

RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre

1. Welcome to 2010. We are now in our 13th year of producing a weekly electronic bulletin, and whilst there have been many changes along the way, our main aim stays the same: to produce timely, up-to-date information of interest to the nursing/healthcare research community. In the next 2 months, the bulletin will be changing its appearance, as we bring the service fully in-house: this should make the bulletin more visually appealing, and increase its functionality. Watch this space...

RCN Research Society

2. Eastern Region Research Society Poster Forum

21 January 2010, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Contact: Caroline Gunnell

Email: Caroline.Gunnell@westessexpct.nhs.uk

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

Career Development Opportunities

3. Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (CMACE) National Confidential Enquiry into Head Injury in Children - Call for panel assessors

We are looking to recruit professionals who currently practice at a senior level in an NHS organisation to become panel assessors for the CMACE confidential enquiry into head injury in children. CMACE are currently collecting six months of data on children who as a result of a head injury are transferred and/or admitted to hospital. Children who die as a result of their injuries are also included. Confidential enquiry panels will review a sample of 300 cases between July 2010 - September 2011 across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The confidential enquiry panels seek to review care against current guidance (e.g. NICE) and determine the associated outcome for the child with head injury. Panel assessors carry out a review of the case notes to assess where, how and why standards of care may not have been met and what the potential impact might have been. Panels also seek to identify avoidable factors and highlight good practice.

Contact: CMACE

Tel: 020 7467 3223

Email: headinjury@cmace.org.uk

Website: <http://www.cmace.org.uk/Programmes/Child/Head-Injury-in-Children.aspx>

Research Funding

4. RCN Dementia Nursing Care Practice Development bursary scheme

Royal College of Nursing members can apply for individual bursaries worth up to 2,500 GBP to

support the development of nursing practice in dementia care. The scheme is aimed at demonstrating how small steps can make a big impact. A total of 10,000 GBP can be awarded. It is open to any RCN member working in any care setting. The bursaries are for learning and development which supports dementia nursing care practice and has clear objectives. The funding could support the cost of:

- * a practice based project
- * a module of either a generic or specialist course or programme of study
- * a study visit to a centre of excellence to share practice changes

Successful applicants are expected to use some of the funding to inform the membership of their findings. It could be at a RCN conference, in a RCN journal or newsletter or on the RCN website.

Contact: RCN Awards Officer

Email: scholarships@rcn.org.uk quoting RCN Dementia bursary scheme 2010

The closing date for completed applications is 15 February 2010.

5. **Alzheimer's Society and the Bupa Foundation Project Grants in the area of Dementia**

1.5m GBP is being offered for project grants over two or three years. Applications are invited for individual applications of between 100,000 GBP and 750,000 GBP. Topics are sought in the areas of cause, cure, care and prevention of dementia.

Alzheimer's Society and the Bupa Foundation would welcome applications from UK researchers and researchers from Australia, China, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Thailand. We would particularly welcome international applicants to work in collaboration with a UK research partner. Alzheimer's Society and the Bupa Foundation encourage partnership and collaboration between institutions based in the UK and these countries to maximise expert involvement and to share knowledge and best practice.

Contact: The Bupa Foundation

Tel: 020 7656 2591

Email: bupafoundation@bupa.com

Website: http://www.bupafoundation.co.uk/asp/specialist/this_years_theme.asp

Closing date for applications: 28 February 2010

Current Research Commissions

6. **Department of Health Policy Research Programme (DH PRP) - Evaluation of NHS Health Checks**

Putting Prevention First - vascular checks: risk assessment and management, published in 2008, sets out proposals for implementation of a uniform and universal vascular risk assessment and management programme for people in England between 40 and 74. As part of a programme of monitoring and evaluation, full proposals are now invited for the following two studies.

i) Evaluation of the NHS Health Checks programme - exploring implementation. Research is required to explore the implementation of the NHS Health Check programme at PCT level and understand the context behind different models of provision.

ii) Evaluation of the NHS Health Checks programme - analysing trends. Using existing data sets, analyses of trend data on key outcome and intermediate indicators are required. This will provide a backdrop to other evaluation activity. Analyses should have a specific focus on inequalities in health.

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

The deadline for full applications is 15 February 2010.

Fellowships/Studentships

7. University of Leeds, School of Healthcare funded PhD studentships competition 2010-2011

The School of Healthcare has an annual PhD studentship competition to build on post-graduate research student excellence and development of research programmes, capacity and capability. In 2010 we are offering up to three awards. Each award will cover UK/EU fees (3,390 GBP pa), a tax-free bursary of 13,246 GBP pa, plus a training / expenses allowance of 1,000 GBP pa. For non-EU/UK students a bursary of 10,300 GBP will be available.

Topics for School Studentships in 2010

- i) Developing, implementing and evaluating a local pathway for people with rheumatoid arthritis: an action research study
- ii) Beliefs, attitudes and needs of care home staff who manage medicines
- iii) Cardio-vascular disease and access and use of services
- iv) Risk of hearing loss in orchestra musicians: is current EU legislation appropriate?
- v) A qualitative study of the psychological and CAM support needs and choices of men with testicular cancer
- vi) A mixed methods evaluation of a nurse and pharmacy led pain service
- vii) Exploring ethical frameworks for educational provision in spiritual care giving
- viii) The role of health literacy in informing women's choice about pain relief in the first stage of labour
- ix) Uptake of prenatal screening for Down's syndrome

Contact: Dr David Clarke, Deputy Postgraduate Research Tutor
Tel: +44(0)113-343-1298
Email: d.j.clarke@leeds.ac.uk

Website: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/apply_research.htm

Closing date for applications: 25 January 2010

8. NIHR Clinical Academic Training Pathway for Nurses, Midwives and APHs bursaries - MSc Clinical Research, University of Sheffield

Applications are invited from nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to undertake an innovative MSc Clinical Research which forms part of the NIHR clinical academic training pathway. The courses are intended for practitioners who wish to develop a research career while at the same time progressing their clinical career. Full time and part-time (half-time) NIHR bursaries are available to eligible practitioners working within the NHS or related organisations in England. Bursaries cover course fees and full salary costs (including on-costs) to allow employers to back fill to enable study leave. Further details about the course, bursaries and the on-line application form is available on the website.

Website: http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/prospective_students/masters/clinres

Closing date for applications for the course commencing September 2010 is 05 February 2010.

Consultations

9. 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) Consultation on the NICE response to the Kennedy report (Ends 13 January 2010)
- ii) Draft dementia quality standard (27 November 2009 - 15 January 2010)
- iii) Draft stroke quality standard (27 November 2009 - 15 January 2010)
- iv) Soft tissue sarcoma - trabectedin: final appraisal determination (21 December 2009 - 18 January 2010)
- v) MetaDiagnosis and management of metastatic malignant disease of unknown primary origin: guideline consultation (2 December 2009 - 1 February 2010)
- vi) Acute coronary syndromes: pre-publication check (7 - 28 January 2010)
- vii) Prosthetic intervertebral disc replacement in the cervical spine (29 December 2009 - 27 January 2010)
- viii) Macular translocation for wet age-related macular degeneration (29 December 2009 - 27 January 2010)
- ix) Macular translocation with 360 degree retinotomy for wet age related macular degeneration (29 December 2009 - 27 January 2010)
- x) Laparoscopic radical hysterectomy for early stage cervical cancer (29 December 2009 - 27 January 2010)
- xi) Transanal haemorrhoidal dearterialisation (29 December 2009 - 27 January 2010)
- xii) Lung cancer (non-small-cell) - pemetrexed (maintenance): appraisal consultation document (17 December 2009 - 21 January 2010)
- xiii) Rheumatoid arthritis - tocilizumab: appraisal consultation document (16 December 2009 - 20 January 2010)
- ix) 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

10. 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) **08/117/01** Clinical Trials funded by the HTA programme: specifying and extracting meta data
- ii) **08/85/01** Capecitabine for the treatment of advanced gastric cancer
- iii) **07/51/01** Torpedo-CF: Trial of optimal therapy for pseudomonas eradication in cystic fibrosis
- iv) **06/05/01** Randomised controlled trial of brief psychodynamic psychotherapy, cognitive behaviour therapy and treatment as usual in adolescents with moderate to severe depression attending routine child and adolescent mental health clinics

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

Knowledge Transfer - Finding the Evidence

11. National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) latest published guidance - December 2009

NICE is an independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health. The guidance is developed using the expertise of the NHS and the wider healthcare community including NHS staff, healthcare professionals, patients and carers, industry and the academic world. For more details on their guidance visit their website.

NICE has issued the following guidance to the NHS in England and Wales:

Clinical guidelines

i) None

Technology appraisals

i) None

Public health

i) None

Interventional procedures

- i) Balloon catheter insertion for Bartholin's cyst or abscess
- ii) Electrocautery cutting balloon treatment for pelviureteric junction obstruction
- iii) Endopyelotomy (retrograde endopyelotomy and antegrade endopyelotomy)
- iv) Laparoscopic bladder augmentation cystoplasty (including clam cystoplasty)
- v) Radiofrequency ablation for the treatment of colorectal liver metastases
- vi) Suction diathermy adenoidectomy
- vii) Total prosthetic replacement of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ)
- viii) Vagus nerve stimulation for treatment-resistant depression
- ix) Negative pressure wound therapy for the open abdomen

Website: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byDate>

12. 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) **07/57/01** Are adverse effects incorporated in economic models? An initial review of current practice (Craig) Health Technol Assess 2009; 13.62
- ii) **08/50/01** Systematic review of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of weight management schemes for the under fives: a short report (Bond) Health Technol Assess 2009; 13.61
- iii) **07/28/02** Colour vision testing for diabetic retinopathy: a systematic review of diagnostic accuracy and economic evaluation (Rodgers) Health Technol Assess 2009; 13.60
- iv) **05/52/01** Development of a toolkit and glossary to aid in the adaptation of health technology assessment (HTA) reports for use in different contexts (Chase) Health Technol Assess 2009; 13.59
- v) **07/74/01** Antiviral drugs for the treatment of influenza: a systematic review and economic evaluation (Burch) Health Technol Assess 2009; 13.58
- vi) **04/10/01** Communication of carrier status information following universal newborn screening for sickle cell disorders and cystic fibrosis: qualitative study of experience and practice (Kai) Health Technol Assess 2009; 13.57

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

Knowledge Transfer - Practice Development

13. Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS) call for applications, 'Patients First': supporting nurse-led innovation in practice. A programme of support for clinically based nurse-led teams

The Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS) is delighted to be supporting seven innovative projects

which are focusing on improving patients' experiences of care and is now calling for applications to support a further eight nurse-led teams. The Patients First Programme has been developed through a new and forward thinking partnership between FoNS and the Burdett Trust for Nursing. The programme provides support and facilitation over a twelve month period to enable clinically based nurse-led teams to develop, implement and evaluate locally focused innovations that improve patient care in any healthcare setting across the UK. The current projects are situated in a diverse range of healthcare settings and involve a variety of clinical specialities. All of the project teams are actively engaging with patients and staff to understand and improve care and practice. The focus of these innovations is outlined below:

- * Enabling young people to participate in the planning and evaluation of self harm services
- * Improving the preparation and experience of children and young people having MRI and CT scans
- * Enhancing a supportive care clinic for women with gynaecological cancer
- * Meeting the needs of service users with bladder problems after a stroke
- * Facilitating the involvement of people with learning disabilities in their care planning
- * Enabling patient-led access to critical care outreach
- * Facilitating the implementation of pro-active patient rounding

For more information about these projects, or you have an idea for improving patient care and would like to apply to join the programme, visit the FoNS website or contact:

Diana Calcraft
Tel: 020 7233 5750
Email: diana.calcraft@fons.org
Website: http://www.fons.org/ahcp_pfprojects.asp

The closing date for applications is 29 January 2010

Knowledge Transfer - Disseminating Your Research

14. Advances in Health Informatics Conference (AHIC) 2010, "The realities of eHealth"

28 - 30 April 2010, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Website: <http://ahic.nihi.ca/>

Abstract deadline: 11 January 2010

15. 2010 NIHR SDO Network and the Health Services Research Network joint annual conference, "Delivering better health services"

2 - 3 June 2010, Manchester, England

This event brings together the health services research community to address the critical challenges confronting health care delivery in the UK. The meeting provides opportunities to present and hear about rigorous, cutting-edge research and policy analysis, to debate health care policies and to network with leaders in the field. The meeting aims to cover the breadth of health services research and health care policy.

Website:
<http://www.nhsconfed.org/Networks/HealthServiceResearchNetwork/Events/Pages/2010Callforabstracts.aspx>

Abstract deadline: 14 January 2010

16. Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) 7th annual meeting, "Maximising the value of HTA"

06 - 09 June 2010, Dublin, Ireland

The conference theme will be explored in three plenary sessions. Workshops, parallel panel sessions and other presentations throughout the conference will explore all aspects of HTA. These events will provide an ideal opportunity for participants to learn, to engage and to share their experiences in the pursuit of best practice.

Website: <http://www.htai2010.org/site/>

Closing date for receipt of abstracts: 15 January 2010

17. 4th European Nursing Congress, "Older persons: the future of care"

4 - 7 October 2010, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Including the 14th research congress of the Workgroup of European Nurse Researchers (WENR).

Contact: Secretariat

Email: info@rotterdam2010.eu

Website: <http://www.rotterdam2010.eu>

Deadline for abstracts: 15 January 2010

18. European Health Management Association (EHMA) 2010 conference, "Managing radical change in health: quality, efficiency, equity"

30 June - 02 July 2010, Lahti, Finland

For our conference in 2010 we are inviting proposals for papers that explore managing radical change in health with a particular focus on raising quality, improving efficiency and safeguarding equity. We are inviting both research papers presenting the findings from research and evaluation studies, and practice papers presenting the results of management projects and initiatives.

Website: <http://www.ehma.org/?q=node/285>

Deadline for receipt of abstracts: 15 January 2010

Events

19. Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo) Research Methods Workshop, "Introduction to Research in Hospice and Palliative Care"

20 January 2010, St. Luke's Hospice, Sheffield, England

The workshop is aimed at hospice staff and managers as well as health care professionals in other sectors, educators, academics, students and anyone who is new to or just beginning in palliative care research but is keen to learn more and develop their research knowledge and skills. The registration fee for this event is 30 GBP.

Contact: Anne-Marie McDonnell, CECo Administrator

Tel: 023 8059 7881

Email: A.McDonnell@soton.ac.uk

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

20. NIHR Clinical Research Network national conference, "Delivering clinical research in the NHS"

28 January 2010, London, England

The NIHR Clinical Research Network is making significant progress towards changing the way that clinical research is delivered in the NHS. Our aim is to ensure that patients and healthcare professionals from across the country have access to and can take part in high quality clinical trials. This year's conference will showcase some of the work being delivered nationally by the NIHR Clinical Research Network to support researchers, NHS Trusts and companies undertaking clinical research in the NHS.

Speakers include: Professor Dame Sally C Davies, Director General of Research and Development, Department of Health; Mike Farrar, CBE, Chief Executive, NHS North West; Simon Denegri, Chief Executive, Association of Medical Research Charities; Ms Vivienne Parry, Science writer and broadcaster

Website: <http://www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk/index/networks/conference2010.html>

21. Qualitative Research Forum (QRF) open meeting, "Techno fixes in health care settings?"

02 February 2010, 12.30 - 14.00, Cambridge, England

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are often held up as a 'techno fix' for the problems facing healthcare organizations. Computer decision support systems (CDSS), in particular, claim to make decision-making faster, more accurate, efficient, and safer. They offer opportunities to change the nature of the work and the configuration of the workforce and, in the healthcare setting they may also speak to the evidence based practice agendas which dominate much policy thinking. This paper, presented by Professor Catherine Pope, Professor of Medical Sociology, University of Southampton, reports some initial work from an ongoing project examining a CDSS deployed in different healthcare environments. We are combining ethnography and survey methods to describe the development and use of a single CDSS in urgent and emergency care. We are drawing on the Normalisation Process Model as a theoretical framework for this work. Although only half way through the study, our preliminary analyses are already challenging the techno fix argument, as we see the development and maintenance of user expertise and the contingent and continual evolution of the system and healthcare work.

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Email: mcf22@medschl.cam.ac.uk