

Career Development Opportunities

1. Call for commentators for Evidence-Based Nursing (published by the BMJ)

Evidence-Based Nursing (EBN) is a current awareness website and quarterly journal published by the British Medical Journal. Each week a wide range of medical journals are screened and the two best articles, according to quality and validity criteria, relevant to nursing are chosen for review and comment. We are looking for nurses or related allied health professionals who are interested in writing an occasional commentary on chosen articles in their specialist field.

Commentaries will be around 700 words and aim to discuss the context of the problem addressed by the paper (epidemiology, history etc), to provide a brief description and critique of the methods, results and conclusions of the article, along with the clinical and nursing implications for practice, and how the results fit in with what is currently known in the field. The turn-around time for a commentary is about three weeks. Commentaries for EBN are indexed in PubMed/Medline (you will be the published author), and they provide an opportunity to appraise and critically comment on articles that are highly relevant to the nursing field.

We are looking to create a directory of potential commentators along with details of their specialist interests. If you would like to be on this list, please contact us. By responding to this call, you are not committing yourself to writing commentaries immediately; instead we will contact you when a suitable article is chosen and allow you 'first refusal'.

If you are interested in being a commentator for EBN, or if you just have any questions, then please contact the content editor, Alan Lovell, at alan.lovell@bazian.com.

Website: <http://ebn.bmj.com/>

2. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) - Infection Control Guideline Development Group (GDD)

NICE is recruiting for Infection Prevention and Control GDG and are urgently seeking NHS nurse practitioners/district nurses to apply. Please contact Caroline Rapu, Project Manager, RCN NICE portfolio, urgently if you are interested.

Contact: Caroline Rapu
Email: caroline.rapu@rcn.org.uk

3. Neonatal Research Nurses, Section of Paediatrics, Department of Medicine, Imperial College London

- i) Agenda for Change Band 6, available for 3.5 years (with a possible extension to 4 years)
- ii) Agenda for Change Band 6, available for 1 year

Contact: Neena Modi
Tel: +44 (0)20 3315 5102
Email: n.modi@imperial.ac.uk
Website: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/employment>

Closing date for applications: see website

Current Research Commissions

4. National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Cochrane - NHS Engagement Awards

This call is for a one year funding scheme (up to 800,000 GBP in total) aimed at increasing the engagement of Cochrane entities and associated groups with the NHS in England. Cochrane entities based in England, and other groups working closely with the Cochrane Collaboration in England are eligible to apply. At least one Cochrane entity based in the UK must be a partner in any joint bid.

Website: <http://www.netscc.ac.uk/funding/cochrane.asp>

The closing date for submissions is 11 February 2010

Fellowships/Studentships

5. PhD Studentship, Division of Health and Social Care, King's College, London

Title: Interruptions and Distractions to Health Care Professionals' Work: Implications for Patient Safety and Outcomes

A tax free stipend (currently 21,000 GBP per annum), UK/EU fees and some appropriate training costs is currently being offered for a PhD Studentship examining Interruptions and Distractions to Health Care Professionals' Work: Implications for Patient Safety and Outcomes. We welcome applications from qualified healthcare professionals who would be able to remain in clinical practice for up to 1 day per week if they wished (subject to making their own arrangements). Please see the website for more details.

Website: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/health/study/studentships/hscr/maben.html>

Closing date for receipt of applications is 28 January 2010

6. Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo) Scholarship Scheme 2010

The purpose of the scheme is to attract clinical researchers to supportive and palliative care research and to give them the support they need to become successful researchers. The scheme is aimed at clinicians from nursing, allied health professionals, other non-medical practitioners and medical practitioners. Funding will be provided to support applicants for up to three months (full-time) or for a longer period (part-time), to enable them to work with CECo researchers to develop their research skills and submit:

- * an application for a research grant
- * an application for a PhD Fellowship, and/or
- * a substantial research-related paper directed at a peer-reviewed journal.

Two research scholarships are available (max. 10,000 GBP per scholarship). The Scholarships will each be held at one of the five CECo universities (Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Southampton).

Contact: Gunn Grande

Tel: 0161-306 7695

Email: gunn.grande@manchester.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.ceco.org.uk/capacity/funding.php>

Closing date for applications: 26 February 2010

Research Policy/Strategy

7. High Impact Actions for Nursing and Midwifery

Nurses and midwives have agreed on the top eight measures that they think are essential in order to transform care and reduce costs. The High Impact Actions were announced on 11 November 2009 and published by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement. The work to agree the actions saw more than 600 nurses and midwives come forward with changes that have had the most effect in their practices. The final eight themes were chosen by a panel of chief nurses, their deputies, midwives, mental health specialists, hospital and community nurses and nurse/midwife champions from each SHA. 'How-to' guides are now planned for each theme to help nurses and midwives implement them. The actions in full:

- i) Your skin matters: preventing avoidable pressure ulcers in NHS provided care
- ii) Staying safe - preventing falls: achieving year-on year reductions in falls among older people in NHS-provided care
- iii) Keeping nourished - getting better: stopping inappropriate weight loss and dehydration in NHS provided care
- iv) Promoting normal birth: letting midwives take the lead role in normal pregnancies and labour to eliminate unnecessary caesarian births
- v) Important choices - where to die when the time comes: avoiding inappropriate hospital admission and giving more people the choice of where they die
- vi) Fit and well to care: reducing sickness absence among nurses and midwives - aiming for no more than three percent
- vii) Ready to go - no delays: letting nurses and midwives manage and lead patient discharges where appropriate
- viii) Protection from infection: reducing urinary tract infections for patients in NHS provided care

Website: http://www.institute.nhs.uk/building_capability/general/aims/

Consultations

8. RCN-led Consultations

The RCN is asked to comment on a huge array of consultation documents many of which have a very short timescale. To give RCN members a greater opportunity to feed into this process an up-to-date list of consultations is available on the RCN website. Recent consultations with RCN leads and deadlines in brackets include:

- i) **Department of Health**, "Opening up Choice of GP Practice" [Lead: Lynn Young. Deadline: ASAP]
- ii) **Monitor**, "Publication of Monitor's consultation on additional annual reporting requirements for foundation trusts for 2009-10" [Lead: Tim Curry. Deadline: 25 Jan 2010]
- iii) **Care Quality Commission**, "Consultation: Interim Registration Fees for the NHS" [Lead: Leela Barham. Deadline: 26 Jan 2010]
- iv) **Department of Health**, "The NHS Constitution: a consultation on new patients rights" [Lead: Helen Caulfield. Deadline: 05 February 2010]
- v) **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**, "Consultation on the regulation of the sunbed industry in Northern Ireland" [Lead: John Knape. Deadline: 19 Feb 2010]
- vi) **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**, "Improving palliative and end of life care" [Lead: John Knape. Deadline: 19 Feb 2010]
- vii) **Department of Health**, "Strengthening National Commissioning" [Leads: Kate Tompkins and Lynn Young. Deadline: 19 February 2010]
- viii) **Department of Health**, "NHS Car Parking: Consultation on Improving Access for Patients" [Lead: Tim Curry. Deadline: 23 February 2010]

- ix) **Care Quality Commission**, "Equality and human rights scheme consultation" [Lead: Leela Barham and Wendy Irwin. Deadline: 25 February 2010]
- x) **Monitor**, "Consultation on Amendments to the Compliance Framework for 2010/11" [Lead: Tim Curry and Leela Barham. Deadline: 26 February 2010]
- xi) **Department of Health**, "Review of NHS children's services" [Lead: Fiona Smith. Deadline: Sir Ian to report with recommendations by March 2010]
- xii) **Office of the Public Guardian**, "Amendments to Secondary Legislation" [Lead: Ian Hulatt. Deadline: 09 March 2010]
- xiii) **NMC**, "Consultation on guidance for raising and escalating concerns" [Lead: Howard Catton. Deadline: 31 March 2010]

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/researchanddevelopment/policy/consultations>

Research in Progress

9. Update on co-ordinating research across Europe on neurodegenerative illnesses

Nearly nine million people across Europe have a neurodegenerative illness, most predominately Alzheimer's and the number of sufferers is likely to rise sharply by 2020 owing to an increase in life expectancy. In order to help patients, their formal and informal care-givers as well as alleviate national health care systems, the European Commission's Competitiveness Council launched a pilot joint programming research initiative on combating these illnesses earlier this month. This confirms a Recommendation issued by the European Commission in July 2009 and supports a resolution adopted by MEPs in November 2009.

This programme's aim sets out to reduce fragmentation of research and encourage pooling of skills, knowledge and resources through co-ordinated European action. The first step for member states is to develop a common vision on European research co-operation and a strategic research agenda with medium and long-term objectives. The Commission will facilitate implementation of the initiative and regularly report back to the Council and the European Parliament on progress and results.

Website: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showFocus.aspx?id=1&focusId=426&lang=en>

10. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) - Call for reviewers

The Department of Health has asked NICE to develop guidance for the following health technologies. RCN is seeking nurses with knowledge and experience to participate in this work when it commences. Please contact Caroline Rapu, Project Manager, RCN NICE portfolio, if you are interested in participating in this work on behalf of the RCN.

Proposed Technology Appraisals:

- i) Bivalirudin for the treatment of myocardial infarction (persistent ST-segment elevation)
- ii) Colistimethate sodium powder for the treatment of Pseudomonas aeruginosa lung infection in cystic fibrosis
- iii) Deferasirox for the treatment of chronic iron overload
- iv) Dexamethasone intravitreal implant for the treatment of macular oedema caused by retinal vein occlusion
- v) Ranibizumab for the treatment of macular oedema caused by central retinal vein
- vi) Lorcaserin hydrochloride for the treatment of obesity and overweight
- vii) Risperidone long-acting injection for the maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder
- viii) Roflumilast for the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Contact: Caroline Rapu
Email: caroline.rapu@rcn.org.uk

Knowledge Transfer - Finding the Evidence

11. 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.

NHS Evidence provides access to 34 specialist collections which cover a wide range of common medical conditions, topics and health populations, and which were formerly part of the National Library for Health. The purpose of each collection is to filter the huge quantity of published research to ensure that clinicians and managers find only the best available evidence in each specialty. Collections provide links to the latest guidelines, systematic reviews and research in an area of interest. Many of the specialist collections produce Evidence Updates. Each update provides a straightforward and succinct overview of new research and evidence published over the preceding 12 months, so that individuals, managers and commissioners don't need to spend the time searching.

Annual Evidence Updates in January 2010

i) Patient and Carer Involvement in Chronic Disease. This update collects together the best current knowledge on self care in chronic disease management. Key resources from a small sample of chronic conditions, together with the End of Life Care setting are placed within the general theme of user involvement in health services. Find out more at <http://www.library.nhs.uk/palliative>

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

12. RCN Clinical Governance e-Bulletin

The RCN Clinical Governance e-Bulletin will keep you up to date with clinical governance news, developments, publications and events. Emailed on a fortnightly basis it is organised around key themes such as patient safety, quality improvement tools and techniques, patient focus, and e-health. Some issues focus on specific topics; so far these have included patient and public involvement, Essence of Care, patient safety, falls, infection control, and dignity. To register for this fortnightly e-Bulletin, please click on the link on the Clinical Governance section of the RCN website.

Website: http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/clinical_governance

Knowledge Transfer - Practice Development

13. NHS Technology Adoption Centre (NTAC) How to why to Guides

NTAC's mission is to work directly with the NHS at a clinical, managerial and procurement level to identify and overcome the barriers to adoption for innovative technologies which have already demonstrated clear benefits to patients and will improve system efficiency. Over the next two years, the NTAC will review over 200 healthcare technologies from NHS partners and medical technology companies. NTAC will produce 'How to Why to Guides' to provide comprehensive, relevant information for clinicians, managers, key decision makers and other stakeholders, on how to implement specific technologies. Latest:

i) **Doppler Guided Intra-operative Fluid Management.** This online Guide informs clinicians, particularly anaesthetists, and managers how to successfully implement Intra-operative Fluid Management into routine clinical and operational practice.

Website: <http://www.technologyadoptioncentre.nhs.uk/how-to-why-to-guides.html>

14. 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 (06/01 to 12/01/2010) 208 new records have been added to the DARE, NHS EED and HTA databases.

Abstract of the week

Cost-effectiveness of interventions to promote physical activity: a modelling study. This study used decision modelling to assess the cost-effectiveness of various interventions to promote physical activity. The authors concluded that pedometers and the mass media campaign were the most cost-effective strategies, but a single package of all six interventions could lead to substantial benefits in population health at a cost saving or affordable costs to the health sector. The study was based on valid methodology and was extensively presented, especially in an on-line appendix. The authors' conclusions appear to be valid.

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

Knowledge Transfer - Disseminating Your Research

15. Change Champions Toolkit Seminar: "Future proofing the aged and community care workforce"

25 - 26 May 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: 27 January 2010

16. Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) annual conference

07 - 09 July 2010, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England

We want to explore the theme of impacts of our work on different stakeholders, and the main plenary speakers have been chosen to reflect the 'big issues' - research and practice, research and the public, research and learning, research and the environment & research and health inequalities. Members and non-members welcome.

Website: <http://www.sapc.ac.uk/2010>

Abstract deadline (panel abstracts): 05 February 2010. Abstract deadline (general presentation and workshop abstracts): 05 March 2010

17. Scottish School of Primary Care (SSPC) annual conference 2010, "Focusing our

Research on Patients"

27 - 28 April 2010, Crieff, Scotland

The conference focuses on patient and public involvement in research and will be an ideal opportunity to sample the breadth of research activity of relevance to primary care, and network with research minded colleagues from across the professions.

Website: http://www.sspc.ac.uk/events/sspc_conference2010.htm

Abstract deadline: 05 February 2010

Events

18. British Library in partnership with the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Informatics Initiative free half day conference, "Cancer research: lost in translation?"

19 January 2010, 13.00 - 19.00, British Library, London, England

Confirmed speakers: Sir Ken Calman, Prof John Gribben, Prof David Cameron, Ms Monica Jones, Prof Herbie Newell, Prof Peter Littlejohns, Mr David Ardron, Dr Ben Goldacre

Knowledge exchange underpins research and innovation. This includes the insight and new opportunities generated from working across, and between, scientific disciplines. Translation of findings from one domain, to refinement and application in another, is an essential element of this journey. However, there are inherent challenges to effective translation of research findings, even when there is a concerted effort to focus on a fundamental aim, such as prevention and treatment of cancer. These include differences in stakeholder perspectives and motivations, working methods and vocabularies, governance structures and attribution. This half day conference will bring together stakeholders from different communities who contribute to the generation and movement of knowledge from basic cancer research, through its application in clinical, commercial and policy-making settings, to the dissemination of key messages to academic peers, healthcare professionals, patients and the public.

Website: http://www.cancerinformatics.org.uk/event_lostintranslation.html

19. Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability conference, "Long term (neurological) end of life care"

25 February 2010, London, England

This conference will explore long-term end of life neurological care addressing national and international nursing issues. The conference will discuss contemporary UK non-malignant end of life care issues for nurses and healthcare assistants / support workers working in long-term care settings and will also address policy and international developments with end of life care.

Contact: Phili Denning
Email: pdenning@rhn.org.uk

Website: http://www.rhn.org.uk/nec_001.asp#4

20. RCN Education Forum conference and exhibition

26 - 27 February 2010, Imperial Hotel, Blackpool, England

Website: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/events>

21. 15th annual meeting of UK and Ireland-based contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration

02 - 03 March 2010, City Hall, Cardiff, Wales

The meeting is open to non-Cochrane people with an interest in systematic review of evidence. This year the plenary sessions will focus on the misunderstanding and misuse of evidence, and an overview of the revised Cochrane Handbook. Workshops at the 2010 meeting will focus on the challenges faced in preparing and maintaining Cochrane systematic reviews, and how to overcome them, and will also cover the basics for newcomers. The workshops are a forum for training, consultation and information sharing. The presentations are intended to give an overview of some of the major issues of the moment, while the workshops are a forum for training, consultation, methodological and practical updating, and discussion of specific aspects of our work.

Website: <https://asp.artegis.com/lp/CardiffRegistration/cochrane?1=1>