Welcome to the sixth edition of the Hub’s eNewsletter

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www.lancs.ac.uk/fhm/work/clinical_research_hub
Season’s greetings, and a warm welcome to the 6th edition of the Hub eNewsletter.

I hope you will enjoy reading about how the scope and impact of this distinctive NHS / University partnership are continuing to grow.

By focusing on engagement and delivery, using a collaborative approach, the Hub partners have built upon their collective success over the past couple of years to maintain an impressive trajectory of progress throughout 2013.

This eNewsletter features some of the people who are working hard to drive forward the Hub’s activities, including staff who have been appointed recently to key roles within the Partnership, as well as some of the Hub’s recent events. It also highlights “things to look forward to in 2014”, including a major conference on the Life Sciences, in partnership with Industry, and the addition of the University of Cumbria to the Partnership.

The Hub is highly-regarded within the National Institute for Health Research, NHS England and Industry because of its novel approach toward developing and delivering locally-led collaborative research and innovation whilst at the same time advancing local capability and infrastructure to support these activities. Several national organisations are currently exploring with us how this model might be further developed, and I am sure that some exciting opportunities will arise from these discussions during 2014. Similarly, our strong strategic links with the NIHR North West Coast Clinical Research Network and the North West Coast Academic Health Science Network will no doubt open up other new ways of enhancing the scope, scale and impact of the Hub’s activities over the next year and beyond.

Many colleagues in the University, NHS and Industry have made outstanding contributions to the Hub’s activities and success this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your skills and for your professional and personal commitment to advancing this important initiative. The Hub is clearly making a significant difference, and the prospect of making even further progress together in 2014 is not only very real but also very exciting.

Professor John Goodacre
Director, Lancashire and Cumbria Clinical Research Hub
j.goodacre@lancaster.ac.uk

About the Lancashire & Cumbria Clinical Research Hub

Aims
The Hub was established in 2010 to enable an increase in NHS/University collaborative research in health and medicine across Lancashire and Cumbria. This includes working with Hub partners across the region as well as with other key organisations and networks.

Location
The Hub operates on a ‘hub and spoke’ model, so technically it is not focused on a single location. The administrative hub is based at Lancaster University with partner organisations across the region.

Associate Director of Clinical Research
Strategic operation of the Hub involves close liaison and coordination between the Associate Director of Clinical Research at Lancaster, Dr Sally Spencer, and Hub partners.

Working with the Hub
We welcome opportunities to work with other organisations. If you would like to develop links with the Clinical Research Hub, please contact Dr Mandy Dixon, Clinical Research Hub Manager. Hub contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.
University of Cumbria joins the Hub in December 2013

As Dean of the Faculty of Health & Science, at the University of Cumbria I am delighted that we have become a partner of the Clinical Research Hub. We are looking forward to working collaboratively with the other partners in the Hub. The strengths of our research at the University of Cumbria are in Allied Health and Practitioner Research.

Meet the University of Cumbria Team

**Professor Alison Marshall**
Director of CaCHeT

Modern technology offers huge potential benefits to improve quality of life, but there are significant challenges in implementing it. CaCHeT focuses on technology adoption and technology translation models, with applications especially to rural, dispersed communities, ageing populations and problems of industrial regeneration.

**Professor Diane Cox**
Professor of Occupational Therapy

Diane is due to take up a new role within the University of Cumbria from 1st January 2014 as Director of Research & Head of the Graduate School although as Professor of Occupational Therapy she will retain an active interest in health research and in her particular research area of chronic fatigue syndrome. Diane will share the lead role of the partnership in the Hub with Professor Alison Marshall.

**Dr Diane Fotheringham**
Head of Nursing & Midwifery

In January 2014 the Faculty of Health & Science at the University of Cumbria will be welcoming Dr Diane Fotheringham as Head of Nursing & Midwifery. She has a particular research interest in skill development and judgments of nurse practitioners.

Applied Research is undertaken in these areas:

- Local regeneration: nuclear, health, particularly Public Health, local government and HE
- Service Delivery for NHS and Care organizations and users
- New models of learning such as Stilwell - virtual learning environment
- Learning Disabilities
- Dementia care
- Long term conditions
- Medical Imaging Perception
- Rehabilitation – Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Sport and physical activity
- Health technology initiatives through the Cumbrian Centre for Health Technologies (CaCheT) led by Professor Alison Marshall
The Postgraduate Certificate and MSc in Clinical Research offer healthcare professionals an opportunity to acquire, develop and apply research knowledge and skills in the context of their own professional practice. The Programmes were developed following consultation with The Hub’s 6 Partner NHS Trusts and are designed to support career development for a range of professionals including clinicians, scientists and research support staff. The teaching programme encompasses a range of topics including, epidemiology, research design, qualitative and quantitative analysis, and translation into practice. The programmes are delivered by staff with a wealth of expertise including NIHR-delivered GCP training and research governance covered by John Wardle, Senior Manager at Cumbria and Lancashire Comprehensive Clinical Research Network. Further details can be found here:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/clinical-research-pgcert/
www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/clinical-research-msc/

“I would really like to take the opportunity to thank the staff in the Faculty of Health and Medicine for their excellent teaching of the PGCert in Clinical Research. My area of work is with systematic reviews of healthcare interventions and I began the course with some reticence about my lack of wider research knowledge. However, the course was perfectly designed covering many interesting and relevant topics and, along with other students, I was able to relate much of the learning to my own field of research.

The course offered excellent opportunities for discussion in the teaching sessions, where I learned much and gained invaluable support from my fellow students who each came from a different healthcare background. I was delighted to share the award of Best Overall Performance with fellow student Dr Cliff Shelton. I have been eager to continue with my studies and have progressed to the MSc in Clinical Research in the Faculty of Health and Medicine, which I am thoroughly enjoying.”

Sharon Lewis, student on MSc Clinical Research (University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust)

**HORIZON 2020 Funding**

Horizon 2020 is the new EU funding programme for research and innovation running from 2014 to 2020 with a €70 billion budget. The first calls for proposals for Horizon 2020 have been released in December 2013 and are available to view:

www.ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities

The Hub is working closely with those across the University and the various partners to identify opportunities for collaboration. If you would like further information, please contact Dr Mandy Dixon, Hub Manager.

**Honorary Appointment Congratulations**

The Hub is pleased to announce that Mr Augustine (Gus) Tang has been successfully appointed to the post of Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer by Lancaster University. Gus, a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, was recently awarded RfPB funding, with other Hub partners.

Mr Gus Tang pictured centre
Hub News

Hub hosts ‘Working with Primary Care’ seminar

Hub Partners attended a seminar in September hosted at Lancaster University entitled ‘Working with Primary Care’. Regional GP research champions outlined their particular research interests and discussed the potential benefits of engaging with clinical commissioning groups. The patient profiling database, Farsite, was also discussed. The session was followed by an informal networking opportunity where academics were able to discuss specific research interests with the GP's.

The seminar provided an excellent opportunity to forge research relationships with the evolving primary care networks and to explore engagement with research across the healthcare pathway.

From left to right: Dr Isaak Bhojani (Blackburn with Darwen CCG), Dr Sally Spencer (Hub), Dr Umesh Chauhan (East Lancashire CCG), Dr Angela Robb (Greater Preston CCG), Dr Nicky Kentish — Cumbria CCG), Dr Sarah Woodford — (Cumbria CCG), Dr Simon Wetherell (Lancashire North CCG).

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals R&I Showcase 2013

On 6th November Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust hosted it’s annual Research and Innovation Showcase in their Education Centre, with the theme as ‘Innovation’. Over 125 people attended, with delegates from within the Trust as well as from academic partners including, Lancaster University, Edge Hill, University of Central Lancashire and Manchester Metropolitan University.

Keynote Speakers: The keynote speaker, Melanie Ogden, Deputy Director of Innovation from NHS England provided an overview of the National context of Innovation within the NHS and the massive change that has already been made at a strategic level. Sarah Chalmers-Page from the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) followed with an overview of the processes involved with getting Innovation adopted.

Poster Competition: For the annual poster competition abstracts were submitted and scored in September by members of the Trust’s R&D Committee. Because of the limited space we invited 12 posters to be presented on the day. The posters were scored by delegates on the day and three winners were presented with their awards by Sarah Chalmers-Page from NICE.
Laura Kornas has recently joined the Hub on secondment from the University’s central Research Support Office. The purpose of the secondment is to consolidate our research infrastructure and to ensure smooth and effective working in practice across the Hub partners – particularly where organizations are preparing funding proposals and delivering project management. Laura has significant experience of costing and supporting research proposals, pre and post award, specialising in Health and Medicine and funding intelligence.

During the secondment, Laura will be working with the Hub partners to harmonise systems for costing and pricing research and to support collaboration between the NHS, Universities and Industry. This is a dynamic approach to enhancing organisational and personal understanding of how different sectors work and to ensure that any current or potential barriers are removed so that arising matters can be dealt with effectively. It is also a personal development opportunity for Laura, who has qualifications in Health and Social Care Change Management and is currently a Cochrane Consumer Reviewer.

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Life Sciences event at
Lancaster University in March

As part of its 50th celebrations, Lancaster University, including the Clinical Research Hub, will be organising a ‘Life Sciences’ event at the end of March 2014 (date to be confirmed soon). The event is designed to bring together those from different sectors (University, NHS, Industry, charities etc) and to showcase the University’s work in the life sciences. If you would like to receive further details of this event, please email Bethan McMullen.

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Lancashire Care team up with National charity

Rethink Mental Illness has teamed up with Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust to launch a ground-breaking project to improve services for people with schizophrenia and psychosis.

The Rethink Mental Illness Innovation Network, launched on 4th September in the Houses of Commons, will see the Trust join with the charity to test new and innovative services for people affected by severe mental illness. It will focus on issues like improving mental health hospital care, tackling physical health problems, and helping people with mental illness get into employment.

The new project will transform mental health services for people in Lancashire by putting some of the Commission’s recommendations into practice.
Research Discussions in Seattle

Dr Waquas Waheed, Consultant Psychiatrist from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust has been included in the successful NIHR programme grant for ‘PARTNERS2: development and pilot trial of primary care based collaborative care for people with serious mental illness’. This grant is funded as part of the Programme Grants for Applied Research funding stream and is worth £1.9 million pounds, £150,000 of which will come to LCFT to fund a research assistant amongst other project costs. Dr Waheed has taken on this grant in place of the late Helen Lester and in collaboration with the MHRN. The aim of the project is to enable Primary Care and community based mental health services to work more closely together and to develop a model of care within which selected individuals with severe mental illness can be managed in primary care with secondary care support. The grant also includes co-applicant Dr Siobhan Reilly from Lancaster University’s Faculty of Health and Medicine.

Research at Calderstones Partnership NHS Foundation Trust stepped into the international arena when Anja Thieme (Newcastle University) and Paula Johnson (researcher/R&D Manager at Calderstones) were invited to give a talk about the ‘Spheres of Wellbeing’ project to the home of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) research at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Marsha Linehan (pictured wearing blue scarf in centre of research personnel) founded DBT in the 1980’s as a life changing therapy for people with borderline personality disorder and self harm. There is now a substantial evidence base to support this therapy and it is the model of care behind the women’s care pathway at Calderstones. It is also the therapeutic approach behind the ‘Spheres of Wellbeing’ project. The Spheres project combines computer-based technology and creative design sessions to motivate engagement with important therapeutic exercises of DBT treatment and to improve the quality of life and mental wellbeing more generally for the women.

The Spheres of Wellbeing are a set of 3 objects co-created with and by the women resulting in the Mindfulness Sphere (a ball-shaped artefact that reflects a person’s heart rate providing an experiential way of bringing awareness to one’s body); the Calming Sphere (a bead bracelet that the women can hold on to at times of emotional distress) and the Identity Sphere (a purse shaped object which gently invites the women to engage with short personalised videos designed to encourage exploration of meaningful experiences and positive aspects of their self). The design process and initial qualitative results of this study were received with interest by the Seattle research community – a novel study in a world of psychological research and randomised control trials!
Vernacare Ltd won the Clinical Innovation category at the Excellence in Supply Awards NW 2013. The award was presented for both the innovative product and the collaborative work Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been involved with in developing Vernacare’s new disposable female urinal. LTHTr staff picked up the award alongside Vernacare at a glittering ceremony held at the DW Stadium in Wigan on 30th October 2013.

Female continence care for immobile patients lags behind that of males. It is standard practice for immobile male patients to use urinals, but use by women is extremely limited. Responding to huge global demand, Vernacare has launched the new VernaFem disposable female urinal. It is a practical and simple alternative to catheters, bedpans and plastic urinals - offering a more dignified, convenient, comfortable and safer option. It was designed using single-use pulp to reduce the infection risk of reusable plastic bottles or catheterisation. A further aim was to promote self-toileting to free up nurse time.

Healthcare Acquired Infections (HCAI) are estimated to cost the NHS £1bn annually, while Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) are estimated to cost £1,122 per patient. This financial imperative, together with the primary need to promote patient safety and offer patient choice, were real drivers for the female urinal.

The ergonomic design - developed with North West Trusts and perfected at LTHTr’s Simulation Centre - forms to the patient’s body - working with the mattress to distribute weight more evenly. A wide base and curved lip maximises capacity while reducing the risk of spillage.

In line with the Department of Health's aim for the NHS to engage with industry to improve patient outcomes through developing quality, cost effective treatments, LTHTr has developed an Innovation Pathway. This provides a route from initial concept and ideas - through to fruition, with the VernaFem being the first industry project to pass through this pathway.

Do you work with a company on a research/innovation idea that needs funding?

There are several funding opportunities which are available to Industry. A few examples are listed below. Contact your R&D Department or the Clinical Research Hub as early as possible:

The Technology Strategy Board — [www.innovateuk.org/funding-competitions](http://www.innovateuk.org/funding-competitions)
NIHR—Invention for Innovation — [www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/i4i/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/i4i/Pages/Home.aspx)

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Clinical Innovation success

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TOUCHLESS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED WITH MICROSOFT RESEARCH

Dr Mark Rouncefield from Lancaster University’s School of Computing and Communications was part of a collaborative team from Guy’s Hospital, St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, Microsoft Research, and King’s College London to pilot touchless technology in the operating theatre. Building on pioneering work in early 2012 in vascular surgery, in the last year the team moved on to look at applying the technology to the manipulation of 3D volumetric models of the brain for neurosurgery.

Surgeons operate in a challenging environment where they are required to maintain sterility at all times. The new gesture-based systems utilize Kinect for Windows hardware and the Kinect for Windows Software Development Kit to allow the surgery teams to maintain a sterile environment, whilst being able to view and manipulate medical images through a combination of gesture and voice control. The system has been trialled in the operating theatre and is being refined. The software for the imaging surgery system was developed by researchers from King’s College London’s Imaging Sciences department and the touchless interaction component was developed by Gerardo Gonzalez, a post-doctoral researcher at Microsoft Research from Lancaster University.

Dr Mark Rouncefield commented, “This is a lovely example of a successful interdisciplinary research project, combining the technical skills of computer scientists with a social scientific and medical expertise that ensures the new technology resonates with the way in which surgeons actually do their work.”

For more information contact:
Dr Steven Fish, Head of Business Partnerships and Enterprise, School of Computing and Communications
Tel: +44 (0)1524 510784
Email: s.fish@lancaster.ac.uk

Bionow Annual Awards 2013 Winners

Bionow announced the winners of the 2013 Bionow Annual Awards. at its prestigious Bionow Annual Awards Dinner on the evening of Thursday 28th November at the Mere Golf Resort & Spa, Cheshire. The Awards Dinner showcases the very best of this world class sector and this year was attended by over 330 executives from across the biomedical industry.

The event was hosted by Dr John Stageman OBE, Chair of Bionow and Dr Geoff Davison, CEO of Bionow.

2013 BioInfect Conference Speaker Presentations

The inaugural 2013 BioInfect Conference took place on Tuesday 26th November at the Alderley Park Conference Centre, Cheshire. The conference, which looked at the critical issues relating to the development of new anti-infectives and the endemic problem, received outstanding reviews.

The conference programme and approved speakers presentations are now available to download at Bionow’s Website.
PROFESSOR CARY L COOPER, CBE
Distinguished Professor of Organizational Psychology and Health

Cary L. Cooper is Distinguished Professor of Organizational Psychology and Health. Cary is currently working alongside Hub Partners on a number of projects. He is the author/editor of over 120 books (on occupational stress, women at work and industrial and organizational psychology), has written over 400 scholarly articles for academic journals, and is a frequent contributor to national newspapers, TV and radio. He is currently Founding Editor of the Journal of Organizational Behavior, Founding Editor of the International Journal of Management Reviews and currently Editor-in-Chief of the medical journal Stress & Health. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society, The Royal Society of Arts, The Royal Society of Medicine, The Royal Society of Public Health, The British Academy of Management and an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences. Professor Cooper is past President of the British Academy of Management, is a Companion of the Chartered Management Institute and one of the first UK based Fellows of the (American) Academy of Management (having also won the 1998 Distinguished Service Award for his contribution to management science from the Academy of Management). In 2001, Cary was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List for his contribution to occupational safety and health. He holds Honorary Doctorates from Aston University (DSc), Heriot-Watt University (DLitt), Middlesex University (Doc. Univ), Sheffield University (DSc) and Wolverhampton University (DBA); an Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine in 2005, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (Hon FRCP) in 2006, in 2007 a Life Time Achievement Award from the Division of Occupational Psychology of the British Psychological Society, in 2008 an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (College of Occupational Medicine), in 2010 awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology, an Honorary Fellowship of the British Psychological Society. Professor Cooper is Chair of the UK’s Academy of Social Sciences (an umbrella body of 47 learned societies in the social sciences, comprising over 87,000 social scientists) (2009-), as well as past Chair of the Chronic Disease and Wellbeing Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum in Geneva (2009-2010). In November 2010, he was awarded the Lord Dearing Lifetime Achievement Award by the Times Higher Education for his distinguished contribution to higher education. In 2013, HR Magazine voted him the 2nd Most Influential HR Thinker.

Professor Cooper is the Editor-in-Chief of the international scholarly Blackwell Encyclopedia of Management (13 Volume set), the Editor of Who’s Who in the Management Sciences and on the Editorial Boards of many scholarly journals. He has been an adviser to two UN agencies; the World Health Organisation and the ILO; published a major report for the EU’s European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Work Conditions on ‘Stress Prevention in the Workplace’, produced a scientific review for the WHO/ILO on workplace violence in the health sector internationally, and was a special adviser to the Defense Committee of the House of Commons on their Duty of Care enquiry (2004-05). Joint Recipient of the Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing Research, April 2005. Professor Cooper is former Chair of The Sunningdale Institute (a think tank on management/organizational issues) in the National School of Government (2004-2009). He was also the lead scientist to the UK Government Office for Science on their Foresight programme on Mental Capital and Well Being (2007-2009), and was appointed a member of the expert group on establishing guidance for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on ‘promoting mental wellbeing through productive and healthy working conditions’, 2009. Professor Cooper is also the President of the Institute of Welfare, Immediate Past President of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy, President of RELATE, a national Ambassador of The Samaritans, and a Patron of Anxiety UK.

Contact Cary: c.cooper1@lancaster.ac.uk
Twitter: @ProfCaryCooper

Publications:
Deborah O’Dea, PG Cert, BSc(Hons), RHV, RN (adult), NMP
Specialist Health Visitor for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health

I work as the Specialist health visitor for perinatal and infant mental health in Blackpool and my role is to develop, train and coordinate services that aim to raise awareness and improve maternal and infant mental wellbeing outcomes. My particular interest is on enhancing the early relationship formed between parents and their newborn infant, and with guidance from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals research and development unit I recently approached the Lancashire and Cumbria Clinical Research Hub to explore the potential opportunities for the development of collaborative research in this area.

Dr Steve Milan, Hub Project Development Manager helped me to pursue this further with the support of the Developmental Psychology department at Lancaster University and we met with Professor Charlie Lewis to discuss my idea for research in this area.

I was delighted that he was interested in my topic and wanted to collaborate with the research. Charlie is very supportive, approachable, encouraging and he has been instrumental in helping me define the research idea by giving me plenty of sound advice about the direction of my study. Charlie has also given me the confidence to realise that my study is a worthwhile area of interest and I am now at the point of applying for funding with him and Dr Megan Thomas to undertake the research, and I hope to be able commence work on the study in the coming year.

Dr Salman Karim
Consultant Psychiatrist/Honorary Senior Lecturer
LCFT/University of Manchester

Dr Karim is a clinician with academic interest in dementia research and teaching. As a consultant psychiatrist he works in the Memory Assessment Service based at Charnley Fold in Preston that provides dementia diagnosis and treatment service to the whole of Central Lancashire.

Dr Karim is passionate about dementia research. He has established the dementia clinical trials unit in Lancashire in partnership with DeNDRoN to conduct commercial and non-commercial studies on dementia and cognitive impairment. Over the last three years he has been the Principal Investigator for a number of clinical trials for developing new drugs for Alzheimer’s disease and cognitive impairment in other mental illnesses including Schizophrenia and Depression. He is also conducting studies on psychological interventions for dementia patients and their carers.

Dr Karim has been involved in under and post graduate teaching with the University of Manchester since 2003. Along with teaching medical students in his clinics he has been involved in developing undergraduate medical curriculum and assessments. He is also leading two teaching clusters for the MSc programme for Psychiatry.

More recently Dr Karim has started collaborating with the academic staff of the University of Lancaster and aims to work on a number of research and teaching areas including writing Cochrane reviews, use of mindfulness therapy in cognitive impairment and developing a PhD programme.
Dr Sabir Giga
Senior Lecturer in Organizational Health and Wellbeing

Sabir joined the Faculty of Health and Medicine in September 2013 and is a Senior Lecturer in Organizational Health and Wellbeing within the Division of Health Research.

Prior to this, Sabir has worked at the Universities of Bradford and Manchester as well as in the publishing and shipping industries. He has researched extensively in the area of workplace bullying and stress, with a particular focus on health and public sector organisations. He has advised a number of national and international bodies such as the UK Government Office for Science on working hours and mental health, the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on their ‘Stress Management Standards’, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) on workplace bullying and the United Nation's International Labour Office on work-related stress and violence.

As part of his international work, which has included dialogue with policy makers and health professionals from the UK, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, he has also developed an interest in health policy and management, in particular areas relating to sustainability, accountability and leadership.

Dr Nicholas Combes
Consultant Clinical Neurophysiologist

Dr Nicholas Combes is a Consultant Clinical Neurophysiologist at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, particularly involved in the diagnosis of neuromuscular conditions. He has a strong interest in research with a record of involvement in collaborative research within the School of Sport and Exercise at the University of Birmingham, where he spent one year on a full time research attachment at the Applied Physiology Research Group looking at the mechanisms of physiological and pathological tremors. This included using the magnetoencephalograph facility at Aston University where he was appointed a Visiting Research Fellow. Research performed during that time led to several publications, both full papers and abstracts, which were included in his MD thesis. Previous to this Nick participated in research studies whilst working at the migraine clinic at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

Nick has experience using intramuscular and surface electromyography (EMG) in the diagnosis of Motor Neuron Disease (MND), but is particularly interested in the introduction of ultrasound for diagnosing conditions within neurophysiology that will lead to an improved patient experience rather than invasive concentric needle EMG procedures. His recent research collaboration is studying the use of ultrasound for the automated detection of fasciculations associated with MND. The team were awarded a prize at this year’s Research and Innovation Showcase event at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
Lancaster New Starters

Dr Martin Armer—Director of Communication Skills, Lancaster Medical School
Martin has worked on communication issues with ‘Doctors in Difficulty’ and GP Registrars (as they used to be called).

Dr Sean Cowlishaw—Lecturer, Health Research
Sean’s primary areas of research are in the fields of problem and pathological gambling (including effective treatments and psychiatric comorbidity with gambling disorders) and couple or family adjustment to individual psychological problems (e.g., Post-traumatic Stress Disorder; PTSD). He also has interests in the application of quantitative methods to various topics in organisational research (e.g., work-family interactions, volunteering) and longitudinal studies on healthy ageing.

Dr Neil Dawson—Lecturer, Biomedical and Life Sciences
Neil’s background is in Neuroscience (BSc (Hons) and PhD, University of Edinburgh) but more recently his research has involved the application of mathematical algorithms to complex biological data sets, including brain imaging and metabolomics data, to gain greater insight into how these biological systems are disrupted in psychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases.

Dr Derek Gatherer—Lecturer, Biomedical and Life Sciences
Derek became interested in how computers could be used for biology and completed the transition from the laboratory to bioinformatics in 1998. He spent four years working in the pharmaceutical industry, mostly working on analysis of the Human Genome Project dataset, but returned to academia in 2003 taking up a position at what is now the new MRC Centre for Virus Research in Glasgow.

Dr Peter Greasley—Teaching Fellow, Health Research
Peter has been involved in a number of projects using a variety of quantitative and qualitative approaches in applied settings relating to health and social services.

Professor Christian Holscher—Biomedical and Life Sciences
Christian’s research is focused on neurophysiological and pathophysiological process in the brain and in particular the processes in neurons that underlie Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. A main research topic is on the recently described connection between type 2 diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease and several novel GLP-1 incretin analogues have been investigated and show impressive effects in reducing degenerative symptoms in models of Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease.
Dr Siobhan Reilly—Senior Lecturer, Health Research
Siobhan’s research interests focus on mental health, dementia and service delivery and in particular the integration and coordination of health and social care services for people with mental health problems and for older people with long term conditions including those with dementia.

Professor Steven Sinkins—Biomedical and Life Sciences
Steven’s research focuses on the interactions between mosquitoes and Wolbachia inherited intracellular bacteria.

Dr Michael Urbaniak—Lecturer, Biomedical and Life Sciences
Michael’s background is in Chemistry (BSc and PhD), but his subsequent postdoctoral research at the University of Dundee focussed on the biology of the trypanosomatids. He has a track record of successfully translating his basic research into early stage drug discovery with the Dundee Drug Discovery Unit.

Dr Catherine Walshe—Senior Lecturer, Health Research
Catherine has a particular interest in palliative care research, especially within primary and community care settings. She is interested in the delivery and organisation of palliative care services, and the experiences and symptoms of those with palliative care needs.

Dr Quenton Wessels—Lecturer, Lancaster Medical School
Quenton’s research interests focus on wound healing and tissue engineering and thermoregulation in the internal vertebral venous plexus.

Dr Eugenio Zucchelli—Lecturer, Health Research
Eugenio’s current research includes the economics of addiction, health and labour supply, health behaviours and structural modelling.

Dr Elizabeth McDermott—Senior Lecturer, Health Research
Elizabeth’s research is concerned with mental health inequality especially in relation to age, sexuality, gender and social class.