Lancaster Health Hub

Welcome from Lancaster Health Hub Director

Welcome to the latest Hub newsletter. Its contents reflect the broad scope and purpose of the partnership’s remit for knowledge exchange, and its aim to drive locally-led research, innovation and professional development. The increasing scope of the Hub’s contacts and communications provides all the partners with even more opportunities to develop new links and collaborations.

The Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens, has made very clear his view that the NHS should be pro-research and pro-science, and that partnerships between the NHS and universities must have a key role in driving innovation to advance healthcare. Since its establishment in 2010 the Hub has grown into a strong platform for supporting and enabling such activities. The fact that the Hub’s purpose and strategy is clearly aligned with one of NHS England’s major priorities offers an excellent opportunity for all Hub partners to benefit from realising the very strong potential of the partnership over the next few years.

I hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter. My colleagues and I would like to take this opportunity to send best wishes of the season to you and your family.

Professor John Goodacre

Lancaster Health Innovation Campus

£17 million Government funding (through the Growth Fund via the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership) has been announced to help create the Lancaster Health Innovation Campus. The innovation campus, which will drive an integrated approach to healthcare and services for people who are growing older, will be created adjacent to the university campus at Bailrigg and will develop solutions to problems of ageing populations.

The campus is a response to a genuine need from industry and there will be a strong focus on working with businesses and healthcare providers to make advances in technologies, products and services.

The Innovation campus will:

- Capitalise on the research profile, collaborative strengths and business linkages of the University.
- Provide research and development activities and raise the profile of Lancaster University as an excellent partner for collaborative research.
- Improve graduate retention in the area.
- Mutually enhance the image and reputation of Lancaster, the region, the University and businesses.

For further details, please contact: David Gregson, Strategic Partnerships Manager

New national centre to tackle musculoskeletal problems in the workplace

Lancaster University is a major partner in a new £1.4m national Centre to reduce the impact of musculoskeletal disorders on employment. The Centre will bring together the Lancaster Health Hub, The Work Foundation and colleagues in all faculties of the University as well as 7 other universities. The Centre is led nationally by the University of Southampton, with Lancaster University co-ordinating links and activities between the three other universities in the north west region (Liverpool, Manchester and Salford) to maximise the output and impact of the Centre across the entire region. For further details please contact Prof John Goodacre, who is the North West regional lead for the Centre.

Lancaster University welcomes new Dean of Health and Medicine

The Faculty of Health and Medicine welcomed Professor Neil Johnson as Dean on 1st August 2014. Neil previously held the post of Pro-Dean for Education at the Warwick Medical School and worked as a General Medical Practitioner.

Professor Neil Johnson said "I am absolutely delighted to be joining the team at Lancaster. The University and Faculty already have excellent reputations for both teaching and research and as a result I believe the Faculty should be very ambitious about its future. I very much hope that the experience I can bring will support the Faculty in its next phase of development and to achieve its rightful place nationally and internationally."

Health and Medicine at Lancaster brings together several key areas including ageing and neurodegenerative disease, end of life care, public health, mental health and infectious disease.

For further details, please contact: Prof John Goodacre
Our International Work

Hub attends first Vision2020 Event

Dr Sabir Giga represented Lancaster Health Hub at Vision2020’s first Horizon 2020 Health Thematic event in Leuven, Belgium, on 8th and 9th September 2014. The aim of the event was to discuss and prepare position papers for two priority areas of the next set of Horizon 2020 Work Programmes: Infectious diseases and Oncology.

Vision2020 acts as a hub linking Horizon 2020 partners from universities, research organisations and SMEs, and works to maximise the value and Horizon 2020 funding its members can obtain.

Hub joins ECH Alliance

Lancaster Health Hub has recently become an Alliance Partner member of the European Connected Health Alliance. Connected health is an umbrella term which includes eHealth, mHealth, telehealth, telecare, pHealth, digital health and other terms which promote the use of technology in healthcare. The ECH Alliance provides a partnership of organisations, companies and government bodies to transform healthcare delivery and create economic benefits. For further information about the ECH Alliance, see: http://www.echalliance.com/

The ECH Alliance, in partnership with the North West Coast Academic Health Science Network, has launched the 'North West Coast Ecosystem' which brings together representatives from the NHS, local councils, academic organisations and Industry to work on connected health initiatives in the North West Coast area.

Hub explores links with China

The Lancaster-China Catalyst programme aims to exploit the global links of Lancaster University for the benefit of UK companies.

For more information www.lancaster.ac.uk/china-catalyst/

Our work with Industry

Hub supports Bionow award for Mapmyhealth

Bionow Annual Dinner Awards—27 November 2014

The Bionow Technical Service Award, sponsored by North West Coast Academic Health Science Network, was won by Mapmyhealth for their Mapmydiabetes product. Mapmyhealth has been collaborating with the Lancaster Health Hub on the product where Dr Sally Spencer is PI on a joint evaluation project. The prestigious Bionow Awards evening, the highlight of the biomedical calendar, was sponsored by Manchester Science Partnerships and World Courier, and showcased the very best of companies and businesses, located in the north of the UK, in the life sciences sector.

The evening which was hosted by Dr John Stageman OBE, Chair of Bionow and Dr Geoff Davison, CEO of Bionow was attended by over 350 guests.

Dr Sally Spencer with Matt Goodman and Iain Brogan from Mapmyhealth Ltd
Recent Events

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust Clinical Research Nursing team were winners at the national Nursing Times Awards for their outstanding work relating to dementia care and treatment. You can find out more information about the evening and the full list of winners by visiting www.ntawards.co.uk.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Showcase, “Realities of Research”, 21 November 2014 This was the most popular event to date for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. The keynote speakers were Simon Denegri, Chair of INVOLVE and NIHR National Director for Public Participation and Engagement in Research and Rita Long, a Service User Researcher who provided a national and user perspective on involving patients in research.

There was a choice of workshops offered to delegates—Introduction to Research Design Service, Writing Conference Abstracts, NIHR Fellowships and Getting Published. The day was completed by a high quality poster competition. Eighteen abstracts were submitted and scored by Research Committee members, before twelve posters were made available to be seen and scored throughout the day. The winner: J Hands, G N Clemens, R W Lea, K Ashton, T Dawson, C Davis, M J Baker (2014) illuminating the future of cancer diagnosis via serum atr-fftir spectroscopy were presented the award by Karen Partington.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, “Improving health and wellbeing through research” conference, 17th October 2014

The Trust was thrilled to welcome more than 80 delegates including Trust staff, service users and external partners. A huge thank you to the Health Hub for being a valued exhibitor at the event, which we’re sure will have helped to stimulate many future collaborations! Feedback was really positive and highlighted a real appetite in the organisation to build on existing research achievements. Key note presentations covered the Trust’s diverse portfolio of research including mental health, rheumatology, dementia, public health, respiratory nursing, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy research as well as stimulating debate on the most effective ways of involving patients, carers and the public in research and how clinicians can get started in research. The Trust is always looking for new research ventures and collaborators – please get in touch at research@lancashirecare.nhs.uk.

An animation of the conference is also available—Conference animation.

NWC AHSN First Annual Celebration Event

The North West Coast Academic Health Science Network (NWC AHSN) held its inaugural annual celebration event on 11th December 2014. Professor Neil Johnson, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medicine Dean (pictured top, far left with Prof John Goodacre and Dr Hakim Yadi, NHSA) presented the vision for the Lancaster Health Innovation Campus.

The keynote speaker was Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham, Shadow Secretary of State for Health (below, right). Also pictured is Andrew Leeming from Lancashire County Council with David Gregson and Professor Tony Gatrell from Lancaster University.

Calderstones 2nd Research Showcase Event “Excellence in Research Innovation & Collaboration”, 17th October 2014. Calderstones Research and Development Department welcomed almost 100 delegates to the Mercure Foxfields Hotel in Billington chaired by Dr Sally Spencer from the Lancaster Health Hub. Professor Kenneth Wilson, Clinical Director for the Clinical Research Network: North West Coast gave an inspiring keynote speech on the importance of engaging in research to benefit the patients, staff and public and complimented and encouraged Calderstones clinicians in their involvement in achieving this. For more information visit here.

NWC CRN Launch Event at the Radisson Blu, Liverpool was held on 2 December 2014. Along with the Minister of Life Sciences, George Freeman MP, other speakers on the day included Dr Jonathan Sheffield, Chief Executive of NIHR CRN, Professor Alistair Burns, National Clinical Director for Dementia in England, and Simon Denegri, Chair of INVOLVE and National Director for Public Participation and Engagement in Research.

...and finally!

Congratulations to Bethan, our Hub Administrator who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl! Both Mother and baby are doing well.
In this edition of the newsletter we profile some current Hub projects at various stages of development. For information on any of the project please contact Dr Steve Milan, Project Development Manager.

**Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

**Public health smoking cessation intervention**

**Project Team:** Rachel Swindells, Mark Limmer (LU)

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are currently working collaboratively with Lancaster University, with the support of the Hub, to develop a research project which will focus on the impact of public health interventions in the secondary care setting on the recovery and health outcomes of patients. A Public Health Research Associate post is being recruited to support the project, employed by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals and with an honorary contract with Lancaster University. The work will initially focus on the impact of the Smoking cessation secondary care project, running over a 12 months period, with the anticipation that a developed model can then be applied to other areas of public health and that further funding is secured to expand the scope of the project.

**Calderstones Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

**Qualitative research to identify potential intervention to improve knowledge of substance/alcohol abuse**

**Project Team:** Karen Currell, Ian Paylor (LU) and Cheryl Simmill Binning (LU)

It is apparent from the literature that we know very little about substance use among offenders with learning disabilities. This is an ethically sensitive area but does that mean that we should not consider the issue? Working in partnership with clients and practitioners in a specialist NHS Trust we will be looking to develop an ethically sound and methodological safe research approach to these challenging matters. It is intended in the longer term to gain funding to research and develop a programme to improve clients’ greater knowledge and self-efficacy through a better understanding of their experience of substance misuse.

**Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

**Oncology database**

**Project Team:** Alison Birtle, Ruth Board and Pete Sawyer (LU)

When a patient consults a prostate cancer specialist, a wealth of information is collected in a mixture of paper and electronic media. This can result in poor fidelity and limits what can be retrieved afterwards. Our proposed solution is to develop software to support the incremental collection and storage of information about symptoms, patient quality of life, experience and context, along with clinical notes, investigations and diagnoses. Over time the software will serve as a research tool, facilitating mining of the data for patterns and correlations, potentially leading to new avenues of clinical investigation.

**University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust**

**Influenza C research**

**Project Team:** Mark Wilkinson and Derek Gatherer (LU)

Influenza C is not included in the seasonal flu vaccination, but is now recognised as a potentially significant cause of pneumonia in the under-2s, and the elderly. This collaborative project between Lancaster University and Lancaster Royal Infirmary will screen respiratory patients to answer some basic questions: How common is influenza C? How serious are the cases? Is it seasonal like other flu viruses? Are some strains more dangerous than others? Should we include influenza C in the seasonal vaccination? Funding for an intercalated medical student to work on the project has already been obtained and we are seeking further funding for laboratory costs.

**University of Cumbria**

**Gardening as an occupational therapy intervention with people with a learning disability**

**Project Team:** Julie Taylor (UC) and Amanda Bingley (LU)

Colleagues from Lancaster University, Calderstones Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Cumbria are working to develop a research proposal in collaboration with patients from the Calderstones ‘step down’ service. The step down provision is supported community housing for individuals. Its aim is to offer the most appropriate service in line with the service users need and their treatment pathway- this may have included being detained in medium and low secure accommodation in the past. The overarching aim of the project, currently in the scoping phase, is to explore the impact of gardening on community living and wellbeing. The initial meeting identified a shared commitment to service user engagement and so rapidly concluded that no further progress would be possible until service users were involved in the consultations.

**For more information on the Lancaster Health Hub, please contact:-**

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