

RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre

1. RCN campaign, "Nursing counts"

The RCN has launched a dedicated website that will encourage members to sign up to our general election campaign and provide information on our six manifesto priorities for the next government. The campaign is called 'nursing counts' and it has been designed to increase member engagement in the general election process and ensure that all individuals and parties seeking political office are aware of our members' concerns and priorities. On average there are 1,800 nurses and healthcare assistants in each parliamentary constituency and the nursing vote could really make a difference to the result of the next election. The new website will allow members and the public to sign up to our priorities, view our campaign videos, email their local MP and prospective parliamentary candidates and read blogs on the latest election developments. We really want to get as many people, both members and the public, to sign up to the campaign. We are asking members, via email, bulletin, Facebook, Twitter and our website to get online and join the campaign.

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/generalelection>

2. RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Awards 2010

Nominations are now open for the RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Awards for 2010. RCN Northern Ireland Director Janice Smyth said: "For the past 14 years, these awards have recognised and rewarded good practice in the nursing profession in Northern Ireland and are the perfect opportunity to highlight the benefits gained from the innovative and progressive initiatives that have been pioneered by local nurses". Two new award categories have been established this year. These are the Bamford Vision Award for Mental Health and Learning Disability, and the Public Health Award. Alongside the main RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Award, the other categories are Health Care Support Worker, Team Manager, Patient's Choice, Chief Nursing Officer's Award for Patient Safety, Nursing Research and Student awards.

Contact: RCN Northern Ireland Board
Tel: 028 90 384 600
Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/northernireland>

The deadline for the receipt of completed nominations is 26 February 2010.

Career Development Opportunities

3. Cancer Team Leader, Lincolnshire Clinical Trials Unit, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Agenda for Change Band 7.

The successful band 7 applicant should be registered nurse or registered radiographer with a degree or equivalent experience and with clinical research and staff management experience. This new role will require an individual with excellent organisational and communication and effective time management skills. Ideally the applicants should have previous experience of commercial and non commercial clinical trials. In addition must be conversant with Good Clinical Practice and Research Governance. The post can be offered as a secondment for a suitable candidate.

Website: <http://www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/jobs/general.html>

Closing date for applications: 11 February 2010

4. Post-doctoral Research Associate/ Fellow, National Nursing Research Unit, King's College London

Fixed term contract - 18 months.

Applicants are required to link their area of research to the Unit's programme of work, which relates to the effectiveness of the healthcare workforce and its impact on outcomes. Over the course of the post, applicants will be expected to publish in high quality journals; to secure funding and take forward their programme of post-doctoral work within the Division of Health and Social Care.

Website: http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/pertra/vacancy/external/pers_detail.php?jobindex=8559

Closing date for applications: 12 February 2010

5. Research Nurse (reproductive health and childbirth), Lincolnshire Clinical Trials Unit, United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Agenda for Change Band 6. Part-time, 2 year fixed contract.

The Lincolnshire Clinical Trials Unit (LCTU) was established in May 2005 in the R & D Department to promote and support clinical trials across the Trust. We have offices in Lincoln, Pilgrim and Grantham hospitals. This post is funded by the Trent Comprehensive Research Network. The post holder will be responsible for supporting UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN) portfolio clinical trials.

Website: <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/cgi-bin/vacdetails.cgi?selection=912423542>

Closing date for applications: 18 February 2010

6. Professor of Nursing, Faculty of Health, Edge Hill University

You will contribute to the developing research portfolio of the Evidence-based Practice Research Centre, including securing research publications in high quality, peer reviewed journals. You will also be involved in research grant capture and MPhil/PhD supervision, and contribute to the capacity building of Faculty staff as emerging researchers. With a PhD, you will have experience of leading nursing and health related research projects and a proven record of publication. A highly motivated team player with the ability to work independently, you will also have experience in grant applications and postgraduate research supervision. In particular we welcome your commitment to advanced scholarship and research and your support in helping the University achieve its aims.

Website: <http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/jobs/details/EH2628>

Closing date for applications: 19 February 2010

7. Clinical Studies Officer, Derbyshire County PCT

Agenda for Change Band 7. 2 years fixed term contract.

Derbyshire County and Derby City PCTs and the Primary Care Research Network-East Midlands & South Yorkshire (PCRN-EMSY), with funding provided by the Trent Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN) is looking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Clinical Studies Officer to support the development of primary care portfolio research within the PCT s. The post holder will be based with Research Section located at Scarsdale in Chesterfield. They will also have a base in Derby City PCT headquarters at Derwent Court in Derby.

Website: <http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/cgi-bin/vacdetails.cgi?selection=912423628>

Closing date for applications: 19 February 2010

Research Funding

8. The Barbers' Company Clinical Nursing Scholarship

To enable nurses in clinical nursing to undertake further education, research or a clinical project. The Scholarship of up to 7,500GBP is offered for the fees or subsistence of a nurse normally undertaking a taught Masters' programme relevant to nursing or research, in an academic department in the United Kingdom or at an approved academic department of nursing overseas. Applicants should submit a 500-word outline on the course/research/project and its intended application together with their CV to: The Barbers' Company Scholarship, RCN Research Institute, School of Health and Social Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. For more information contact Paul Kent, PA to the Director RCN RI, Tel +44 (0)24 761 50618, email: p.d.kent@warwick.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 28 February 2010.

Current Research Commissions

9. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) SDO Programme - Responsive call

The SDO programme invites research proposals in three main areas:

- * Follow-on studies to existing SDO or NIHR HTA research
- * Evidence synthesis (which draw on past primary research within the SDO programme and/or on research funded elsewhere)
- * Scoping reviews for future research needs (aimed at identifying and tackling major topic areas of future research need relevant to the SDO programme and its mission)

Projects will be funded up to 24 months duration and up to 300,000 GBP in cost.

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

The submission deadline for consideration in the next round is 18 March 2010

10. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Service Delivery and Organisation programme (SDO) - Patient safety in healthcare organisations

The SDO programme invites proposals on aspects of patient safety particularly in the following topic areas:

- * Translating knowledge about patient safety into service delivery
- * Patient/user involvement in safety improvement
- * Financial costs and benefits and trade-offs in patient safety
- * Boundaries between care processes, services and organisations

Approximately 2 million GBP funding is available.

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

The submission deadline for consideration in the next round is 24 March 2010

Fellowships/Studentships

11. NIHR Clinical Academic Training Pathway for Nurses, Midwives and AHPs - MRes Clinical Research Studentships, University of Southampton

Applications are invited from nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to undertake an innovative MRes Clinical Research which forms part of the NIHR clinical academic training pathway. This programme is intended for practitioners who wish to develop as clinical researchers while continuing their clinical career development. NIHR studentships are available to eligible practitioners working within the NHS or related organisations in England. The studentships cover course fees and salary back-fill costs for full-time (one year) or part-time (two years) study. Further details about the course, studentships and the application process is available on our website. The course commences in October 2010.

Contact: Dr Bronagh Walsh
Tel: +44 (0)23 8059 7991
Email: B.M.Walsh@southampton.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/awards/mres.html>

Closing date for applications: 26 March 2010.

Research Training

12. Comprehensive Systematic Review (CSR) training, The Scottish Centre for Evidence Based Care of Older People

This 9 day, JBI accredited training is being run by the Scottish Centre for Evidence Based Care of Older People, a Collaborating Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute based at Glasgow Caledonian University

The training dates are as follows:

01 Mar 2010. Introductory module - 1 day/compulsory (250 GBP)
02 - 03 Mar 2010. Experimental studies (RCTs and pseudo RCTS) module (2-day module) (500 GBP)
08 - 09 Mar 2010. Non-experimental studies module (2-day module) (500 GBP)
15 - 16 Mar 2010. Qualitative and textual studies module (2-day module) (500 GBP)
22 - 23 Mar 2010. Economic studies (2-day module) (500 GBP)

if You are interested in attending, please

Contact Margaret McLay or Maggie Lawrence
Email: M.McLay@gcal.ac.uk or Margaret.lawrence@gcal.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/jbicentre/events/training/>

Research Policy/Strategy

13. Health Innovation and Education Clusters for 2010

Seventeen Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIECs) will be set up to encourage innovation in the NHS. The clusters - partnerships between the NHS and other organisations in higher education and industry - were outlined in the Department of Health Document: High Quality Care for All. They will be established in nine SHAs, and are backed by more than 11 million GBP in funding. The HIECs will also provide professional education and training.

Website: http://www.mmc.nhs.uk/news_events/latest_news/health_innovation_education_cl.aspx

Research Governance/Ethics

14. National Research Ethics Service booklet (2009), "Defining research"

This revised leaflet is to help you decide if a project is research, which normally requires review by a Research Ethics Committee (REC), or whether it is some other activity such as audit, service evaluation or public health surveillance.

Website: <http://www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk/news-and-publications/publications/general-publications/>

Consultations

15. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) consultations

NICE expects to consult on the following documents. The RCN works very closely with NICE to ensure a robust nursing input for NICE consultations. Please contact Caroline Rapu if you would like to be involved in this work. Contact: Caroline Rapu, email: caroline.rapu@rcn.org.uk.

Consultations:

- i) Tuberculosis - hard to reach groups: consultation on the draft scope (8 February - 9 March 2010)
- ii) Contraceptive Services for socially disadvantaged young people: consultation on the evidence (8 February - 8 March 2010)
- iii) Citizens Council report: smoking and harm reduction, with invitation to comment (1 February - 31 March 2010)
- iv) Endoscopic saphenous vein harvest for coronary artery bypass grafting (27 January - 24 February 2010)
- v) Therapeutic hypothermia with intracorporeal temperature monitoring for hypoxic perinatal brain injury (27 January - 24 February 2010)
- vi) Circumferential epithelial radiofrequency ablation for Barrett's oesophagus (27 January - 24 February 2010)
- vii) Single port incision surgery for laparoscopic cholecystectomy (27 January - 24 February 2010)
- viii) Mini-incision surgery for total knee replacement (27 January - 24 February 2010)
- ix) Lung cancer (non-small-cell, first line) - gefitinib: appraisal consultation (29 January - 19 February 2010)
- x) Stroke rehabilitation: scope consultation (28 January - 24 February 2010)
- xi) Transient loss of consciousness in adults: guideline consultation (20 January - 17 March 2010)
- xii) Preventing obesity: a whole-system approach: consultation on the draft scope (15 January - 12 February 2010)
- xiii) Chronic heart failure (partial update) - draft guideline consultation (14 January - 10 March 2010)
- xiv) Review of the guide to the technology appraisal appeal process (14 December 2009 - 22 March 2010)

Website: http://www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/current_nice_consultations.jsp

Research in Progress

16. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment programme (HTA) recently commissioned projects

The HTA programme is part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). It produces independent research information about the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care in the NHS. The following projects have been recently commissioned:

- i) **07/37/61** Comparison of close contact cast (CCC) technique to open surgical reduction and

- internal fixation (ORIF) in the treatment of unstable ankle fractures in patients over 60 years
- ii) **08/45/01** Echocardiography in newly diagnosed atrial fibrillation patients
 - iii) **08/53/06** Psychoeducation with problem solving (PEPS) therapy for adults with personality disorder: A community-based, randomised controlled trial
 - iv) **08/56/01** Preventing depressive relapse in NHS Practice through mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT)
 - v) **08/66/01** The Diagnosis of Urinary Tract infection in Young children (DUTY) study
 - vi) **08/231/01** Denosumab for osteoporotic fractures in post menopausal women primary and secondary prevention
 - vii) **09/66/01** A modelled analysis using data from the ARTISTIC trial of the potential effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of HPV testing in cervical cancer screening
 - viii) **09/87/01** Donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine and memantine for Alzheimer's (review of R111)

Website: <http://www.hta.ac.uk/>

Knowledge Transfer - Finding the Evidence

17. NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) Work programme clinical topics

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. New and updated CKS topics:

January 2010

- i) Colorectal screening (new)
- ii) Halitosis (new)
- iii) Hirsutism (new)
- iv) Lyme disease (new)
- v) Osgood-Schlatter's disease (new)
- vi) Urinary tract infection (lower) - men

CKS podcasts

To enhance the service the first in a series of CKS audio podcasts on 'hot' clinical issues have been developed and are available from the KnowledgePlus section of the CKS website or through iTunes at the following location: podcasts / Science and Medicine / NHS Healthcast. There are nine new podcasts available in the KnowledgePlus section of the CKS website:

- i) Diagnosis, management and follow-up of acute anaphylaxis
- ii) Reducing antibiotic prescribing for otitis media with the use of deferred prescriptions
- iii) Referral for breast cancer and promoting breast awareness
- iv) Missed contraceptive pills
- v) Managing red eye
- vi) Evidence for the use of varenicline in people who want to stop smoking
- vii) Overview of CKS

Website: <http://www.cks.nhs.uk/home>

18. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment Programme recently published monographs

The HTA programme is part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). It produces independent research information about the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care in the NHS. The most recently published monographs include:

- i) **07/02/01** Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of photodynamic diagnosis and urine biomarkers (FISH, ImmunoCyt, NMP22) and cytology for the detection and follow-up of bladder cancer (Mowatt) Health Technol Assess 2009; 14.04
- ii) **06/28/01** The clinical and cost effectiveness of testing for cytochrome P450 polymorphisms in patients treated with antipsychotics: a systematic review and economic evaluation (Fleeman) Health Technol Assess 2009; 14.03
- iii) **07/72/01** Bevacizumab, sorafenib tosylate and sunitinib for renal cell carcinoma: a systematic review and economic evaluation (Thompson-Coon) Health Technol Assess 2009; 14.02
- iv) **99/27/05** Multi-centre randomised controlled trial examining the cost-effectiveness of contrast-enhanced high field magnetic resonance imaging in women scheduled for wide local excision (COMICE) (Turnbull) Health Technol Assess 2009; 14.01

Website: <http://www.hta.ac.uk/>

Knowledge Transfer - Practice Development

19. 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 (22/01 to 02/02/2010) 43 new records have been added to the DARE, NHS EED and HTA databases.

Abstract of the week

Effect of preoperative smoking cessation interventions on postoperative complications and smoking cessation. This review concluded that surgical patients may benefit from intensive preoperative smoking cessation interventions, including individual counselling begun at least four weeks before surgery and nicotine replacement therapy. This conclusion reflects the results of the review and appears likely to be reliable.

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

20. Five day international residential practice development school, "Fostering a culture of effectiveness through practice development"

28 June - 02 July 2010, Oxford, England

This popular International Practice Development Collaborative (IPDC) school, hosted by the Royal College of Nursing, addresses the inter-relationship between practice development, effective healthcare practice, evaluation, context, culture, leadership and skilled facilitation. It will help you to develop your skills in effectively facilitating, implementing and evaluating changes in practice at clinical, department or organisational levels. The sort of people who should attend are health care professionals who are responsible for developing, implementing or evaluating practice including: *Clinical Leaders; *Modern Matrons; *Quality Improvement posts; *Consultant Practitioners; * Trust and Directorate Managers/Leaders; *Professional or Practice Development Post-Holders.

Contact: Shevaune Fox
Tel: +44 (0) 207 647 3835
Email: Shevaune.fox@rcn.org.uk

Knowledge Transfer - Disseminating Your Research

21. 2nd international conference in Evidence Based Practice, "Turning knowledge into practice"

06 - 07 May 2010, Bergen, Norway

The main objective of this conference is to explore how to bring evidence into everyday professional practice.

Website: <http://www.hib.no/aktuelt/konferanse/dokumenter/bic/index.htm>

Closing date for abstracts: 15 February 2010

Events

22. University of Surrey and Middlesex University joint seminar, "A talk on the contribution of and the relationship between social science and healthcare research"

23 February 2010, Continuing Education Centre, University of Surrey, Guildford, UK

This is the second of a series of meetings. At this second seminar, we will continue to discuss the vital place that social science based research plays in investigating issues in healthcare by drawing on the experiences of keynote speaker, Professor Tina Koch, Leverhulme Visiting Professor, Centre for Research in Nursing & Midwifery Education, University of Surrey. Professor Koch's talk will be followed by a response by Professor Mike Bury, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Royal Holloway, University of London before a broader discussion across the audience.

Itinerary: To arrive by 5.30pm for beverages, followed by a 6pm talk. Talk to end around 7.30pm after which dinner will be provided. The evening is expected to end at approximately 9pm.

Contact: Penny Robinson

Tel: +44 (0) 1483 683 120

Email: P.J.Robinson@surrey.ac.uk