The Clinical Research Hub newsletter will be published twice yearly and aims to keep you regularly updated with the Hub’s news and developments.

www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/work/clinical_research_hub

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Welcome to the second edition of the Hub’s eNewsletter.

And welcome also to Calderstones NHS Foundation Trust, which is the latest NHS Trust to join the Hub.

This Newsletter contains introductions to staff and facilities within all the Hub’s partner organisations. It aims to increase awareness of the range of clinical and research interests within the University and the NHS, and to open up new opportunities for partnership and collaboration within the Hub. The Newsletter also provides an update of recent events and activities, including the launch of the Hub website (www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/work/clinical_research_hub/).

The first series of Hub Annual Review meetings have been completed recently and have shown that the Hub has already made a substantial impact across Lancashire and Cumbria. The very positive views expressed by the partner organisations reflect their mutual commitment towards building upon the early progress that has been made, and working together to support and sustain the growth of high-quality, locally-led clinical research to underpin improved healthcare.

Arising from the discussions at these meetings, several new joint initiatives to develop the scope and effectiveness of the Hub’s activities are being planned and will be featured in future Newsletters.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter, and that you will be interested in getting involved with, or finding out more about, this exciting new approach.

Professor John Goodacre
Faculty of Health & Medicine
Lancaster University
j.goodacre@lancaster.ac.uk
The Trust is very pleased to have joined the Hub in September 2011. There has been a significant increase in research interest and activity in the Trust over the past 12 months. We now hope to capitalise on this by joining with the Hub to develop nationally recognised collaborative studies which will be of clinical benefit to the wider learning disability population, as well as being of benefit within our area of expertise as leaders in forensic learning disability services.

At Calderstones we aim to involve service users and carers in the work of the Trust and are relentless in our efforts to ensure the rights of our service users are protected and promoted at all times. As Chief Executive of the Trust I am committed to supporting the growth and development of research to better inform our clinical practice with improved outcomes for our service users.

We are looking forward to working closely with Dr Sally Spencer and other staff at Lancaster University, and allied NHS Trusts, to increase our research capability and expertise. Firm links have already been established and we welcome the enthusiasm and commitment evident from collaboration with the Hub members. We are very pleased to be part of this initiative for research in Lancashire and Cumbria.

Karen Wilson
Chief Executive Officer,
Calderstones Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust
Lancaster University has seen its first Medical students graduate.

Lancaster University’s 31 newly qualified MBChB (Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery) doctors should help local hospitals and general practices fill posts.

The inaugural graduation was marked with a ceremony attended by senior figures from regional health authorities and GP commissioners. The guest of honour, the Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Dame Sally Davies, was presented with an honorary degree at the ceremony. As Director General of Research and Development at the NHS, she established the National Institute for Health Research. She has advised the World Health Organisation as well as health organisations from the Caribbean to Australia and Singapore.

NIHR Fellowships for Lancaster University

Lancaster University has been awarded two NIHR academic clinical fellowships and an NIHR clinical lectureship, commencing 2012. These will enable doctors who plan to follow a career as a clinical academic, and as research leaders of the future, to develop their knowledge and skills in research whilst at the same time continuing their clinical training within their chosen specialty.

New NIHR Cumbria and Lancashire CLRN Chair

Professor Eddie Kane (Chair, UHMBT) has been elected Chair of the NIHR Cumbria and Lancashire CLRN. His term of office starts in December.

Presentation on Arthritis in Children - Professor Michael Beresford

Professor Michael Beresford (Professor in Child Health and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Rheumatologist, Chair Medicines for Children Research Network /Arthritis Research UK Paediatric Rheumatology Clinical Studies Group), gave the talk ‘Arthritis in Children - key issues for clinical research’ on Thursday 28th July. His talk was attended by staff from the Faculty of Health and Medicine and from several local NHS Trusts. He presented results from an extensive programme of clinical, biomedical and epidemiological research, and described how this is being translated into clinical practice to improve patient care. His visit has already led to new opportunities for clinical and scientific collaborations with colleagues locally.
NIHR Funding success

Dr Jane Martindale (NIHR Clinical Lecturer) has been awarded £50,000 NIHR funding to extend the scope of her research in identifying clinical need and priorities in people newly-diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis, and in older people with this condition.

Jane was also awarded a prize for her poster presentation at the recent 5th Annual NIHR Trainees Conference in Leeds. The poster described a study on inter and intra reliability of a consensus based approach to measurement in ankylosing spondylitis (AS). The study was facilitated by the ASSIGNw group which is a research network of physiotherapists within the North West who have a special interest in AS and is coordinated by Jane and Dr Lynne Goodacre.

NIHR 2010/11 Annual Report

The NIHR Annual Report can be accessed at: www.nihr.ac.uk/news/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=1219

Research Strategy Event

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust recently held its annual research strategy event, to launch the Trust’s research strategy for 2011/12; to showcase some of the research being undertaken; and to discuss ways in which to implement the strategy. Prof Max Marshall, Medical Director, provided an overview of the strategy, followed by three presentations.

Dr Iracema Leroi, Consultant Psychiatrist LCFT & Dr Angela Parker, Assistant Network Director DeNDRoN North West discussed the work of the Older Adults Clinical Research Unit and described the Abbott M10-984 study ‘A randomised, double-blind, placebo and active controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of ABT-126 in subjects with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s Disease. This study was part of the North West Exemplar Programme and they screened the first patient worldwide.

Dr Hilary Whitehead, Clinical Director Dental Service LCFT, provided details of the portfolio project ‘A longitudinal study of single cohort to describe the long-term changes in caries in children and identify key risk factors in its development’. Fieldwork commenced in September 2011 and they have already invited 2437 children to participate and have conducted examinations on 1753 (72%).

Dr Nasim Chaudhry, Consultant Psychiatrist University of Manchester, provided a presentation on an ‘Exploratory randomised control trial of a group psychological intervention for postnatal depression in British mothers of Pakistani origin’. This study aims to evaluate the efficacy of a Positive Health Programme (PHP) for treating depression in postpartum women and to refine and finalise the PHP processes prior to a large multicentre definitive trial. Dr Nusrat Husain, Consultant Psychiatrist LCFT is the PI and the research is funded by the NIHR RfPB Programme.

This was followed by an opportunity to discuss the strategy and its implementation, which generated positive links and ideas for future research potential. Overall the event was a great success.
TWO research grant applications have been submitted for funding involving collaboration between the Trust and the University.

**Dr Megan Thomas** with Professors Aneta Stefanovska and Peter McClintock of Lancaster University have submitted a full grant proposal to Action Medical Research. The outcome will be announced in November/December 2011.

**Mr Gus Tang** with Mr Espeed Khoshbin (Manchester), Dr Laurie Solomon (LTHTR), Dr Sally Spencer (Lancaster), Dr Sarah Wordsworth (Oxford) and Professor Barney Reeves and Dr Chris Rogers (CTU, Bristol) have submitted to the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit funding scheme. The outcome will be announced in May 2012.

**New Chief Executive Officer**

Karen Partington has been appointed as the Trust’s **new Chief Executive Officer**, replacing Tony Curtis who retired in September. Karen was previously the Chief Operating Officer in the Trust and with over 27 years experience of working in the NHS, has made a significant contribution to improving services and quality of care since joining the Trust in 2008.

**New R & D Director**

Dr Mohammed Munavvar has been appointed as the **new Director of Research** at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

He has been a Consultant Chest Physician at the Trust for 12 years and was Clinical Director of Medicine at the Trust as well as Training Programme Director of Respiratory Medicine, Northwest (Manchester) Deanery, and Regional Adviser for the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Dr Munavvar has a particular interest in cutting-edge interventional technologies, including advanced bronchoscopic techniques and thoracoscopy and has taken a lead in organising national and international Bronchoscopy courses. He is also a lead clinician for lung cancer, mesothelioma and tuberculosis, besides managing other respiratory disease and has been involved with the prospective evaluation of several novel tools, including endobronchial ultrasound and semirigid thoracoscopy.

He is a member of the BTS Specialist Advisory Group for Interventional Pulmonology, European Respiratory Society Interventional Pulmonary Group, and the steering committee of British Thoracic Oncology Group, as well as chairing the BTS Basic Bronchoscopy Guideline Development Committee.
Professor Christine Milligan is Director of the Centre for Ageing Research (C4AR) at Lancaster University. Established in 2010, the Centre promotes and conducts interdisciplinary research around ageing, older people and age-related disease, and has established Lancaster University as a leading centre of excellence for ageing research.

Located in the Faculty of Health and Medicine, C4AR consists of over forty academics from seventeen departments within the University, bringing together insights from a diverse range of subject areas including Biomedicine, Physics, Computing, Health Research, Environment, the Arts and Humanities, Education and Management to name but a few. Its members are committed to breaking down disciplinary barriers that can inhibit closer and more fruitful working relationships and insights to ageing and the health and wellbeing of older people. C4AR works closely with the public, private and third sectors and welcomes individuals from within these sectors who would like to work with and affiliate to the Centre. It is particularly keen to establish links with local NHS researchers and practitioners. The Centre currently has five key areas of strength, including:

- **Understanding normal ageing processes and the molecular basis of ageing and age-related human disease**: with emphasis on neurodegenerative disease (e.g. Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease); cancer (e.g. prostate cancer); eye disease; connective tissue disorders (e.g. arthritis). One of the main aims here will be to develop improved methods for early diagnosis and treatment of these disorders.

- **Mental health and mental well-being amongst older people**: including the psychological aspects of chronic illness in old age; dementia care; depression, emotional distress and social isolation; addiction and mental health in older age including alcohol, gambling, drug addiction (including prescribed medication);

- **Older people and new technologies**: including the impact of telecare and telehealth, digital literacy amongst older people; new technologies to support healthy ageing.

- **Older people, health and environments**: including the impact of environmental change on older people; therapeutic environments to support healthy ageing; including supported living at home; enabling design; healthy homes; supported accommodation and extra care; developing gold standards for residential care

- **Preparing for healthy older age**: the impact of changing demographics for an ageing workforce; planning and decision-making; senior learners; active ageing; participatory research with older people; dealing with the ‘care deficit’; understanding molecular process underpinning health-span and markers which identify a decline in molecular health.
The objective of the Centre for Ageing Research has been to facilitate opportunities for researchers, practitioners and older people to identify and connect with the Centre in order to develop and further knowledge about older people and ageing processes that will also support evidence-based practice. The Centre has now formed an advisory group to help inform future strategic direction and members include representation from local NHS Trusts.

The Director of C4AR, Christine Milligan, is Professor of Health and Social Geography and has been at Lancaster University since 1999. A medical geographer and social scientist by background, her research interests focus particularly around active ageing and the provision of care and support for older people, including work around ageing in place and new care technologies to support older people. Christine has published over 70 books, refereed journal articles and book chapters, including her latest single authored book: There’s No Place Like home: Place and Care in and Ageing Society (2009). She is also the lead on a two year research council funded seminar series themed around: Opportunities, challenges & tensions: linking the ageing and disability rights agendas (see ‘Events’ on page 17).

Christine’s recently completed work includes European research (the EFORTT project) that focused on the ethics of new care technologies for older people; and the production of a State of the Art on Older People and the Internet for the Nominet Trust that has been adopted as the guiding framework for funding their programme of work around older people over the next 5 years. She is an editor of the International Journal of Health and Place and is an expert on research ethics and qualitative methods including ethnography, participatory approaches and deliberative design.

Her current research programme includes work on gendered interventions for alleviating loneliness and isolation in older age (the Men in Sheds programme); and three further studies looking at support for older carers – including supporting older Carers at the end of life; the resource needs of male care-givers; and work that is looking at family carers reflections on older people dying at home.

Anyone interested in affiliating to the Centre for Ageing Research, or wishing to contact C4AR should e-mail: C4AR@exchange.lancs.ac.uk or see the C4AR website for further information: www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/research/C4AR/
People in Profile

Mr Augustine Tang
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon

I was appointed to my clinical post in 2004 with a remit to promote research within the department. As the fifth surgeon to join a very busy regional unit, the focus then was solely on providing a high quality tertiary service to the population of Lancashire and Cumbria. Consequently academic output was limited and prospective research did not exist. Despite my enthusiasm, initial efforts were hampered by lack of resource and manpower. All these changed with the launch of Better Research for Better Health and the establishment of NIHR with its regional research networks.

I am most grateful for the tremendous help and support from the Lancashire & Cumbria CLRN which enabled the appointment of our first full-time research nurse - Charlotte Waterhouse (pictured to my left) to kick-start departmental research in March 2009. The recruitment of over 180 patients into 4 Portfolio studies during the first year was testament to her valiant effort. We also received exceptional assistance from the R&D Department (Michelle Stephens, Helen Spickett & Shaun Rogers) to achieve this level of success. Emma Brennan (pictured to my right) joined the departmental research team in April 2010 and removed the manpower bottleneck which was limiting further research growth. The near doubling in recruitment figures over the following year was another major milestone as we had taken on several complex PRCTs from the Portfolio (RIME, AMAZE & CRISP trials) in addition to industry sponsored and in-house research projects. This could only come about as a result of excellent team-work in addition to superb individual effort.

Since last autumn, with tremendous assistance and expertise offered by Dr. Sally Spencer – Associate Director from the Hub - we assembled a high calibre multi-disciplinary research team to prepare a protocol for the ROLO study (RenOprotective benefits of LeukOdepletion in heart valve surgery) which was successfully submitted for NIHR Research for Patients Benefits (RfPB) funding application in September. The protocol for a Cochrane Collaboration systematic review on this topic, authored by Mr Tang, Mr Khoshbin and Dr Spencer, will be published on the Cochrane Library in December. If successful, ROLO will be the first locally led externally funded Portfolio study in our department and we eagerly await the outcome.

Looking ahead next year, our research activity will continue to grow with many Portfolio and other studies coming on stream (DARE, ATTACUS, OXICARE, etc). We are already planning further expansion of the workforce to handle this increase which may well see another doubling of year-on-year recruitment. In the process, we aim to forge stronger academic links with our Universities and extend collaboration further to our research partners. Undoubtedly the Research Hub will again be critical to the success of these priorities.
Dr Paul Withers - Head of Psychological Treatment Services

I am Dr Paul Withers, Head of Psychological Treatment Services at Calderstones Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

I qualified in 1991 and completed my Doctorate in 1997. My research thesis for this was entitled ‘Identity and Sexual Identity in Men with Learning Disabilities’.

Since qualifying, I have published articles on disparate topics including self-injury, psychotropic medication, qualitative research and interventions with families. However, the main theme of my publications has been the identities formed by people with intellectual disabilities. Identity, and in particular sexual identity, are key interest areas. This is reflected in forthcoming publications on sexual exploitation of people with intellectual disabilities and on the personal and sexual identities of women with intellectual disabilities.

I have also acted as field supervisor for Trainee Clinical Psychologists’ research on sexual identity issues in the general population. I am keen to continue to fit research and publication into my full time NHS work, and I am currently planning a project to investigate the effects of psychotropic medication upon sexual functioning in a population of people with intellectual disabilities living in a secure setting.

I have also recently developed an interest in the nature of the therapeutic alliance in compulsory therapies, such as those mandated by Courts, and this may form the basis of a future project.
As a principle investigator for clinical trials Iracema has led several successful commercially-funded dementia-related studies through the Older Adult Clinical Research Unit at Hillview, Royal Blackburn Hospital. This work has been heavily supported by the North West’s research network for neurodegenerative disorder, DENDRoN, whose research nurses have become embedded members of the trial team. Her grant-funded research has led to investigations in the behavioral aspects of Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer disease through studies of the neurobiology and impact of apathy.

Her interest in this area started during a 2-year neuropsychiatry fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. She subsequently joined the Hopkins faculty as Assistant Professor and undertook studies in dementia in PD and the neuropsychiatric aspects of neurodegenerative movement disorders.

In her role as Dementia Director, Iracema is working with the DENDRoN team to expand the number of clinical sites undertaking dementia research in the North West.

Iracema lectures with the British Geriatric Society’s PD Academy and was a deputy mental health representative on the NICE guidelines committee for PD. In 2007, She was awarded a senior research fellowship from Parkinson’s UK.

(Dr Iracema Leroi pictured right)
Mr Pierre Martin-Hirsch, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist

Pierre Martin-Hirsch is a Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He is the lead clinician for the region’s reproductive health and childbirth research network and has had over a hundred original papers and book chapters published. He was awarded an NHS Cochrane grant as a joint editor of the Cochrane Gynaecological Review Group to support the generation of updated evidence based gynaecological oncology guidelines and many of his systematic reviews on screening/colposcopy practice have contributed to national/international guidelines and influenced practice. He has also been appointed to lead a NICE diagnostic technologies group.

Pierre was a Wellbeing Research Fellow in Leeds University and subsequently a Lecturer in gynaecological oncology at St Mary’s/Christie Hospitals for four years. He has supervised Specialist Registrars undertaking higher degrees, PHD students and facilitated other research/educational projects in collaboration with local universities, Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the British Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (BSCCP). He is on the executive committee of the British Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology and was appointed head of the research committee in 2007. He is also deputy editor in chief of the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (BJOG) and referees for NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) grant applications. In 2011 Pierre was awarded an honorary professorship from Lancaster University.

“My diverse research interests range from evidenced based practice to translational research stimulated by personal clinical and academic professional development but also to attract excellent junior clinicians into the unit which adds to the clinical service and reputation of the unit. I can facilitate biological tissue collection, ethical approval and help to stimulate ideas in translational research with my knowledge of clinical gynaecological oncology.”

Current research projects include: Gynaecological oncology, general gynaecology, meta-analysis of dichotomous outcomes, diagnostic test methodologies and meta-analysis, evidenced based practice including cervical screening, CIN treatment and post menopausal bleeding services. Research with Professor Frank Martin at Lancaster University includes epigenetics of gynaecological cancers, tumour markers and spectroscopy as a diagnostic tool.

Successful collaborations have led to funding from the NHS Cochrane Collaboration Programme Grant Scheme, RfPB, CR:UK, HTA, Rosemere Cancer Charity and the Terry Fox Fund for Cancer Research.

Pierre is always keen to make further links with researchers, clinical psychologists, statisticians and economists interested in this field so if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss any research projects please contact Jane Huddleston on jane.huddleston@lthtr.nhs.uk or telephone 01772 524957.
Dr Marwan Bukhari (MBBS, MSc, PhD, FRCP). Trained as a rheumatologist in the Northwest region and obtained his masters and PhD at the University of Manchester. He is currently a consultant rheumatologist at the University hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS trust and an honorary senior lecturer at the University of Liverpool. He also holds honorary lecturer posts at Lancaster and Manchester universities. Research interests include early arthritis, osteoporosis and epidemiology of the rheumatic diseases.

“I have been always interested in research having completed a masters in Manchester on capillaroscopy in scleroderma, after doing a PhD in the epidemiology of rheumatoid arthritis I have developed a keen interest in examining the predictors of disease. Since being at the royal Lancaster infirmary projects have examined the bone health and bone mineral density and it's relationship with different factors including deprivation, distance from the scanner and different diseases. We have also studied gout and ankylosing spondylitis. My involvement with the research network has resulted in a high accrual rate to portfolio studies that has resulted in increased funding for research.”
Research Showcase 2011
“Where are we now?”

Interested in Research? Why not come along and find out more about the Research going on in the Trust and the support available.

Free to everyone and lunch will be provided!

Tuesday 6th December 2011
9 am – 4 pm

Lecture Hall
Education Centre 1
Royal Preston Hospital

Call: Ext 2031 or 4611
Or email: Kina.Bennett@lthtr.nhs.uk

Lancaster University’s Centre for Disability Research (CeDR) Research Seminar

Date: 7 December 2011 Time: 17.00-18.00

Venue: Bowland North Seminar Room 20

Presenter: Dr Andrea Hollomotz, Manchester Metropolitan University

Title: Learning Difficulties and Sexual Vulnerability: A Social Approach

More information: http://www.lancs.ac.uk/cedr/event/3765/
Lancaster University’s Department of Applied Social Science Seminars

Date: 1 February 2012       Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Bowland North SR20, Lancaster University

Title: Why is psychiatry so dependent on drugs? An analysis of influences on psychiatric treatment.

A research seminar with Dr Joanna Moncrieff, Senior Lecturer, University College London, Co-chair of the Critical Psychiatry Network., Author of The Myth of the Chemical Cure

Contact: b.sapey@lancaster.ac.uk

Date for the diary: Cumbria and Lancashire CLRN Annual Event — 18th April 2012

This annual event will be held on 18th April 2012 at the Heron’s Reach Hotel in Blackpool.

Dr Russell Hamilton, Director of Research and Development, Department of Health will be the keynote speaker.

For further information, please contact Margaret Johnson, tel. 01772 524941, email: Margaret.johnson@lthtr.nhs.uk
Events

Optimising MedTech Development & Innovation through Research Workshops:

The NIHR Office for Clinical Research Infrastructure (NOCRI) and HealthTech & Medicines KTN is holding a series of regional workshops to support the medical technology industry. With speakers from the NIHR, industry, ABHI, Department of Health and NICE, each event provides companies with a “route map” to successfully translate ideas into commercial products. To support the uptake of new technology into clinical practice, these events will highlight the importance of understanding unmet clinical need and the generation of appropriate clinical evidence for medical technologies. Further information:

http://www.nihr.ac.uk/events/Pages/Forthcoming_Events.aspx

ESRC Seminar Series

*Opportunities, challenges & tensions: linking the ageing and disability rights agendas 2011-2013*

Seminar 3: January 26th 2012
*Inequalities in ageing and disability*

Seminar 4: May 31st 2012
*Ageing in Place and Supported Living for ageing and disabled people*

Seminar 5: September 27th 2012
*Research with older and disabled people*

Seminar 6: January 29th 2013
*Addressing ageism, impairment and disablism*

To attend, please see further information via link:
www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/research/seminars/esrc-seminar.php

Gill Betts or Sarah Edwards will also be happy to help with further enquiries and information via e-mail (aadseminarseries@lancaster.ac.uk) or by telephone at: 01524 592127
Contact details

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