world engaged exclusively in evidence synthesis in the health field. CRD undertakes systematic reviews evaluating the research evidence on health and public health questions of national and international importance. We produce the DARE, NHS EED and HTA databases which are used extensively by health professionals, policy makers and researchers around the world. We also undertake methods research and produce internationally accepted guidelines for undertaking systematic reviews.

CRD databases updated

This week (11/11 to 17/11/2009) 27 new records have been added to the DARE, NHS EED and HTA databases.

Abstract of the week

An economic evaluation of a perindopril-based blood pressure lowering regimen for patients who have suffered a cerebrovascular event. The aim was to determine whether perindopril-based treatment was a cost-effective strategy compared with standard care in patients who had suffered a cerebrovascular event. The authors concluded that the perindopril-based regimen was cost-effective for these patients. Overall, the methodology was appropriate and the results were clearly reported. The authors' conclusions appear to be appropriate.

Website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/index.htm>

Knowledge Transfer - Disseminating Your Research

18. Change Champions Toolkit Seminar: "Whose challenging behaviours. Meeting the needs of older people with dementia"

29 - 30 April 2010, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

An increasing number of speakers are being attracted from the UK. The conference organisers encourage potential UK speakers to contact them, as, depending on the quality of the paper, airfares and accommodation may be negotiated.

Contact: Char Weeks Tel: +61 (2) 4963 5150

Email: change.champions@bigpond.com

Website: <http://www.changechampions.com.au/call-for-papers>

Abstract deadline: 30 November 2009

19. **Sixth annual Cochrane in Ireland conference, School of Nursing, Dublin City University**

28 January 2010, Dublin, Ireland

Abstracts are invited for POSTERS to be displayed at the conference. Posters should address any issue related to conducting, teaching about or using systematic reviews or applying evidence to practice. They may present a Cochrane protocol or review. Abstracts of no more than 200 words must include: *Name and title of researcher(s); *Institutional affiliation, contact address, phone number and email address; *Title of poster and abstract. The best poster will receive an award based on methodology and relevance to clinical practice. Submit abstracts electronically to Dónal O'Mathúna, email: donal.omathuna@dcu.ie.

Website: <http://www.dcu.ie/cochrane>

Abstract deadline: 11 December 2009

vents

20. **Leverhulme public lectures, University of Surrey Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences**

As part of Professor Koch's Leverhulme Award which is being hosted by the Centre for Research in Nursing & Midwifery Education Professor Koch will be holding six Public Lectures at the University of Surrey. The public lectures will all be held from 6:00pm - 7:00pm (venue TBC)

20 Jan 2010, Storytelling and participatory action research

10 Feb 2010, Storytelling with UK centenarians

03 Mar 2010, Storytelling with grey nomads

21 April 2010, Story telling in participatory action research

05 May 2010, Telling stories or telling lies: Rigour in qualitative research revisited

26 May 2010, Laura: Story telling and dementia

Attendance at these events will be by ticket only. To book your place at these lectures please contact University of Surrey, Senate House reception, Tel: 01483 68 9905

Website:

http://www2.surrey.ac.uk/healthandsocialcare/News/11488_fhms_public_lectures_professor_tina_koch_leverhulme_visiting_professor.htm