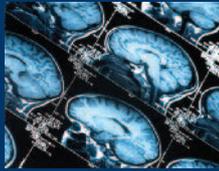




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Newsletter

CHSS
University of Kent

Centre for Health Services Studies

Issue 15 / Spring 2014

Investing in the future of general practice in Kent

CHSS received funding in March to establish the Kent Academic Primary Care Unit. (KAPCU). This is an initiative to support development and training of primary care practitioners in Kent and to develop primary care research. Professor Abdol Tavabie, Chair of Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery awarded Health Education England funds to CHSS for the set up of the unit. The unit will be managed within CHSS and it is hoped that KAPCU's work will mean improved patient services across Kent.

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Excellence in health research

CHSS Research News

Community singing – hope for COPD sufferers?

Research by CHSS Professor of Health Services Simon Coulton, shows that singing has significant potential to improve the health of older people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The Sidney de Haan Research Centre at Canterbury Christ Church University led a nine month study funded by The Dunhill Medical Trust. The project examined the impact of weekly group singing for people with COPD, on lung function, breathlessness and quality of life.

The research team monitored these indicators using various tests, including lung spirometry at the start, mid-point and end of the study. Feedback showed that those taking part enjoyed the social aspects of the singing group and also reported improvements in their breathing, activity levels and general wellbeing.

Singing group activity (including postural and breathing techniques) is good moderate cardiovascular exercise for those with COPD and shows a training effect on lung function.

Professor Simon Coulton said: 'Our findings suggest that singing is beneficial not only for breathing, but also general physical, psychological and social wellbeing. These health improvements and positive feedback are encouraging as COPD is a progressive illness, and we would normally expect to see some decline in health over ten months'.

For further information go to: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/research/coulton.html

Read the report: www.canterbury.ac.uk/Research/Documents/COPDSummaryReport.pdf

The BBC reports on the findings: www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25231910



CHSS leads two patient-centred projects for East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust



Reader in Applied Health Research, Jenny Billings, is leading two new projects on behalf of East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust. The first, 'An exploration of the use and perception of informal clinical handover notes', centres on the practice of junior doctors and nurses using informal 'handover lists' of patient information.

When a hospital shift ends, doctors and nurses hand over information about their patients to the incoming team. Under governance procedures NHS clinical information should be recorded in formal clinical notes. Yet in everyday clinical practice, the recording of some information is done more informally, using 'handover lists' when shifts change.

Using an anonymised sample of handover notes to examine the nature and quality of information recorded, Jenny will make recommendations to improve practice. The study will be used to inform further proposed research around these issues.

Jenny said: 'This nine month study will be looking at how, why and when doctors and nurses use this method to transfer information. How do they see it differing from their formal notes, and would they change their behaviour if this practice were formalised? These are really important questions, and we need a better understanding of this informal practice so that we can see how to make improvements'.

Jenny is also undertaking the 'Independent analysis of East Kent outpatients consultation', a patient survey aimed at improving outpatient services across Kent.

What do East Kent patients want from their outpatient services? This survey has been gauging public opinion of East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust's new Outpatient Clinical Strategy, ultimately aiming to improve outpatient facilities and access across the region. CHSS will design and develop instruments to gather the information using online and written surveys, and public feedback sheets. Researchers will collect relevant demographic information including respondents' age range, sex, location and which outpatients departments they use.

The team will collect and analyse the data according to whether respondents favour the proposed changes or prefer to keep existing outpatient services and if they have alternative suggestions or express specific grievances. Researchers will conduct focus groups with different groups of people to collect a range of views and opinions. This will inform a CHSS final report to help East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust to take forward their Outpatient Strategy.

For more information, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/research/billings.html

CHSS Research News

CHSS Health Services Research PhD

As part of CHSS' expansion programme we were delighted to welcome our first scholarship recipient, Aida Malovic in the autumn term. In September 2014, a second PhD scholarship student will join us. The CHSS scholarship scheme covers tuition fees plus maintenance stipend and an annual research training allowance. Aida talked about being our first scholarship student...



Welcome Aida, tell us why you were attracted to the CHSS studentship scheme?

I heard about the scholarship when I was working in the University's Tizard Centre. I'm passionate about personal development so studying for a PhD was a great incentive. I knew about CHSS' excellent reputation and about collaborative work between the two research centres so it was a natural step.

What did you do before joining CHSS?

I completed my BSc in Psychology at Solent University, and then an MSc in Cognitive and Neuropsychology at the University of Kent. I was then employed as a Teaching Assistant in the School of Psychology and joined the Tizard Centre in 2011 as a Research Assistant.

How is it going – are you enjoying working at CHSS?

It's going well. CHSS is a friendly place and I'm busy setting up the treatment programme for my project ySOTSEC (Young Sex Offender Treatment Services Collaborative), developing and evaluating a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) programme-based treatment model for adolescents with Learning Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Condition who display harmful sexual behaviours.

What qualities do you possess that you think impressed the interview panel?

I'm enthusiastic, energetic and enjoy working as part of a team. I like to look for a gap and then set about filling it. A good example is the Kent area autism research participants' database. I developed this with Dr Heather Ferguson in the School of Psychology to publicise this area of research and invite people to take part on campus.

What do you hope to achieve during your time with CHSS?

In the first year I will be adapting existing research instruments to fit the vulnerable adolescent population I am studying in my project. I will adapt and pilot measures to assess attachment and loneliness within this population. As part of my continuous professional development (CPD) I hope to run a CBT group, working with clinicians to develop appropriate assessment tools.

This is a great opportunity to learn and develop and I want to make the very most of it.

What about longer term goals?

In the longer term I want to become a well-rounded, respected researcher conducting high class research.

What do you most enjoy about what you are doing?

Working with people. I love the contact and feedback that you get out in the field and learning from colleagues.

What guidance is available to you in your PhD research?

Professor Simon Coulton is my lead supervisor but I also have supervision from Professor Glynis Murphy in Tizard. Both are recognised for excellence in their fields. I'm really lucky to have their support.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I had the honour of meeting the Queen in February this year! I was one of the representatives of the University of Kent and the Tizard Centre when we were presented with a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. It was wonderful to be able to tell the Queen about our research excellence here at Kent!

Informal enquiries regarding the application process and studying for a PhD in CHSS should be made to Kalliopi Glezakou: K.Glezakou@kent.ac.uk

Galvanic vestibular stimulation in hemi-spatial neglect

In 2011 we reported on a project examining the effectiveness of treatment with Galvanic vestibular stimulation (GVS) for stroke sufferers diagnosed with hemi-spatial neglect (HSN), a condition which can affect visual perception following brain injury to the right cerebral hemisphere. The project, funded by the Medical Research Council, was led by Professor David Wilkinson of the University of Kent Psychology Department. CHSS' Professor Simon Coulton and Statistician Tracy Higgins worked alongside him on the project. They have now co-authored a publication detailing the research findings which show that this low cost, simple technique, which could be delivered at home, can produce lasting reductions in HSN.

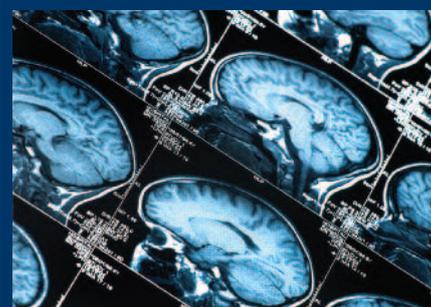
Previous research showed that GVS, which delivers electrical stimulation to affected parts of the brain via electrodes on the scalp, produces a reduction in neglect during and immediately following the procedure.

This research team wanted to see if these effects would last once GVS treatments were stopped and discover how results varied between groups of stroke patients undergoing one, five or ten GVS sessions. The double-blind randomised controlled trial found that all groups showed improvements which were still evident one month later.

More recent follow-up assessment conducted on just over half the sample has revealed that this improvement remains in evidence after 18 months.

The research team are using the result to inform a larger study of GVS effectiveness.

See publications p7 for details and further project information at: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/research/docs/2011/2011_04_01_vestibular_stimulation.html



Focus on primary care

Working for a healthier future – New Academic Primary Care Unit at CHSS

CHSS is currently establishing the new Kent Academic Primary Care Unit (KAPCU) to support the education and development of primary care practitioners and develop primary care research across the region.

Set-up of the unit is being supported by Health Education England funding awarded through the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery. Led by Patricia Wilson, CHSS Professor of Primary and Community Care, the unit will also involve CHSS primary care research staff. The work of the unit will include collaborative projects with local Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Kent and Medway Commissioning Support Unit and Kent County Council.

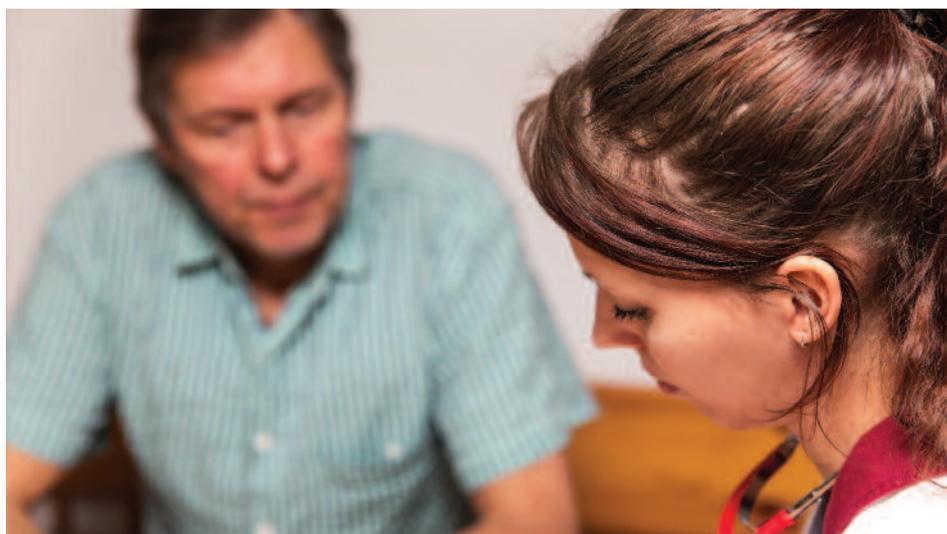
The main aim of KAPCU will be to support education and training as well as research and innovation development in primary care. It will also aim to make the Kent health economy attractive to the future workforce. The unit will target additional support for geographic areas where there are known workforce shortages and aim to improve availability and access to research.

Plans for the unit include nurse and general practice fellowship posts. It will also set up research programmes to enhance the existing MA in Strategic Leadership and Medical Education by becoming multi-professional. A new MSc in Applied Health Research is currently being developed. The unit is also developing an Intercalated BSc in Primary Care Management. This one year BSc programme will be for students from medical schools, in particular King's College London and St George's at the University of London. The programmes will be administered by CHSS at the University of Kent and existing CHSS research staff will teach research modules.

The unit will also seek to improve recruitment and retention in Kent and Medway by facilitating joint appointments between the NHS and universities for GPs, practice nurses and practice managers.

CHSS Director Stephen Peckham says: 'I am delighted with the new partnership between CHSS and the KSS Deanery. It will provide an extremely valuable link between the University of Kent and the local clinical community. I believe that the new KAPCU will give a huge boost to primary care research activity across Kent and I look forward to working with Tricia and the rest of the team on this exciting new project'.

News on KAPCU development will appear on the CHSS website: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/index.html



CHSS Intercalated BSc in Primary Care Management

CHSS Research Fellow Rowena Merritt is currently developing the new CHSS Intercalated BSc in Management in Primary Care. The one year programme is being designed to prepare medical students for working in primary and community care, public health or management.

The course will aim to help students develop critical appraisal skills and knowledge of research methods to evaluate new and current treatments. The course will look at the relationship between primary care and public health. Students will also have the opportunity to take management, finance and marketing courses offered by Kent Business School.

The course will be delivered by world leaders in primary care, management and research. In the spring term, students will spend at least one day a week in a GP practice working on a research project.

On completion of the course, students will have the opportunity to spend the summer working overseas on a global public health project supporting the work of international organisations, such as World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF.

For more information, including information about fees and available bursaries, visit <http://kssdeanery.org/opportunity-medical-students> or contact: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/research/merritt.html

CHSS MSc in Applied Health Research

CHSS is planning to welcome its first intake of postgraduate students from September 2014 for the new MSc in Applied Health Research.

CHSS Research Fellow Ferhana Hashem, who is developing the new programme told us: 'The MSc will provide a platform for postgraduate students to acquire skills to become independent researchers and develop an academic specialism in health research'.

It is planned that the MSc may be undertaken for one year full-time or two years part time. Modules should include core research skills in applied health research, advanced modules in epidemiology, health economics, statistics in health research and evaluation methods in health services.

The MSc provides opportunity for postgraduates to work on their own independent research project.

Postgraduates can choose to study modules from across the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research including Sociology of Health, Illness and Medicine and Health, Medicine and Society.

For more information, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/research/hashem.html

Focus on primary care

CHSS welcomes new Chair in Primary and Community Care

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Patricia Wilson who joined CHSS in April to lead the new KAPCU. Tricia was previously a Reader in Patient Experience in the Centre for Research into Primary and Community Care at the University of Hertfordshire.



Tricia is a member of several national and regional advisory management groups including the Primary Care Research Network East of England Management Group with specific remit for community services research. She has also worked in higher education and was programme lead for the Specialist Community Nursing degree and developed an MSc in Advancing Practice in Primary Care.

Speaking about leading the new KAPCU in CHSS, Tricia says, 'this is a very exciting time to be leading this new unit. Good quality primary care undoubtedly leads to improved health outcomes. I know that good care is precious to people and families both locally and in the home and that General Practice and community services are at the heart of this.

'I am determined that the new unit will play a major role in ensuring that the people of Kent will benefit from primary and community care that is a national example in terms of high quality and patient-centred care. These are challenging times however; we have an ever growing

population with complex health needs and within Kent there are issues of health inequalities. Add this to an NHS workforce that is undergoing the biggest reorganisation in its history and we can see that we are in turbulent times.

'So, firstly the KAPCU must reinvigorate and motivate. We'll do this by working in partnership with clinicians and organisations across primary and community care in Kent. We'll find out what issues they have and through research we'll make recommendations that work best in the local context. Secondly the unit must act as a magnet attracting the GPs and primary health care professionals of tomorrow'.

To contact Tricia and for full details about her background before joining CHSS, please see: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/research/wilson.html

Tricia has a clinical background in community nursing, working with patients and their families as partners in the community. She has a particular interest in long term conditions management and the involvement of patients and carers. Tricia says, 'my interest in involving people in health services at all levels including their care and having a say in NHS structures, has developed over six years in the field of Public and Patient Involvement (PPI). I have contributed to a regional approach to PPI bringing together parts of the overall research infrastructure such as the Research Design Service, CLAHRC and AHSN, to enable a more synergistic approach to PPI'.

How accountable are CCGs?

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were introduced to boost accountability in patient care commissioning.

PRUComm, the Department of Health Commissioning and Health Systems Policy Research Unit found that CCGs are accountable to too many masters and have potentially competing agendas.

They studied the accountability relationships of eight CCGs, interviewing GPs, managers, and governing bodies. CCGs are accountable to NHS England (the government), Monitor (the regulator), Health and Wellbeing Boards, the local Health Watch, the public, local medical committees (GP bodies), and the local authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (public health).

Within this system, only the relationship with NHS England is clearly defined. PRUComm's Director, CHSS Professor of Health Policy Stephen Peckham said: 'CCGs are indeed more accountable than PCTs and are at the centre of a complex web of internal and external relationships. However, whether this translates into being more easily held to account, remains to be seen.'

Further information go to: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/research/peckham.html

New primary care mental health specialist role

CHSS is evaluating a new initiative aimed at diverting care of patients with stable long term mental health needs from secondary services into primary care where their long term needs could potentially be more effectively managed.

The new Primary Care Mental Health Specialist (PCMHS) role being piloted across Kent and Medway could provide a more effective and cost effective way to deliver services.

The specialist can support these patients in their transition to GP provided services. The PCMHS role also involves supporting GPs and practice staff in providing appropriate care to these patients and to those newly presenting with potential mental health problems.

Funded by NHS Kent and Medway, supported by Kent and Medway Commissioning Support, the evaluation will assess the impact of the change by interviewing specialists and capturing the experiences of patients and carers. Costs and value for money of this new service will also be considered.

For more information go to: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/research/docs/current/2013_07_22_primary_health.html

Continued from front cover

Investing in the future of general practice in Kent

The role of the unit includes: providing research leadership in clinical and professional practice; undertaking health research at national and international level independently and collaboratively and establishing good links to the health profession; producing high quality outputs and publications and development of a programme of education for primary care practitioners to support the provision of high quality and innovative primary and community care in Kent.

Patricia Wilson, newly appointed CHSS Professor of Primary and Community Care, will lead the unit. Executive management will come from CHSS Director Stephen Peckham and Professor Tavable.

Tricia says, 'primary care is the bedrock of the NHS and good quality primary care is the best use of scarce health resources. I am aware that there are plenty of examples of excellent and innovative work happening across the county of Kent. It will be great to be able to work with such high calibre practitioners and organisations. I am thrilled that our new intercalated BSc and Masters programmes are planned to commence in the next academic year, and I am really looking forward to welcoming our first cohort of medical students'.

Research support and other activities

Other CHSS research in progress...

Development of a risk assessment model for the prediction of new or worsening acute kidney injury (AKI)

A project funded by East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust via the NIHR and in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University. Developing technology to alert hospital clinicians to patients at risk of AKI.

Developing and evaluating interventions for adolescent alcohol use disorders presenting through emergency departments (SIPS Junior)

A major NIHR-funded study of alcohol consumption among adolescents.

Developing a new commissioning tool

A project to develop and externally validate a contracting model blueprint for long-term conditions to ensure high quality integrated care. A Kent and Medway Commissioning Support Unit award.

Understanding the support needs of disabled children and their families in East Kent

A multidisciplinary East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust funded project to prepare East Kent therapy services for proposed changes to the Children & Families Bill.

Project Invicta evaluation

Funded by Pilgrims Hospice in Kent, evaluating a project aimed at improving end of life care.

Biologising parenting: Neuroscience discourse and English social and public health policy

A project funded by The Faraday Institute for Science & Religion at St Edmunds College Cambridge. How has neuroscience influenced social and public health parenting policy in England?

Integration and continuity in primary care: polyclinics and alternatives

NIHR project led by University of Plymouth examining different approaches in addressing integrated and coordinated NHS patient care needs.

Details of all CHSS current and past research is available at:
www.kent.ac.uk/chss/index.html

Research design support for East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust helps secure £2m research funding



CHSS Research Advisers from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Research Design Service South East (RDS SE) recently provided support to a funding application which netted over £2 million for East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust. The grant from the NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme, is one of the Trust's largest to date funding a major five year project to improve treatment for kidney patients.

Annette King, Kent Academic Lead for RDS SE, said: 'The RDS SE was privileged to support the study proposal through project advice and guidance on involving patients and the public in the research. Research Adviser Tracy Higgins provided statistical advice and is a co-investigator on the project team'.

Dr Edmund Lamb, a Consultant at East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust and part of the renal research team is recruiting adults with kidney disease and will follow them over five

years using various blood and urine tests to assess kidney function.

The RDS SE is part of a free national service supporting researchers to develop and submit high quality applied health and social care grant applications to NIHR and other funding programmes.

For information about the support offered by the RDS SE, visit: www.rds.nihr.ac.uk

New Director for NIHR Research Design Service South East

CHSS welcomed the appointment in April of Dr David Wilkinson as the new Director of the Research Design Service South East (RDS SE). David is a Reader in Psychology at the University of Kent and an Academic Research Fellow at East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust. The appointment follows the retirement of the previous Director, Professor Valerie Hall of the University of Brighton.

CHSS Director, Professor Stephen Peckham said, 'I am delighted that David has accepted the role of RDS SE Director. This is an important and significant appointment for both CHSS and the University of Kent because it strengthens our links with researchers in the local health

community. I look forward to working closely with David and Bridget Carpenter, RDS SE Co-Director Business, to build on the success of the RDS across the South East region to ensure the RDS meets the support needs of health researchers.

David's main research interest is in understanding the psychological and biological bases of human cognition with a view to developing more effective therapies for individuals with brain injuries.

For more information go to: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/research/help/index.html

Public engagement and publication news

Public Engagement – connecting our research with the wider community

Along with other Higher Education Institutions, the University of Kent is actively seeking to increase public engagement (PE) by connecting academic research to the wider public through activities such as exhibitions and social media campaigns.

CHSS Public Engagement Officer, Amanda Bates, is excited about the activities she is undertaking to build new links in the community. Amanda has wide experience in patient and public involvement in research and in taking the CHSS PE strategy forward she is initially

focusing on priority aims including strengthening existing relationships and fostering new ones with patient and community groups. She will be facilitating a large event towards the end of 2014, bringing CHSS and these groups together. A dedicated PE page will soon be available on the CHSS website, and activity updates will feature in future Newsletters.

Amanda was recently appointed Public Engagement Ambassador for the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE).

The role will see Amanda use her experience working with service users and community groups to engage with higher education establishments and it's the role of the NCCPE to persuade academics that engagement is beneficial.

Amanda's biography and details of her new role are available on the NCCPE website. www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how-we-help/ambassadors/amanda-bates

For more information go to: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/research/bates.html

Selected CHSS publications

O'Neill S, Coulton S, Deluca P, Deverill M, Drummond C & Gilvarry E et al (2012) Brief intervention to prevent hazardous drinking in young people aged 14–15 in a high school setting (SIPS JR-HIGH): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials* 13 (166) ISSN 1745-6215

Nizalova O (2012) The wage elasticity of informal care supply: evidence from the health and retirement study. *Southern Economic Journal*, 79 (2) pp 350-366 ISSN 0038-4038

Jenkins L M, Brigden C L & King A M (2013) Evaluating a third sector community service following stroke. *Journal of Integrated Care* 21 (5) pp 248-262 ISSN 1476-9018

Lloyd H, Tafoya A E & Merritt R K (2013) Underage drinking and antisocial behaviour: research to inform a UK behavioural intervention. *Journal of Adolescence* ISSN 0140-1971 (In press)

Checkland K, Allen P, Coleman A, Segar J, McDermott I, Harrison S, Petsoulas C & Peckham S (2013) Accountable to whom, for what? An exploration of the early development of Clinical Commissioning Groups in the English NHS. *BMJ Open* 3 (37) ISSN 2044-6055

Lowery D, Cerga-Pashoja A, Iliffe S, Thuné-Boyle I & Griffin M et al (2013) The effect of exercise on behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia: the EVIDEM-E randomised controlled clinical trial. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* ISSN 0885-6230

Klein A (2013) The khat ban in the UK: What about the 'scientific' evidence? *Anthropology Today* 29 (5) pp 6-8 ISSN 0268-540X

Lee EJ, Macvarish J & Sheldon S (2014) Assessing child welfare under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008: A case study in medicalization? *Sociology of Health & Illness* 36, (4) ISSN 0141-9889

Coleman A, Checkland K, Segar J, McDermott I, Harrison S & Peckham S (2014) Joining it up? Health and wellbeing boards in English local governance: evidence from clinical commissioning groups and shadow health and wellbeing boards. *Local Government Studies* ISSN 0300-3930

Jenkins L M & Codling J (2014) Results of the 2012/2013 Hospice Patient Survey General Report. Project report, Help the Hospices, Canterbury

Lamb E J, Brettell A E, Cockwell P, Dalton N, Deeks J J, Harris K, Higgins T et al (2014) The eGFR-C study: accuracy of glomerular filtration rate (GFR) estimation using creatinine and cystatin C and albuminuria for monitoring disease progression in patients with stage 3 chronic kidney disease – prospective longitudinal study in a multiethnic population. *BMC Nephrology* 15 (13) ISSN 1471-2369

Wilkinson D T, Zubko O, Sakel M, Coulton S, Higgins T & Pullicino P (2014) Galvanic vestibular stimulation in hemi-spatial neglect. *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience* ISSN 1662-5145

Yang W & Wu X (2014) Paying for outpatient care in rural China: cost escalation under China's New Co-operative Medical Scheme. *Health Policy and Planning* ISSN 0268-1080.

Long-term care paper – highly commended

Congratulations to CHSS Reader Jenny Billings! Jenny's paper, 'The INTERLINKS framework for long-term care of older people in Europe' published in the *Journal of Integrated Care* was selected in March by the journal's Editorial Team as a Highly Commended Paper of 2013. The paper was chosen as one of the most impressive pieces of work the team had seen throughout 2013.

The INTERLINKS research project was funded by the European Commission and ran from 2008 to 2011. The objective of the project was to construct and validate a general model to describe and analyse long-term care (LTC) systems for older people from a European perspective. Particular aspects of the different emerging national models in Europe were used. These showed how links to health care services, quality of LTC services, incentives for prevention and rehabilitation and support for informal carers can be governed and financed to enhance structures, processes and outcomes of LTC systems.

You can see information about Jenny's research, read her paper and contact her at: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/research/docs/2008/2008_11_01_interlinks.html

All our current and past publications are available at: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/research/publications.html

Staff news

Information about all CHSS staff can be found on our website: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff/index.html

Recent appointments



Patricia Wilson

Tricia joined us in April as Professor of Primary and Community Care from the University of Hertfordshire following a substantial investment in CHSS by Health Education Kent – see centre spread.



David Lowery

David joined us in November as a CHSS Research Fellow and a Research Adviser for the RDS SE. With wide experience in NHS research and a psychology background, his main research interest is dementia and later life cognitive disorders.



Sarah Spencer

Sara is a CHSS Research Associate. Her role is to develop quality public health related research in collaboration with CHSS researchers, KCC Public Health Department and other academic institutions, turning data into information to enhance public health intelligence. Her areas of interest are public health, health data sources, data analysis, mapping and geographical information systems.



**CHSS Associate
Ugochi Nwulu
KCC Public Health
Researcher**

Employed by Kent County Council, Gochi is a visiting researcher promoting research collaborations between CHSS and the KCC Public Health Unit. She has a health services research background and has worked in public health and patient safety research roles at UCL and the University of Birmingham.

And farewell to...

Charlotte Brigden, Research Fellow and RDS SE Adviser, who has joined Pilgrims Hospices in East Kent as Research Facilitator, developing palliative and end of life care research. Since joining CHSS in 2002 Charlotte has worked on a range of health services and public health related projects. Charlotte will retain close working links with CHSS and will be a frequent visitor here. We wish her all the best in her new post.



About CHSS

CHSS is a centre of research excellence which undertakes high quality research into a wide range of health systems and health services issues at local, national and international levels. CHSS also supports and advises health care staff to develop and undertake research projects. CHSS collaborates with a wide range of partners in Kent, the UK and in other countries to improve the links between research, policy and practice.

Please see the CHSS website for details of current and previous research and publications

Details of current CHSS vacancies and studentships can be found at: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/vacancies.html



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A new look for CHSS website

CHSS' new website showcases our work and explains how, as a centre of excellence in health research, CHSS supports health and social care organisations, practitioners and researchers.

Improved navigation provides easy access to information about current, past and upcoming activities, including:

- current and recent research and publications
- CHSS projects, events, publications and online newsletters
- staff profiles highlighting areas of expertise and research interest, current projects, publications and past research
- specialist research groups and collaborative partnerships
- support for health and social care research from the Research Design Service
- CHSS' history and evolution

Visitors can also subscribe online to our mailing list:
www.kent.ac.uk/chss/form_confirm.html

Feedback is welcome; please email
Diane Arthurs at: d.arthurs@kent.ac.uk

