Welcome to the first edition of Research Roundup

Research Roundup aims to share information and news among all nurses and midwives working in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde who are interested in research, or might be in the future. Research Roundup will be issued every six months.

The NHS Greater and Glasgow Nursing and Nursing Research Strategy was written by a working group chaired by Mari Brannigan, Nurse Director for Partnerships, and launched at the RCN International Research Conference which was held in April 2014. The strategy has a Steering Group, comprising of senior managers and professional leaders from the Acute and Partnership Divisions and representatives from the three universities with nursing departments.

In this issue you can read about what has been happening to start the process of implementing the strategy to increase research capacity and capability among nurses and midwives in NHS GGC and strengthen links with local HEIs with the overall aim of improving practice and patient care.

Executive Nurse Director Rosslyn Crockett launches the NHS GGC Nursing and Midwifery Research Strategy
NHS GGC Nursing and Midwifery Research Strategy – Progress so Far

The NHS GGC Nursing and Midwifery Research Strategy (NMRS) aims to support the development and ensure the sustainability of a NHS GGC wide nursing and midwifery research community of practice across. The strategy draws extensively from NHS Lothian’s NMAHP research framework. A structure to support the implementation of the strategy, has been established. This comprises a steering group to oversee the implementation of the strategy, Clinical Area Research Groups for each area (at present there are 13 CARGs) and an Operational Management Group consisting of all the CARG research leads.

For more information about CARGs see page 7, and to find out the Research Lead for your clinical area see page 8.

NHS GGC NURSING AND MIDWIFERY RESEARCH STRATEGY STRUCTURE

STEERING GROUP
Chair - Nurse Director for Partnerships
Members – Representatives of Nursing and Midwifery, NHSGGC, HEI’s

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT GROUP
Chair – Clinical Nurse Lead – Applied R&D
Members – Research Leads for Clinical Area Research Groups

CLINICAL AREA RESEARCH GROUPS (CARGs)
(one CARG for each clinical area)
Chair - Research Lead for Clinical Area
Research fellowships at Glasgow Caledonian University

Glasgow Clinical Research Facility and Glasgow Caledonian University are co-funding two research fellowships which will allow two NHS GGC nurses/ midwives to spend two days per week for two years to work with an established research team within the School of Health and Life Sciences at GCU. This will provide an opportunity for the research fellows to build up research skills while actively developing collaborative working between nurse/ midwife academics at GCU and their clinical areas. Two other research fellowships, open to nurses and midwives from all local NHS Boards, are also being funded by GCU. The fellowships have been advertised and interviews set up.

Prestigious research award for Intensive Care Nurse Jo

Joanne McPeake has been awarded a Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional (NMAHP) Research Re-engagement Fellowship by the Chief Scientist Office at the Scottish Government. This three year Clinical Academic Fellowship post is a partnership between NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and the Academic Unit and Anaesthesia, Pain and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Glasgow. Throughout the duration of the Fellowship, Joanne will work clinically in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Glasgow Royal Infirmary one day a week, with the remaining part of her time dedicated to undertaking patient focussed research. The main research themes which will be explored during the Fellowship period are: alcohol related admissions to the critical care environment and improving the quality of life of ICU survivors.

Jo explained: “While many lives are saved by admission to ICU, some patients, regardless of their prior health, never regain the quality of life they had before ICU. At present, I am involved in a multi disciplinary quality improvement project which aims to improve the quality of life of patients who have been critically unwell. Intensive Care Syndrome: Promoting Independence and Return to Employment (InS:PIRE), has been generously supported through a Health Foundation Shine (2014) Award, and seeks to reduce GP visitations in this cohort of patients and give individuals greater control over their health and well being. This project will run for a year between September 2014 and 2015. In the next year, I will also submit my PhD thesis which is entitled ‘The health and social consequences of alcohol related admissions to critical care’.”
Farewell and Good Luck to Grace Lindsay

Grace Lindsay has retired from her position as Lead Nurse for Nursing Clinical Research, in the Acute Division. Grace held this post between Glasgow Caledonian University and NHS GGC, from when it was set up in 2002. The post was instigated by Professor Margaret Smith, then Director of Nursing and Professor Barbara Parfitt, then Head of Nursing at Glasgow Caledonian University to promote linking research and clinical priorities. As well as providing a link between academia and practice, Grace had a specific remit to support nursing research within the Acute Division of NHS GGC. She also undertook specific research projects, latterly carrying out an exploration of senior charge nurses’ roles in the context of Leading Better Care.

Throughout her time in post, Grace worked with Margo Simpson in the management of Glasgow Royal Infirmary Research Endowments, first as a committee member and latterly as chair.

In reflecting about twelve years in post Grace said: “If I was to pick one area of my post I enjoyed most I have no hesitation in choosing the Local Research Ethics Committee (LREC 3). Under the steermanship of Dr Brian Neilly, myself and committee compatriots pitched up with dogged regularity to our ‘first Friday of the month’ calling. From a researcher’s perspective it in many ways was a ‘full circle’ perspective. Examining the aims and aspirations (sometimes motives!) of the applications and their creators was not always an easy process with various perspectives coming to light. I found it particularly satisfying to be able to suggest ways to improve methods to increase the feasibility of completing studies.”

Grace supervised Masters dissertations and doctoral theses, with two students completing PhDs with Grace as Director of Studies. In addition, Grace taught research methods and aspects of advance practice from the perspective of accountability. Grace was also awarded research funding, presented at local and international conferences and published more than thirty papers and book chapters.

“...I found it particularly satisfying to be able to suggest ways to improve methods to increase the feasibility of completing studies.”

Results of three surveys to assess current research capacity and capability among NHS GGC nurses and midwives

Survey of all nurses and midwives
A survey was sent to all nurses and midwives in NHS GGC to identify those who are research active or are interested in becoming involved in research in the future. The 100 nurses and midwives who responded positively, plus others identified through networking, have created a small cohort who will form the basis of a research community to target with information about future opportunities for research training, funding and other research activities.

Survey of managers and professional leaders
Forty – seven responses were received. Factors identified as supportive to research included supportive managers, medical consultants and professional leaders. Nurse consultants, PD nurses, and educational leads, were seen as potential key players in taking forward the research strategy, with KSF and PDPs being useful tools for making research activities.

Barriers to nurses and midwives’ involvement in research identified included: lack of time and support, with increased workloads being highlighted across clinical areas.

Supports required were: dedicated time and research support, advice, appointment of local research leads and an increase in PDN posts.

Priority areas identified by managers were mainly related to patient experience and patient centred care, usually concerning issues pertinent to their clinical areas.

Survey of nurse consultants
A questionnaire to the eight nurse consultants identified this group of nurses as being enthusiastic and well placed to lead the development of nursing and midwifery research capacity and capability within NHS GGC.

Some nurse consultants already have well established links with academia and they are all involved in research to varying degrees. Nurse consultants are establishing themselves as key players in leading the development of research within their clinical areas.
Eileen Salmon’s research journey started many years ago when she stumbled on an idea while debating how to improve service user involvement in student practice assessment. This led to discussions with primary care mental health nurse colleagues and academics which resulted in Eileen, who is now Professional Nurse Advisor for West Glasgow and West Dumbartonshire, registering for a Master in Research degree. The topic of Eileen’s thesis is: Exploring primary care service users contribution to mental health student practice learning experience.

Asked to describe her experience of undertaking her Masters Degree in Research, Eileen said: “The MRes is an exciting but lonely route to travel as there are no classmates or indeed any classes to attend…. it’s just you conducting research from beginning to end with support from your research supervisor. Although the prospect of embarking on research is very daunting initially, you quickly sharpen your project management skills, hone analytical skills, harness report writing and develop critical reflection.”

Asked to describe important landmarks she encountered during her research journey Eileen reflected:

“The MRes programme provides an exciting opportunity to develop and manage your own primary research, enabling nurses to develop their practice as well as contributing to the expanding healthcare evidence base.”

“During the MRes there were a few key moments of ‘firsts’ that assisted my development. The ‘first’ time facing a Research and Ethics Committee immediately highlights the fact that your idea has matured into a viable project. The ‘first’ data collection period when there is a poor response highlights that real life research doesn’t always go according to plan. The ‘first’ time you have to defend your work (viva) you realise how much you have learned, how much you enjoy being a researcher and the dawning of realisation that this was just the ‘first’ leg of the actual research journey.”

Eileen is enthusiastic about promoting this route for research training: “The MRes programme provides an exciting opportunity to develop and manage your own primary research, enabling nurses to develop their practice as well as contributing to the expanding healthcare evidence base. The MRes is supported through the NHSGGC/UWS Service Level Agreement and comes highly recommended.”
For nurses and midwives with a particular interest in research

If you have received Research Roundup directly from Rhona Hogg, you are on a list of research interested nurses and midwives compiled via survey responses or by personal contact. You may receive extra information about research opportunities directly as well as via the general mechanisms of cascading information. If you do not wish to be sent targeted information please contact Rhona Hogg to unsubscribe.

If you have received Research Roundup via the usual mechanisms for cascading information and would like to receive targeted information about research opportunities please e-mail Rhona to have your name added to the list of research interested nurses and midwives.

Would you like to receive information about research opportunities, funding, training etc?

Webpages on the NHS GGC website Nursing Portal will soon be set up. These will provide up to date information about resources and news of interest to aspiring and established nurse/ midwife researchers in NHS GGC.

A Beginner’s Guide to Research for Nurses and Midwives will soon be available. The guide will provide information about the processes and approvals required at each stage of a research study.
Research groups are currently being set up in each clinical area. The Clinical Area Research Groups (CARGs) will initially focus on setting up mechanisms to celebrate Masters dissertations and ensure that the findings are shared and discussed with colleagues, managers and professional leaders in relation developing services. Also, CARGs will determine priority areas for research within each clinical area and ensure future Masters dissertations address these areas. CARGs will provide support and mentoring (not academic supervision) to nurses and midwives while they are undertaking their research studies to establish clear links between academia and practice, and to acknowledge the importance of research undertaken by NHS GGC nurses and midwives to clinical practice.

Research Leads for most clinical areas have now been appointed and some CARGs have been established. It is expected that the CARGs will change over time – some may merge or split, new ones may be set up and others may be discontinued. Once the CARGs are established we will move forward to build on existing clinical academic collaborations and establish new ones to develop nursing and midwifery research which is of direct relevance to practice.

See back page for details for Research Leads who have been appointed.

Rhona Hogg — Clinical Nurse Lead for Applied R&D

Glasgow born and bred, Rhona trained in Edinburgh and since then has lived and worked in Edinburgh until taking up post here in November 2013. After many years working as a health visitor she undertook a two year research training fellowship at Edinburgh University, funded jointly by the Scottish Government and NHS Lothian and used this work as a basis for her PhD. Prior to taking up her current post, Rhona worked in the recently formed Edinburgh Health Services Research Unit as research lead for community nursing and qualitative research facilitator. Rhona was involved in developing the NMAHP research strategy and clinical academic career pathway for NHS Lothian. Speaking about her appointment in NHS GGC Rhona said: “I am delighted to be back in Glasgow to lead the implementation of the NHS GGC Nursing and Midwifery Research Strategy and its action plan. Although nurses and midwives and their managers and professional leaders are having to contend with immense changes including the move of many services to the new South Hospital and the integration of health and social care services, there is enthusiasm and support to increase research activity and clinical academic collaboration in nursing and midwifery. I have been impressed with the energy and “can do” attitude within NHS GGC, exemplified by a willingness to incorporate the research agenda into all the other developments currently happening across the Board.”
## Clinical Area Research Group (CARG) Leads

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<tr>
<th>Clinical Area</th>
<th>Research Lead</th>
<th>Job Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children and Families and Community Children's Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Nursing and Specialist Services</td>
<td>Dr Kirsteen Cameron</td>
<td>Practice Development Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health/ Learning Disabilities/ Addictions/ Prison Service/ CAMHs</td>
<td>Catriona Kent</td>
<td>Nurse Consultant for Psychosocial Therapies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Health</td>
<td>Lorraine Forster</td>
<td>Head of Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>Diane Clarke</td>
<td>Senior Midwife, Practice Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatrics and Neonates</td>
<td>Melanie Hutton</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancer Services</td>
<td>Dr Cathy Hutchison</td>
<td>Cancer Consultant Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other regional services</td>
<td>Not yet confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgery and Anaesthetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Care and Medical Services</td>
<td>Dr Mark Cooper</td>
<td>Lecturer/ Practitioner</td>
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<td>Dementia</td>
<td>Sandra Shields</td>
<td>Alzheimers Scotland Nurse Consultant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bladder and Bowel Service</td>
<td>Dr Rona Agnew</td>
<td>Service Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRF</td>
<td>Chloe Cowan</td>
<td>Lead Nurse, CRF</td>
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What’s happening on the research front in your area?

If you have any research news from your own area that you would like to share and celebrate via Research Roundup please contact Rhona.Hogg@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.