The Kent and Medway PCRN is delighted to announce a new research bursary scheme. Funded by the Kent and Medway PCTs Research Governance Office, it will support primary care researchers undertaking full projects requiring research governance and NHS research ethics approval. As well as gaining valuable research experience and becoming familiar with the processes that support high quality research, the successful researchers will be able to share their experience and knowledge with colleagues who undertake future studies.

The scheme is open to all primary care workers in Kent and Medway PCTs. Applications from collaborating teams are particularly welcome. Up to £5,000 per project is available and the studies will be expected to take about a year to complete.

Proposed projects should be clinically relevant and provide potential health benefits to service users. The project should be a new investigation, using either quantitative or qualitative methodologies. Please note that the bursaries cannot support work undertaken as part of funded undergraduate and postgraduate courses, for clinical audit or to staff employed solely by NHS acute trusts or social services departments. Due to difficulties obtaining sponsorship, clinical trials of medicines or medical devices will also be excluded.

The PCRN is happy to help applicants develop research proposals for this award. If you would like more details about applying for a bursary, please contact Kirstie Coxon, k.coxon@kent.ac.uk or telephone 01227 827963.

The closing date for applications is 6th January 2006.

The NHS academy for Kent and Medway StHA is providing a range of courses for staff, including: ‘Getting evidence into practice’ - a session giving participants the opportunity to develop skills in structured critical appraisal of qualitative research papers.

Venue: University of Greenwich, Kings Hill Conference Centre
Next course: 9th February 2006

For more information, contact Sarah Cresswell (sarah.cresswell@nhs.net) or telephone 01622 713176
A date has been set for the second annual joint conference of the Kent and Medway PCRN and the Medway/East Kent Coastal Teaching Primary Care Trust. The conference will be of interest to all practitioners, educators and managers whose role involves primary care provision. Please put this date in your diary now - full details of the programme will be published nearer the time. Free places are available to all and early bookings are recommended.

Thursday 16th March 2006
Venue: Kings Hill Conference Centre, West Malling

The conference will include keynote speakers and presentations from local researchers, including bursary award winners.

The theme of this year’s conference will be:
‘Addressing the challenges of cross-disciplinary research in primary care’

Oral and poster submissions If you have conducted (or are developing) a research study in primary care, and would like to present it at this conference, please submit an abstract (maximum 500 words) describing your study, its relevance to primary care and findings (if applicable). Please make it clear in your abstract whether you propose a poster or oral presentation. Closing date for abstracts Friday 16th December 2005. Email abstracts to Kirstie Coxon, k.coxon@kent.ac.uk

Do you have a colleague who has made an important contribution to primary care research this year? Why not nominate them for this award?

They should be:
- An NHS or social care researcher from Kent and Medway primary/community care...
- Whose work has contributed to service development in primary care, or
- Whose work has enhanced their professional knowledge base

The award winner will be funded by the PCRN to attend a (work-related!) conference of their choice, to a maximum of £500. The award is intended to cover conference fees and travel expenses.

Please send your nominations to: Helen Wooldridge (h.l.wooldridge@kent.ac.uk). Include your name and the name of your nominee, and provide two reasons why you think your colleague should win this award.

Closing date: 31st January 2006 - winner to be announced at the joint PCRN/TPCT conference, 16th March 2006.

Wednesday 16th November 2005, 10.00 a.m to 12.00pm
Knowledge Management Centre, CHSS, George Allen Wing, University of Kent, Canterbury

Speaker: Fiona Cooper *PCRN/TPCT Bursary Award Winner*

‘The impact of the new GMS contract on the care of diabetic patients: a qualitative study to explore the views of nurse practitioners’

This meeting will appeal to practice nurses, GPs, pharmacists, professions allied to medicine, practice managers, and higher education staff.

All welcome. Please confirm your attendance to h.l.wooldridge@kent.ac.uk
Five Kent and Medway PCRN Members to make presentations at UKFPCRO Conference this year.

The UKFPCRO annual conference brings together primary care research organisations and experienced researchers. The conference is a lively event and an opportunity to hear about primary care research across the UK. This year’s theme is ‘Impact and Improvement: demonstrating the importance of Primary Care Research’. This is particularly relevant given the Department of Health’s current review of arrangements for supporting research and development in NHS and social care.

Representatives of Kent and Medway PCRN attended last year’s conference, and on this occasion our role was to look and learn. We met new colleagues and invited Catherine Minns-Lowe to present her research at the conference in March 2005. This year however, things are a little different.

After winning TPCT/PCRN research bursaries last March, two PCRN members have had abstracts of their work accepted at the conference. Sergio Moura, a health promotion specialist in East Kent Coastal Teaching PCT will be presenting a research paper and Gill Packham, a Senior 1 OT from Ashford PCT, has had a poster accepted. Three other PCRN members will also be contributing to the conference. They are:

David Selling, Research Governance Manager for the Kent PCTs, with a presentation on 'Experiences of research governance in primary care - a survey within Kent NHS organisations and higher education institutions'.

Alison Smith, Principal Lecturer and Jane Greaves, Senior Lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, with a presentation on ‘Education for nurses in General Practice: Another form of health inequality’.

Kirstie Coxon, PCRN co-ordinator, with a presentation on ‘Enhancing research capacity development through a bursary funding scheme at Kent and Medway PCRN’.

Good luck to those attending from this region, and we look forward to hearing all about the experience.

Congratulations to Sergio Moura, following his successful application for funding to attend and present at the UK Federation of Primary Care Research Organisations conference. The award will cover Sergio’s conference fees, travel and accommodation.

Sergio, a health promotion specialist from East Kent Coastal Teaching PCT, won a TPCT/PCRN bursary last March. Since then, he has completed an evaluation of a community healthy eating initiative cookery course. The PCRN is very pleased to award conference funding to such an active researcher.

Sergio has promised to feed back information from the conference and we hope he will attend the PCRN conference in March 2006 to tell us more about his research.
Congratulations to Mildmay Court Surgery, Ramsgate, for gaining their accreditation with the Royal College of GPs as a collaborator led research practice. Mildmay has proved that it is not only research active by participating in other people’s research projects, but has provided an environment where partners and members of staff have the facilities to study, find out about and do research. Drs Kate and John Neden led this initiative, undertaking research projects for further academic degrees. In addition, they are keen to encourage others to do research by providing help and advice. Within the practice, support has been evident from the partners, practice manager, nurses and administrators.

Mildmay Court Surgery is the second Kent practice to gain accreditation, the other being Whitstable, which is an innovator led research practice. Three other practices within Kent have registered with the RCGP, or have announced they are about to register. Across the country there are relatively few practices registered or accredited, and it is excellent that Kent and Medway practices are at the forefront of undertaking the assessment, proving that there is an active research culture within primary care.

Is your practice considering becoming accredited by the RCGP for research purposes?

Would you like to know more about achieving this quality mark?

The Kent and Medway Research Governance Management office has grants of £800 to assist practices with the administrative work towards becoming accredited - but this resource will only be available until the end of March 2006.

If you would like to find out more about PCRTA, please contact Joy Bradford, Research Facilitator (joy.bradford@ekcpcp.nhs.uk) or contact David Selling, Kent and Medway PCT research governance manager (david.selling@nhs.net) to discuss a grant for your practice.

The Department of Health consulted on the proposed R&D strategy for NHS Health and Social care. Submissions were made from the Kent Research Consortium, the RDSU and PCRN, as well as individual responses from Kent and Medway researchers.

A summary of the responses, including the next steps will be published by November 30th 2005. These will be available at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ClosedConsultations/fs/en
It is Essex PCRN's 2nd Annual Conference on 25th November 2005 at the Ashcroft Auditorium, APU Rivermead Campus, Chelmsford. This will be an informal and interactive conference, showcasing local research and researchers with the theme 'Getting Your Message Across'. Presenters will get immediate feedback.

For a booking form go to: Http://www.tendringpct.co.uk/downloads/research/Conference-Booking-Form.doc

The RCN Research, Informatics and Quality (Yorkshire and the Humber) group in conjunction with the RCN Research Society (North West) is holding a research and networking event. Three outstanding speakers: Professor Martin Johnson, Professor Roger Watson and Dr Anne Lacey will challenge your thinking and stimulate discussion on promotion quality in the research process, career pathways in research and raising research capacity for nurses. All welcome. Cost £40 (after 15th October). For more information contact Adele Bird, RCN Leeds Office, Tel: 0113 3860561.

The first UK Swallowing Research Group (UKSRG) conference. The aim of the meeting is to disseminate research, bring researchers together to share ideas and develop projects, encourage peer review and support work in progress and to invite international research leaders to present keynote lectures. Early bird registration now available at £120 for the day, including lunch and refreshments. For more information contact David Smithard, Telephone: 01303 850202 ext 44625.

This is available from http://www.invo.org.uk,

The latest newsletter from INVOLVE, the organisation devoted to promoting public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research, includes articles on:
• 'The PC11 project evaluating the effects of consumer involvement and training in 11 Primary Care Studies that took place in the London area'.
• ‘Guidance for good practice involving users in mental health research’.
• ‘Involving service users, carers and public as equal partners - a learning and development resource for NHS staff’.

It is available from http://www.invo.org.uk,
Bandolier is a print and Internet journal about health care, using evidence-based medicine techniques to provide advice about particular treatments or diseases for healthcare professionals and consumers. The web site is separated into Bandolier Knowledge (numerous resource centres, where quality evidence on specific health topics are gathered for easy access) and Bandolier Extra (Internet essays on EBM, management and specific topics). New for Bandolier Journal 134 includes:

a) On value
b) Glucose monitoring in type 2 diabetes
c) Urine testing is a waste of time
d) Glucose self监测 in the UK
e) Weight loss and erectile function
f) Quality of life, health status, and costs
g) Bandolier Knowledge (Topical NSAID for corneal abrasions; Topical treatments for seasonal allergic conjunctivitis; Acupuncture for cancer pain; Red meat, fish, fibre, and colorectal cancer; Gastric acid suppression and pneumonia, Proton pump inhibitors and Clostridium difficile)
h) Bandolier extra (MMR vaccination and autism, Policosanol review and Topical analgesics)

University of Kent pays course fees for NHS professionals

To left, Kent NHS professionals have won free places for this year’s University of Kent masters in Health Services Research. The award, which is worth over £3,000 each, will pay tuition fees for the course. The lucky winners are Dr Michael Brand of Medway NHS Trust and Mark Haith of East Kent Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

The MA aims to produce graduates with skills in health services research, a critical understanding of current health issues and the research agenda.

Bill Gillespie, CE of Medway Teaching PCT and lead for research and development in Kent, judged the entries. “These two entries showed a real desire to contribute to the development of health and social care in Kent”. He said.

The course is full time for one year, or part time over two years with modules in; research design and data collection; using secondary and qualitative data; philosophical approaches to research; quantitative analysis; the management of health risks; the formation and implementation of healthy policy; health care ethics and current issues in health policy.

The competition will be repeated for the 2006 entry. For further information, please contact Jackie Newton, telephone 01227 827851, or e-mail j.r.newton@kent.ac.uk.
Canterbury Christ Church University

Faculty of Health Research Seminar Programme

2005 - 2006

All seminars are free, open to all and will be held at Canterbury Christ Church University. For directions, please see www.canterbury.ac.uk

Centre for Health Services Studies

Seminar Programme 2005 - 2006

The meetings are held in Room CNE08, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, Cornwallis North East, University of Kent, Canterbury and commence at 9.30am and finish by 11.00am.

There is no charge and anybody is welcome.

Autumn Term

Wednesday 16th November  Developments in stroke and evidence based practice
Bridget Penhale
Senior Lecturer in Gerontology
School of Nursing and Midwifery
University of Sheffield

Wednesday 14th December Pharmacy practice research - establishing an evidence base
Professor Clare Mackie
Medway School of Pharmacy
Universities of Kent and Greenwich

Spring Term

Wednesday 18th January Meeting the challenges of research into practice: thinking, then stepping ‘outside the box’
Dr Loretta Bellman
Baywater Institute for Action Research
London

For further information, please contact Liz Melville, Centre for Health and Social Care Research, Faculty of Health, Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury, Kent, or telephone 01227 762676, e-mail em79@canterbury.ac.uk.

If you wish to attend any of CHSS’s seminars, please telephone Peta Hampshire on 01227 824057 (or e-mail Pr.hampshire@kent.ac.uk). Our current programme of research and training activities are available at: http://www.kent.ac.uk

Please note that seminars may be subject to change or cancellation. It is advisable to check our website in advance of the seminar: www.kent.ac.uk
6th South East Public Health Conference

Developing sustainable public health
Thursday 9th February 2006 at the Royal Society, London
1st Announcement
Call for Abstracts and Outlines

All those contributing to public health in the South East (local authorities, community, voluntary and private sectors, government departments, academic and NHS organisations) are invited to submit abstracts for oral presentations and/or poster presentations, or outlines for interactive workshops for the sixth south east regional public health conference entitled Developing sustainable public health.

Conference Themes
- evidence and guidance into practice
- joint leadership between local government, voluntary and community sectors and the NHS
- community empowerment
- developing the wider workforce
- environmental issues and health promotion

Conference Objectives
- to share effective approaches to public health
- to encourage networking
- to share learning and experience across different sectors

For further information please visit
www.publichealth.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=contactus
Or e-mail nice@nice.org.uk, telephone 0207 067 5801

Researcher Development Awards

This award offers 3 years full-time funding (or 4 years at 75% pro rata) to undertake a PhD and is aimed at individuals of outstanding potential early in their research careers.

Applications are invited from individuals working in any scientific discipline or sector that can demonstrate a role in, or contribution to, improving health, health care or services.

The personal awards scheme aims to support the development of research capacity to improve health and health care. The proposed research project/programme should clearly demonstrate the potential to have an impact on patient-care and/or the development of the NHS within 5 years of its completion.

The award will cover: salary, research costs, a contribution of up to £15,000 in total for tuition fees and research expenses, and a conference allowance of £1,000.

The closing date for applications is 11th January 2006.

For further information, visit: www.rdfunding.org.uk

If you are interested in applying for the award, please contact Dr David Wainwright who can offer advice and assistance (d.wainwright@kent.ac.uk, telephone 01227 827637).

Would Like To Meet......

......and finally, the PCRN is pleased to bring you the WLTM column! In the spirit of encouraging collaborative research (especially with the new research bursary scheme now announced) we would like to hear from anyone who has an idea they’d like to research from their area of practice, and would like to share their idea or be put in touch with potential partners for research. Email us with your ideas (k.coxon@kent.ac.uk or h.l.wooldridge@kent.ac.uk) and we will advertise in this column on your behalf (anonymously if you prefer!).

Who knows what might happen....