The feedback from the first two Newsletters has been very positive indeed, so the content of this edition will again focus on raising awareness about people, research interests and facilities among all the Hub’s partner organisations. I hope that this will be useful to you in opening up opportunities for new partnerships and collaborations within the Hub.

This edition also contains information about meetings and events, including Tom Walley’s visit in May and the launch conference of the Collaborative Partnerships Initiative in September. One of the aims of the Hub is to organise and host visits by eminent people from elsewhere in the UK, not only to enable Hub partners to benefit from hearing others’ perspectives on current national research developments, but also to enable visitors to get to know more about the Hub’s activities and progress. I hope very much that you will be able to come along to these meetings. Also, please do let us know your suggestions for other types of Hub events which would be useful and interesting to you and your colleagues.

As the Hub’s activities and impact continue to grow, I am delighted to report that it recently achieved its first success at attracting external funding through an NIHR Research for Patent Benefit project grant. This, together with the award of NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships and Clinical Lectureships to Lancaster Medical School, represents an important and exciting landmark for the Hub partnership.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter. Please do contact me, or my colleagues at Lancaster University, or your Trust’s R&D Department if you would like to get involved with, or find out more about, the Hub.

Professor John Goodacre
Faculty of Health & Medicine
Lancaster University
j.goodacre@lancaster.ac.uk
Grant Award for Cochrane Reviews

Professor Andy Smith from the Department of Anaesthesia, Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Dr Amanda Nicholson, Faculty of Health and Medicine, have obtained funding from the European Society of Anaesthesia for a systematic review and meta-analysis of enhanced recovery programmes for surgical patients.

Enhanced recovery programmes (also known as fast-track surgery) are becoming widespread in the NHS but vary in content. The project team includes Sharon Lewis, systematic reviewer at the RLI, and Dr Phil Alderson from NICE. We will work closely with clinical colleagues at the RLI to provide clinical expertise. The project aims to summarise the published evidence of the safety and effectiveness of enhanced recovery in different surgical specialties and to identify specific components which benefit patients.

This grant builds on existing work which has been funded by the NIHR with Cochrane Collaboration for a programme of reviews investigating of the quality, safety and effectiveness of perioperative care. Capacity building in evidence practice skills is an important focus and the team works closely with NHS clinicians, both locally and throughout the UK, to identify important topics for reviews and with trainees undertaking the reviews.

£240k Funding Success for Blackpool and the Hub

We are pleased to announce the successful funding of a collaborative research project supported by the Hub. The study is a randomised controlled feasibility trial investigating ‘The renoprotective benefits of leukodepletion for patients undergoing heart valve surgery’, led by Mr Gus Tang from the Lancashire Cardiac Centre at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The research aims to establish whether blood filtration during cardiopulmonary bypass will provide protection against consequent kidney damage. The research group encompasses clinical expertise from Dr Laurie Solomon, Consultant Nephrologist at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Mr Espeed Khashbin, Specialist Registrar at University Hospitals of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust. Academic expertise was provided by Dr Sally Spencer at Lancaster University (patient-reported outcome measures), Dr Sarah Wordsworth at Oxford University (health economics) and by the Bristol Clinical Trials Evaluation Unit led by Prof Barnaby Reeves and Dr Chris Rogers.

The study was awarded £240k by the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit funding stream and will commence in November 2012.

“This funding success was the result of a year’s worth of coordinated effort and provides tangible evidence of the benefits to the Trust of our joint venture with the Hub. The Clinical Research Hub managed the entire process, including assembling the team, liaising with the fund managers, coordinating project development meetings, helping to write the bid and compiling the project costs. Funding applications are complex and require a set of highly specialised skills in order to meet the very high standards expected by mainstream funders such as the NIHR and MRC. The Hub provided the necessary skills and experience that ensured our first funding success and we are looking forward to undertaking this important clinical research.”

Michelle Stephens, Research and Development Manager
Anna Hart is a chartered statistician with years of experience of applied research working with a range of health professionals. This includes designing, critiquing and analysing studies. Anna has particular interest in helping to design high quality studies which have clear aims and objectives and real benefits for healthcare. Based in academia she has collaborated with researchers in the NHS for over 10 years and acted as the statistical consultant at a hospital in the north-west for 8 years. Anna also has experience of working on an NHS research ethics committee. She will be working with the Hub on a part-time basis, offering methodological and statistical advice for quantitative projects.
Professor Tom Walley, Director of the NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme and Director NIHR Evaluations Trials and Studies, delivered a stimulating and thought provoking seminar on the Efficacy Mechanisms and Evaluation (EME), and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) funding streams, for which he is the Director, and their importance in driving and enabling the introduction of new treatments and technologies. The EME programme is designed to support the translational funding pathway, helping new innovations to be turned into healthcare benefits, with the HTA programme strongly focused on research delivering tangible clinical benefit for patients, largely through large multi-centre trials.

Professor Walley explained that future management of these programmes will be closely aligned with a business delivery model, where value for money is paramount and contractual research obligations between NIHR and recipients of research funding will be managed according to time and target, including the potential for termination of contracts where projects are considered to be under performing. His seminar generated a lively discussion, including debate around the existence of a North/South divide in research funding allocation, where he was keen to point out that high quality research with clearly demonstrated clinical need, not geographical location, was the primary driver.

The seminar which took place on 17th May was attended by an audience comprising University researchers, NHS staff and postgraduate students. It was extremely well received and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof Walley for his presentation.

Website Recommendation

www.guardian.co.uk/healthcare-network

Insight, reports & data for NHS innovators

NIHR on YouTube

The NIHR are providing an increasing number of videos on YouTube about their funding streams, clinical trials, patient engagement, research methods, NIHR training schemes and other initiatives. They can be found at:

http://www.youtube.com/NIHRtv
News from the Trusts

New Clinical Research Centre
Blackpool Teaching Hospital

The research workforce at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals has moved into their new Clinical Research Centre at the end of March 2012. The CRC, which will be officially opened later in the year, has taken 2 years in the planning to the keys being handed over. The Trust wanted to develop a research infrastructure for the Trust fit for the future. The Centre will provide patients with the opportunity to participate in leading-edge research, which aims to turn scientific breakthroughs into new ways to prevent, manage and treat diseases. The CRC has been designed around both paediatric and adult research studies.

The CRC, located centrally within Blackpool Victoria Hospital, used to be a former hospital ward. It has been completely redesigned and refurbished, thanks to a generous grant from Blue Skies Hospital Fund and funding for equipment from Rosemere Cancer Foundation and the Trust itself. With parking nearby and easy access to lifts, patients are welcomed to a modern and relaxing reception, with sofa’s, a TV and water cooler, and a fun children’s corner with toys, books and drawing materials. This leads to four fully equipped consultation rooms, two rooms which have beds and two rooms with couches. One room has blackout blinds designed specifically for sleep studies.

Tissue handling and processing facilities have been created along with a centralised research records and equipment storage. There is a spacious open-plan office with desk space for 24 research practitioners and four clinical trials administrators. Hot desks are available for non-Trust research staff. There are two meeting rooms with audio-visual capability. The R&D Department have also moved into the CRC with three research offices.

The CRC will allow the Trust to enhance and increase its current research activity, with staff working across specialities, sharing expertise and knowledge together as one team. The growing importance of research within the Trust has been highlighted with research now becoming a Division in its own right. Research and the CRC will provide opportunities for further collaboration with our research partners across the NHS, Universities, Charities and Industry.
News from the Trusts

New R&D facilities at Calderstones

Calderstones Research and Development Department has been working tirelessly over the past 18 months to generate more research activity, professional/academic links, research personnel and scope of research topics. We are therefore proud to announce that the hard work has paid off! We have officially outgrown our little department comprising of two small offices and will soon be moving into our own department within the Trust.

The department will be relocating to an area formerly occupied by the pharmacy. This dedicated space will facilitate a more cohesive working environment, giving more opportunity for visiting professionals/academics to work with the team, sharing experiences/knowledge and growing evidence from ideas. The department will have a discussion area, 6 work stations and a separate office for the R&D manager all encompassed within one department.

This is great news for the continuing professional and academic development of the research department and testament to the commitment of the team. We look forward to welcoming fellow Hub partners in the future.

We have developed our own logo and hope to be holding a Research Showcase Event later in the year.

Lancashire Care contribute to Westminster Masterclass

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust (LCFT) was invited to deliver a Masterclass at the Advances in Medical Science Conference 29th February, Westminster, London. The Masterclass, titled ‘Building a successful research organisation; Managing national and local changes in research—Key lessons learned and successes in Lancashire Care’ was an opportunity for the Trust to showcase its research activity and expertise, and share good practice to demonstrate how a non-University Hospital trust has achieved this. Dr Nusrat Husain, Dr Iracema Leroi, and Louise Worrell presented the Masterclass which covered:

1. LCFT’s key research successes, and how those have been achieved – Louise Worrell
2. An overview of a Trust led Research for Patient Benefit Grant (RfPB) – RCT of a Complex Intervention for Postnatal Depression in British Mothers of South Asian Origin (Roshni-D) – Dr Nusrat Husain
3. An overview of the Trust’s Older Adult Mental Health Clinical Research Unit and the key outcomes of the Unit and research activity – Dr Iracema Leroi

The trust was applauded for its effective and proportionate governance arrangements, integration between R&D Management, Academic Researchers, and Operational Management, and success in achieving Trust led research grants. In his afternoon address, Professor Sir John Tooke, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, referred to the Trust’s achievement of impressive R&D permission times. The Trust made some very useful connections at the event which will hopefully lead to a continued increase in Industry and Portfolio studies within the Trust.
Focus on Lancaster University

Introducing the Lancaster Gastrointestinal Research Networking Programme

Andrew Higham
Associate Director for Research and Development (RLI)
Consultant GI Physician

Roger Pickup
Professor of Biomedicine and Life Sciences

Rachael Rigby
Lecturer in Biomedicine
European GI Research Network

Karen Wright
Peel Trust Lecturer in Biomedicine
Human Tissue Research Network
European GI Research Network

www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/people/karen-wright/

Case Studies

PhD student Hollian Richardson is funded by the NHS and supervised by Roger Pickup, Glenn Rhodes (CEH) and Andrew Higham. Working with hospitals in Cumbria and Lancashire, Hollian will analyse samples taken from patients attending routine gastroenterology clinics who are suffering from inflammatory bowel disease – including Crohn’s Disease, ulcerative colitis and irritable bowel syndrome. These samples will be examined to establish whether the patients test positive for *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*, an environmental pathogen that causes Johne’s Disease in cattle.

MSc student Adam Ogden is funded by the UHMBT and supervised by Karen Wright and Andrew Higham. This joint project is researching the development of fibrosis in Crohn’s disease. Circulating cells called ‘fibrocytes’, traffic to sites of injury and mediate fibrosis or tissue scarring. Adam is comparing the numbers of fibrocytes in the blood of Crohn’s patients and healthy individuals, and assessing differences in fibrocyte differentiation and function *in vitro*.

Please join us at our inaugural meeting in July 2012
Contact karen.wright@lancaster.ac.uk for further details
The International Observatory on End of Life Care (IOELC), based in the Division of Health Research, is one of the leading international academic centres in End of Life Studies and plays a major role in delivering research that influences the strategic direction of service development nationally and internationally. It was established in 2003 with a specific aim of undertaking global mapping of palliative care. The IOELC undertakes research, education and consultancy work. We have developed a number of innovative educational programmes including: a part-time blended learning Doctorate in Palliative Care, an International Research Summer School, and with Lancaster University Management School, an MA in Hospice Leadership. The IOELC has a small core group of staff, with over 150 people registered worldwide who access our resources and webinars.

The focus of our research is to understand the organisational models of care, and their delivery in different countries, health and economic systems and physical environments. Improving access to adequate pain control, symptom relief and psychological support to patients and bereavement support to families is a major public health challenge. The IOELC has had a considerable impact on the development of palliative care, by undertaking research and evaluations of services at a local, national and international level. Staff at the IOELC hold leadership positions in international palliative care. For example there is a close working relationship between the IOELC and the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC). IOELC have been centrally involved in the EAPC Taskforce on the Development of Palliative Care in Europe. This led to the publication of the EAPC Atlas of Palliative Care in Europe in 2006, which has been widely cited and was updated in 2011. Currently, IOELC staff are involved in leading a number of EAPC Task Forces and have published key international position statements (called ‘White’ papers) for the EAPC.

The IOELC research and scholarship themes of activity are on page10.

The Observatory Team

www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/research/ioelc
Focus on Lancaster University

Professor Sheila Payne
Director, International Observatory on End of Life Care

Professor Sheila Payne is a health psychologist with a background in nursing.

I took up the Help the Hospices Chair in Hospice Studies at Lancaster University in 2006 and since 2009 I have been the Director of the International Observatory on End of Life Care. I have been the Director of the Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo) funded by the National Cancer Research Institute from 2006-2012. CECo is a partnership between researchers at five UK universities, (Lancaster, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, and Southampton), a number of clinical organisations (including the four largest hospices in England, leading cancer centres and Help the Hospices), and service user representatives which aimed to improve the quality and quantity of research in supportive and palliative care in the UK. I also hold honorary visiting chairs at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia and Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

I have a long track record in palliative care research and scholarship. My research agenda focuses on palliative and end-of-life care for older people. I have been awarded a number of major research grants and I have supervised over 25 PhD students. I have extensive experience of teaching on research methods and I have published widely in academic and professional journals, and published 11 books and over 160 papers, and was the book series editor with Sandra Horn for ‘Health Psychology’ commissioning 14 books in total for the Open University Press. I am involved with the co-ordination and teaching on the PhD in Palliative Care and MA in Hospice Leadership courses and the International Research Summer School based at the International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University.

I have served as Vice President of the European Association of Palliative Care from 2007-2011, and have been elected as President for the next 4 years. I established two new Task Forces; on Family Carers and on the Role of Psychologists in Palliative Care (with Saskia Junger, Germany). I have been a proactive supporter of the work of the EAPC and have contributed as a member of the Scientific Committees of the Congresses in Vienna (2009), Glasgow (2010), Lisbon (2011), Trondheim (2012) and Prague (2013). It has been a privilege to contribute to the development of palliative care at an international level. I am frequently invited to speak at national and international conferences, doing approximately 20 annually. I am also closely involved with a number of international organisations including a Board member of the World Wide Palliative Care Alliance, an Expert Advisor to the All Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care, and with Peter Hudson (Australia) I co-chair the International Palliative Care Family Carers Research Collaborative.
Research into the needs of older people facing the end of life

Research into the needs of older people has been a core theme of work in the International Observatory on End of Life Care since 2006. This programme of research seeks to develop our understanding of the challenges faced by older people at the end of life, and how these can be overcome. This is an area of increasing importance as the population ages and the need for care for older people becomes greater. Current and recent work in this area focuses on the experiences of older people approaching the end of life, the experiences of family carers (both older carers and those supporting older people) and end of life care for those living in long term care settings. Researchers in the IOELC collaborate with other researchers, clinicians and service users to conduct high quality research using a variety of methods.

Evaluating service models and configurations

There have been a number of studies and evaluations to generate evidence about the delivery and efficacy of palliative care and end of life care interventions and services, linked to wider changes in health and social policy, in the United Kingdom and internationally. Our interests have focused on models of evaluation and how evidence is generated, and is utilised by service providers and commissioners. We have extensive experience of working with Third Sector organisations on evaluations of new models of care and on the implications for service users and service providers.

Symptom management

Multiple symptoms are experienced by those with life-limiting illnesses however, the subjective and multidimensional nature of symptoms means that they can be difficult to identify and manage. Moreover, the pathways of symptoms within life limiting illnesses can be unpredictable and may vary considerably across individuals and diseases. Our focus is both broad (encompassing the development of outcome measures) and symptom specific. It has been informed by a collaborative working approach and has been closely linked to the Complex Symptoms theme of the Cancer Experiences Collaborative (CECo). Researchers working within the IOELC are collaborating with clinicians and researchers at other institutions to develop clinically relevant research into symptom management in palliative care such as palliative sedation, PROMS for gynaecological cancer and ascites.

Innovative methodology in palliative care

The IOELC is widely known for leading innovations in research that draws upon social science methodologies including qualitative methods, mixed methods, systematic reviews and other types of evidence synthesis, combined with research designs that are of value to practitioners and organisations in end of life care. Our methodology theme cuts across the other main themes. Our research has contributed to the outcomes of the Cancer Experiences Collaborative where we have undertaken work in narrative analysis, and we are also involved in a number of studies looking at particular methodological challenges in conducting research in palliative and end of life care such as working with colleagues at Kings College, London and the University of Manchester on the MRC funded MORECare team to develop guidance on how to conduct research in palliative and end of life care research.
Dr Megan Thomas (centre right) has been a Consultant Community Paediatrician and clinical lead for Blenheim House Child Development and Family Support Centre since 1998. Appointed as Associate Director for research and development for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust in June 2009, Megan recently took over from Dr Peter Isaacs as Director of R+D.

Megan has been involved in a wide range of original research from lab based research investigating ways of preventing antibiotic resistance to pseudomonas aeruginosa in patients with cystic fibrosis while a senior registrar and honorary lecturer in Dundee, to her mixed methods PhD study considering the time use of parents with a disabled child, performed at the University of Central Lancashire.

Since the beginning of the Greater Manchester, Cumbria and Lancashire MCRN Megan has been on the Board and is the MCRN lead for the Cumbria and Lancs CLRN as well as being the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals MCRN lead. She has been PI to more than half a dozen portfolio studies and actively involved in supporting others. This has seen recruitment to paediatric studies increasing from zero in 2007/2008 to 277 in 2011/12. Megan has also overseen the development of the paediatric research nurse workforce from 0 to 4 part-time nurses in the past 4 years, an essential element of successful participation in portfolio studies. The very rapid and successful recruitments to the challenging MENDS study (a double blind placebo controlled multicentred trial evaluating the effect of melatonin on the sleep of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and severe sleep problems) received national recognition and led to presentations on achieving successful recruitment to paediatric studies in a DGH setting.

A member of the neurosciences CSG, Megan is able to influence the development and direction of the future MCRN Portfolio of clinical studies both by helping to develop new studies within the CSG, and by guiding and supporting investigators in the planning and development of their studies. Megan currently has active bids in collaboration with researchers in Lancaster, York and Manchester with regard to autism spectrum disorders, sleep management for children with disabilities and quality of life for children with chronic renal conditions, respectively. The collaboration with the Physics Department at Lancaster University was directly facilitated by the Clinical Research Hub with Sally Spencer and Mandy Dixon also contributing to the successful bid process for funding. The outcome of a further bid for funding is currently awaited. A further collaboration with Lancaster University facilitated by the Hub is in an early stage of development. This is with regard to looking at diagnostic processes in an acute health-care setting.

Megan’s main interests concern research with children with long term health conditions and disabilities and their families. Anyone interested in these topics would be very welcome to contact her as would anyone with an interest in the Diagnosis Project.
I am Rebecca Fish and I have worked as a research assistant at Calderstones Partnership NHS Foundation Trust since 1997, now part-time.

My first degree was in Psychology at the University of Liverpool, and I was financed by Calderstones to do a Masters in Health Research at Lancaster University, which I completed in 1999. For my Masters dissertation I explored staff accounts of dealing with clients’ aggressive behaviour. Some of the results from this were published as a collaborative paper which compared the accounts of staff and clients.

Since my Masters, my main area of research has been about experiences of self-injury, both from staff and clients’ perspectives, together with my colleague Helen Duperouzel. In 2000 we won a bid for 45k to support our research, and we disseminated our results widely with journal articles and conference presentations in diverse disciplines. We have also supported service users to record and publish their experiences on this topic. Our research filled a gap in knowledge in this area and features extensively in the systematic review of evidence undertaken by NICE in their current guidance on self-harm. It has also attracted national interest from leaders in this field, for example we are featured on a MIND DVD called ‘Cutting the Risk’ and we were asked to write a chapter in a book called ‘Understanding and working with people with learning disabilities who self-injure’ (soon to be published by Jessica Kingsley). Our research has informed local policy, procedure and training with the aim of improving the experiences of service users who self-harm in the service.

Currently I am working on a research project looking at experiences of women who use low and medium secure services at Calderstones, using an ethnographic method. I was lucky enough to gain ESRC funding to study for a PhD at Lancaster University on the basis of this project, with excellent support from the staff at the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies and the Centre for Disability Research (CeDR). My literature review is due to be published soon in the British Journal of Forensic Practice. My field work is now complete and I am writing up my thesis at the moment. I am keen to do research which can translate into policy, so will be hoping to publish my results widely.
Dr. Nusrat Husain graduated from the Dow Medical College Karachi. He obtained his membership (MCPS) in psychiatry from the College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan. He completed his studies in Public Health from Emory University where he received a Master in Public Health (MPH). Dr. Husain spent 4 years in Manchester on Psychiatry for Developing Countries programme and received his doctorate (MD) from the University of Manchester.

Dr. Nusrat Husain is a Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University of Manchester and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust. He is also the Lead for the Culture and International mental health research group. He has the lead responsibility for the module on Cultural Psychiatry & Epidemiology (since 2007) as part of MSc in psychiatry at the University of Manchester.

Work is in progress to develop this module into a full masters program in Cultural Psychiatry. He is the chair organizing committee of the biannual conference on "Culture & International Mental Health" which is a joint initiative of University of Manchester & University of Toronto. The common themes of his research are the interface of ethnicity and mental health in multicultural and diverse societies. Dr. Husain has the skills in designing and evaluating culturally sensitive complex interventions. People from ethnic minorities are more likely to develop certain mental health disorders it is essential to ensure that the psychosocial interventions are culturally sensitive. In the NIH-R funded programme grant (HELPER) and a NIH-R (RfPB) funded grant (ROSHNI-D) Dr. Husain is working to demonstrate how this can be done, by adapting the research procedures, and the interventions, to make them acceptable to ethnic minorities. Dr. Husain divides his time between UK, Kenya and Pakistan, where his current research is based.
Professor Jonathan Hill
Consultant in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine

Professor Jonathan Hill recently commenced his Health Ministerial appointment as a member of the Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee (ARSAC). He is Lead Clinician at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals in the PETCT department and works in the nuclear medicine department. He recently completed terms of office as Chair of the Intercollegiate Nuclear Medicine Sub-committee (Joint RCR/RCP) and Chair of the Radionuclide Radiology Committee of the Royal College of Radiologists where he developed new curricula and training assessment tools.

Current research interests include evaluation of new Positron Isotopes especially Fluro-Choline. Lancashire Teaching Hospitals will be one of 6 centres in a national study looking at the evaluation of this technology compared to MRI in gynaecological malignancies. He is interested in developing clinical applications of emerging further isotopes such as PIB amyloid imaging agents. The department participates in the National NIHR programme for PETCT Research. Recent presentations at the European Association of Nuclear Medicine Annual Meeting (EANM)2011 include papers on cancer cell histology and metabolism and reflections on diabetic incidence. Another paper at the meeting discussed isotope perfusion lung scanning in pregnancy.

The most recent presentations at the spring 2012 British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS) Meeting at Harrogate were papers on value of PETCT in Melanoma Staging and Observations on gender related incidence of Parkinsonian Syndrome and Essential Tremor.

He has authored and contributed to several RCR documents regarding PETCT indication in the UK as well as section editor for the college in PETCT & nuclear medicine in the “i-refer” RCR publication.

He also maintains an interest in trauma, defence-related technologies and medical applications from his period serving with the military.

Anyone wishing to contact Prof. Hill may do so at Jonathan.hill@lthtr.nhs.uk or telephone 01772 522387.
Andrew Smith has been Consultant Anaesthetist at the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust since 1998. He is convenor of the local Specialty Group in anaesthesia within the CLRN. He was appointed an Honorary Professor of Clinical Anaesthesia at Lancaster University in 2011 and was also awarded the George Arnott Professorship by the Royal College of Anaesthetists in 2004.

Coming from the safety-critical specialty of anaesthesiology, Andrew was well placed to benefit from a personal patient safety research development award from NIHR in 2007, which allowed UHMB to establish its Patient Safety Research Unit in 2008. Current research interests include analysis of critical incidents from local and national databases, depth of anaesthesia and communication. One of Andrew’s aims is to further strengthen links between the Trust and Lancaster University and he has used this and other grants to enable research with various departments, including physics, computing, management and sociology and is keen to see his clinical colleagues make connections of their own.

He has been an editor in the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (based in Copenhagen) since 2000 and is responsible for a number of protocols and reviews. More recently he secured a Cochrane Collaboration programme grant for a series of reviews in perioperative care (see page 2).

Nationally he has been an expert assessor for the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death and an advisor to NICE on depth of anaesthesia monitoring. He is also a member of a number of committees at the Royal College of Anaesthetists. Internationally he has been Chair of the subcommittee for Evidence-based Practice and Quality Improvement in the European Society of Anaesthesiologists (ESA) and has chaired the ESA’s Guidelines Committee since 2008, overseeing the production of high-quality evidence based clinical guidelines to enhance the quality and safety of anaesthesia throughout Europe. He was also a co-author of the 2010 Helsinki Declaration for Patient Safety in Anaesthesiology.

Andrew says: ‘The NHS needs to get smarter at managing one of its most valuable assets – knowledge. We were the first Trust in the North West to have a full time Knowledge Manager in 2003, having also previously secured funding to capture the organisational lessons from the management of the 2002 Legionnaires’ disease outbreak in Barrow-in-Furness so that the NHS in general could benefit. Promoting the generation of new knowledge through research is obviously vital to the service but my aim is to foster the recognition and mobilisation of all sorts of knowledge to support clinical care and organisational functioning – research findings of course, but also the all-important tacit skills which are often downplayed or forgotten’

Andrew can be contacted at: andrew.f.smith@mbht.nhs.uk
Lancaster University has launched a major strategic initiative to support its collaboration with the public and private sector in research, knowledge exchange and professional development across all fields of Health, Medicine and Social Care.

By promoting a partnership approach, involving NHS Trusts and other organisations, the University will support the future growth and development of these activities.

To mark the inauguration of the Collaborative Partnerships initiative the Faculty of Health and Medicine will hold a launch conference on September 18th, 2012 in the exciting new Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts (LICA) building.

The Conference will involve senior level representation and input from all relevant sectors, partner organisations and other key stakeholders. It will comprise a mix of keynote presentations and interactive workshops, and will also provide an opportunity for the University to showcase its activities, achievements and future plans for working with partners nationally and globally in Health, Medicine and Social Care.

Confirmed guest Speakers will include:

**Dr Louise Wood** (Head of Innovation and Industry, Department of Health)

**Sue Dunkerton** (Co-Director, HealthTech & Medicines Knowledge Transfer Network TWI Ltd).

**Dr John Stageman OBE** (Chair of BioNoW Ltd)

Places to attend the conference will be limited. Please register your interest as soon as possible by calling Ros Malcolm on (01524) 594194 or email r.malcolm@lancaster.ac.uk
The Centre for Ageing Research (C4AR) extends a warm invitation to local health and medicine colleagues located in the partner Trusts, and to practitioners and professionals from related disciplines, to their first International Conference 'Ageing: Moving Beyond Boundaries', taking place in September this year.

Advances in science and medicine, together with the human and policy insights from the social sciences and the arts and humanities, will make significant contributions to alleviating some of the worst impacts of mental and physiological ageing in a population that is widely accepted to see significant growth in the coming decades. This innovative conference aims to forge a common goal by developing trans-disciplinary solutions to addressing the so-called 'ageing time-bomb' of this projected growth.

C4AR invites those working on issues of ageing and older people, or practicing in these and related fields, to contribute to this aim by offering insights from across the disciplines to reflect on and inform: normal ageing processes and the ageing body; preventative strategies and how best to promote active ageing; how to prevent or cope with the onset of 'diseases of older age'; as well as understanding how we might best address the care and support needs of rising numbers of our 'oldest old' at a time when we are faced with declining pensions and welfare, and a potential 'care deficit'.

There is a full conference programme of oral paper and poster presentations, and daily keynote addresses by leading researchers and academics in a range of health, policy and science fields. Please visit C4AR's web pages for further details, and to register to attend 1 or more conference days.

Further information:
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Admin enquiries: 
Bethan McMullen 
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‘Ageing: Moving Beyond Boundaries’ 
www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/research/C4AR/international-conference.php
ESRC Seminar Series

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

Seminar 4: May 31st 2012
Ageing in Place and Supported Living for ageing and disabled people.
Independent Living and longevity holds both potential and challenges for maintaining well-being and addressing social isolation. This seminar will address these issues within the context of contemporary policy debates. The flyer for this seminar can be downloaded by clicking here.

Seminar 5: September 27th 2012
Research with older and disabled people
A good evidence base is critical to the development of successful policy and practice. This seminar will focus on differing research techniques and interpreting research for policy agendas/knowledge exchange with older and disabled people.

Seminar 6: January 29th 2013
Addressing ageism, impairment and disablism
This seminar engages with the shape and form of contemporary ageism, impairment and disablism, and the challenges for developments and policies designed to address these issues.

Seminar 2: April 25th 2013 (postponed from September 2011)
Ageing and disability: ‘writing in’ gender and sexuality
The importance of gender and sexuality amongst older and disabled people is often overlooked by policy-makers and practitioners. This seminar will explore points of interconnection and difference.

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

For further details about the Hub, please contact:

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