

Research Forum for Allied Health Professions

September 2006

Issue 4

New Chairman Appointed

Professor Jackie Campbell was elected to succeed Professor Wesley Vernon as chair of the Research Forum for Allied Health Professions. Below Jackie introduces herself and shares ideas for the future on developing the role of the research forum:

I must confess to being a bit amazed when I heard that I'd been nominated for the Chair of the RFAHP, after all, I'd only just joined! Not only that, but I'm not even an AHP. However, I was assured that having an election for the position would be A Good Thing, so I agreed. And then, wouldn't you know it, the other nominee dropped out leaving me unopposed.

However, I wouldn't have agreed to stand if I wasn't prepared to do the job properly, if elected. And, on reflection, I think I can make a fair fist of it. Although I'm not a registered health professional, I've been working in the field of AHP

I have a long track record in research development and capacity building in nursing and the AHP's.



New chairman Professor Jackie Campbell with previous chairman Professor Wesley

research for many years now. I have been on the R&D Board of the College of Occupational Therapists; I am on the Board of Governors of Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy (and Chair their of Research Ethics and Research Degrees Committees); I was on the Board of the Anglia and Oxford R&D Ambulance Consortium; I used to be the appointed educationalist member of the Arts Therapists Board of CPSM and I'm currently the part-time research coordinator for the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists. I also have a long track record in research development and capacity building in nursing and the AHPs and

have conducted a fair amount of primary research in areas usually associated with AHPs.

My background is fairly complex. I got my first degree in physics from Liverpool University and, after a year's sabbatical as President of the Students union there, went to the University of Surrey to do an MSc in Medical Physics.

From there I went back to Liverpool to a research post with the University, Walton Hospital and a research charity (the Pain Relief Foundation), where I worked on pain research and also got my PhD. This really gave me a passion for inter-disciplinary/multi-professional working which I still retain. After about 10 years of working on one research grant or another and a family on the way, I thought I'd better get a proper job so came into Higher Education as a junior physics lecturer at, the then, Nene College. I subsequently became the Head of Health and Life Science after one of many reorganisations, which is where I began to learn much more about the AHPs and nursing. Eventually (after another reorganisation) I was the Head of Research and Development for the Centre for Healthcare Education and was subsequently awarded a personal chair as Professor of Neurophysiology and the institution went onto become the University of Northampton. At the last reorganisation, I opted to leave my full-time post but have retained a 0.3fte professorial post there in addition to

branching out as a free-lance research consultant. It is in this capacity that I now work as the research coordinator for the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists, and hence have a seat on the RFAHP.

I was asked to indicate what I would be working towards achieving in my term of office as Chair. These statements always end up sounding pompous and I guess this one will too, but I think we are at a really important time for furthering the national AHP R&D agenda. I know that Liz White, Wesley Vernon and others have done tremendous work in lobbying for the voice of the AHPs to be heard in the crucial implementation phase of Best Research for Best Health and I intend to continue that work, acting as a constant reminder to the policy makers and implementers of the vital role of AHPs in providing evidence for best patient and client care in all settings, and acting as a go-between to facilitate the involvement of AHPs in the research future of health and social care. That's it in a nutshell really. I look forward to my term of office. If it's not a challenge, then I'm not doing the job properly!

Professor Jackie Campbell

Chairman RFAHP

Professional Body Updates

British and Irish Orthoptic Society



June 2006 saw the introduction of the new British and Irish Orthoptic website. Features for members include an interactive calendar for recording professional development. A dedicated research section offers advice on how to commence research, latest developments and funding opportunities.

Society and College of Radiographers



Mrs Rachel Harris is the new professional officer for research from May 2006. She can be contacted at rachelh@sor.org

The RCR and SCoR is preparing for the 'Pump Priming Awards'. These grants are awarded annually to foster research into medical imaging. They are intended to 'pump prime' individuals, collaborations, ideas or institutions. Further information can be obtained from [Gill Smith](#) or [Nan Parkinson](#)

The SCoR Research Fund: As part of the SCoR's commitment to the implementation of its Research Strategy and Five Year Plan, the organisation is funding small awards for projects related to any aspect of the science and practice of radiography. Bids may be made up to £2,000 for small projects and £5,000 for one larger project. Bids exceeding these amounts will be considered but the total awards expenditure made by the SCoR each year will be £25,000

British Dietetic Association



Dietetic Research Network

Two groups of dietitians keen to promote and support research within the profession have now joined together to form the Dietetic Research Network, previously The London Research dietitians group and the National

Research Support Network. The aim of the network is to provide support and encouragement to any dietitian wanting to get more involved in research. The new group is currently working to design a framework to make this happen and are looking to collaborate with the National Physiotherapy Research Network.

BDA Conference

Took place on June 20-22nd. Thirty three posters of original research accepted and six oral presentations. As a new initiative all poster applicants were asked to do a 5 minute presentation during chaired poster rounds. This was extremely well attended with good feedback, so we intend to continue to include these chaired poster rounds at all future BDA conferences.

The posters were judged and 'best poster' prize given for two categories. The prize winners were:

Community projects

Andrea Basu: Fit for public consumption? An exploratory study of nutrition research reported in UK tabloid and public attitudes towards it.

Clinical projects

Angela Reddy: Cardiovascular risk factors in patients after renal transplantation.

Annual Research Award

£1000 awarded to the best application for a piece of original research. Has been awarded to Laura Brown, a community dietitian working in Barnsley. The main focus of her work is health promotion and community development, but also includes GP clinics and domiciliary visits. Her winning proposal was: "To describe and analyse the current involvement of care home staff in nutritional care of residents and explore the relationship between the nature of the involvement and the wider organisational and policy contexts in which it occurs".

National Institute for Health Research Faculty – Stakeholder Consultation Workshop

Dr. Gabrielle Rankin from the Chartered Society for Physiotherapists gives a review on the stakeholder workshop held on 20th June 2006

Background

Best Research for Best Health sets out a 5-year Research and Development Strategy for the NHS in England.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPAmpGBrowsableDocument/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4127225&chk=SDax2D

One key component of the strategy is the National Institute for Health Research Faculty (NIHR Faculty). This is a virtual institute which aims to provide world-class support to those who conduct and participate in health research for the benefit of patients in the NHS and the wider public. Details about the Faculty can be found in Implementation Plan 3.1 of *Best Research for Best Health*.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPAmpGBrowsableDocument/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4127225&chk=SDax2D

Key points about Faculty Membership

Researchers from diverse professional backgrounds and experience will be invited to join the Faculty
Eligible Faculty members may be funded by the NHS directly, or funded by the NHS indirectly through partner universities

There will be honorary membership for employees of NIHR partners

Selection standards and criteria will be tailored to recognise differences between membership

categories, professions and specialities.

Categories of membership

NIHR Senior Investigators and Honorary NIHR

Senior Investigators – leaders of research

NIHR Investigators and Honorary NIHR Investigators

– key collaborators in research

NIHR Clinical Lecturers, Academic Clinical Fellows,

NIHR Fellows and Students – next generation of researchers

The Faculty will be established from April 2007. An NIHR Faculty Implementation Group (FIG) has been formed to support the successful establishment and operation of the Faculty. Details of the FIG membership can be found at http://www.nihr.ac.uk/files/pdfs/NIHR_FIG_Membership_v1.pdf

The AHP Research Forum and individual professional bodies have expressed concern that there is no AHP representation on the FIG. Professor Dame Jill Macleod Clarke sits on the Group as Chair of the Council of Deans and we have been in communication with her whilst continuing to lobby for direct AHP representation.

AHP representatives were invited to a NIHR FIG Stakeholder Workshop on 20 June and the event was attended by the Chair of the AHP Research Forum, Wesley Vernon; the Convenor, Liz White; 2 Forum members Mary Hickson and Gabrielle Rankin; Professor Ann Moore, Clinical Research Centre for Health Professions, University of Brighton and Sue Roulstone, Speech and Language Therapy, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol.

Workshop

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To engage with a range of stakeholders, to listen to their views and understand their contexts in more depth
- To consider the potential membership of the NIHR Faculty and the processes for selection, including criteria
- To identify key implementation issues to be addressed going forward

The day was introduced by Ron Kerr, Chairman of the NIHR FIG and Sarah Fox, Head of R&D Workforce, Department of Health gave background information and strategic context to the Best Research for Best Health Strategy and the NIHR Faculty. The remainder of the day was divided into 3 main sessions to discuss the purpose and intentions of the Faculty, membership and selection processes and implementing the Faculty.

Overall, there was a certain frustration that the aims and purpose of the Faculty remained unclear, making it difficult to consider specific aspects of the Faculty, for example, membership. However, delegates were told that the purpose of the day was for us to help shape the Faculty and whilst this is welcomed, the exact process for achieving this is not yet transparent.

There appear to be two major agendas: protection of current research funding and supporting high quality clinical research for patient benefit. It was acknowledged that it will be a challenge to fulfil both.

Most of the issues raised by all stakeholders during the workshop were similar to and relevant to the AHPs' issues. A summary of all the discussions should be available on the NIHR website shortly www.nihr.ac.uk

Key points raised in relation to AHPs:

- The need for AHP representation on the FIG
- AHPs do not have a clinical academic career structure – this needs to be urgently addressed in a similar way as for doctors and nurses.

The Faculty will predominantly benefit clinical academics / current NHS clinical researchers which will seriously disadvantage AHP researchers

Need to consider issues around integrating NHS and university organisational structures.

There was strong consensus in relation to defining and assessing quality, that this should not simply replicate other processes such as HEFCE RAE criteria but should reflect value and benefit to the NHS.

Conclusions

Ron Kerr and Sarah Fox summarised some of the main messages from the day:

- The benefits of Faculty membership and a clear statement of purpose is needed as well as a clear picture of what success will look like
- There will be risks associated with all of the decisions made in relation to establishing the Faculty and these need to be clearly identified and managed
- The benefits of individual vs. research team membership needs consideration as well as portability of membership
- Need to resolve how to measure research quality which is specific to NHS research
- Patient and public involvement needs further consideration.

Following discussion with Ron Kerr at the end of the workshop in relation to AHP representation on the FIG, it was agreed that the AHP Research Forum would nominate a member with whom he would communicate directly by e-mail. At the AHP Research Forum meeting on 14 July 2006 it was agreed that this contact person would be the newly elected Chair, Professor Jackie Campbell.

Dr. Gabrielle Rankin

CSP

Allied



Health Professions Forum

Next Meeting

**Monday 16
October
2006**

**@
The
Boardroom,
Central
Services
Agency,
Franklin
Street,
Belfast,
N.Ireland.**

**Time
11.00am**

Professional Body Updates Continued

Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists



The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists have appointed Professor Jackie Campbell as their first Research Coordinator. Although this appointment is for only 4 days a month in the first instance, it represents a major step forward in promoting research activity within the profession and is in response to the Society's research strategy which was approved in 2004. Jackie began this role in January 2005 and is delighted with the reception that she has received, reflecting members' enthusiasm for both the appointment and the Society's commitment to research and evidence-based practice and policy.

To date, the research interests of members of the Society have been represented by a Special Interest Group, the Podiatric Research Forum. Although this forum has representation on one of the Society's

Faculty Boards, it was a member-only group and as such did not serve the whole of the Society's membership. The Society has now established a Research and Development Committee within the College of Podiatrists, reporting directly to the Board of Governors of the College. This move has now firmly established R&D as central to the business of the professional body and we look forward to the increased profile for podiatry research that this will bring.

College of Occupational Therapists



Annual Awards: 2007 awards for education, research and continuing professional development will be advertised from mid-August. Includes a new COT sponsored research capacity award towards course fees for the final year of Master's or PhD study where the topic area meets one of the College's identified research priority areas

STOP PRESS!! HTA Funding for Art Therapists

MATISSE:

A randomised trial of art therapy for people with schizophrenia

An NCC:HTA funded clinical trial to examine the effects and cost-effectiveness of interactive group art therapy for people with schizophrenia.

A consortium, headed by Dr Mike Crawford (Imperial College) Dr Helen Killaspy (University College London) and Professor Diane Waller (Goldsmiths College), has been awarded £809,000 over 3 years, by the Health Technology Assessment, for the above mentioned project. This will be located in four sites in the UK: North London, West London, Avon and Wiltshire, Northern Ireland and Peterborough.

Arts Therapies Advisory Group, The British Dietetic Association, British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists, British and Irish Orthoptic Society, British Association/College of Occupational Therapists, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, Society and College of Radiographers, Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists.

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