



Contextual Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Chronic Pain

We are pleased to announce a new successful Research for Patient Benefit award from Dr Lance McCracken from Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath in collaboration with the Pan Bath and Swindon Primary Care Research Consortium. The project is gearing up and will commence on the 1st July. This is an important area since significant chronic pain is experienced by at least 13% of adults and is one of the most costly health conditions in the UK.

It has been shown that the most severe and complex chronic pain can be effectively helped by intensive interdisciplinary forms of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), delivered in tertiary care settings. However, most patients are treated in primary or secondary care and do not access these specialist methods. A current challenge is to translate these methods from tertiary care and test them for application to the far larger number of patients in primary care or in the community. To determine if this is feasible, preliminary work will be conducted to devise a process of delivery for these methods and prepare the best procedures for conducting subsequent randomised trials.

One result of this project will be a new model of chronic pain service, designed for community-based delivery, including the latest highly intensive CBT-based methods. This product will then be available for further testing. The process of translation itself may yield additional insights as well, insights that will be of value for other applications where the wish is to translate speciality care methods into community-based delivery systems.

The activity will be based in BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire PCT. The project benefits from advice from our local GP and R&D committee member, Dr William House. If you would like to learn more or be a part of shaping a potential new service, please contact Lisa Austin, laustin@bath.ac.uk

AVONet workshop held in Bath

The third workshop of the Avon Network for Physical Activity Promotion for Older People in the Community Project (AVONet) was held in Bath in February. Dr Afroditi Stathi, Principal Investigator for the project,

hosted the event with other colleagues from the School for Health and welcomed two of the most important researchers in the field from the US and a lead academic in UK as keynote speakers.

The network is a collaboration between Bath and the Universities of Bristol and the West of England in partnership with local PCTs, commissioners, service providers and service users across the Avon region. It is funded by the Lifelong Health and Well-Being Initiative which is supported by the Research Councils in partnership with the UK Health Departments. The workshop, attended by 50 delegates, set out to finalise work on identifying BEST BET solutions to promoting physical activity in older adults.



Dr Jack Guralnik (pictured with Dr Stathi) is one of the leading epidemiologists in this field. He is Chief of the Intramural Laboratory of Epidemiology, Demography and Biometry at the National Institute on Aging, USA.

He provided convincing evidence of the positive impact of physical activity on mobility disability. Professor Abby King, from Stanford University, who is at the forefront of physical activity interventions in the United States, presented compelling guidance on what interventions might work well.

Professor Peter Lansley, the UK's leading figure in the Strategic Promotion of Ageing Research Capacity, provided reassuring advice on how to make partnership working sustainable. Prof. Lansley is also the Co-Director of the prestigious knowledge transfer consortium programme, KT EQUAL, in which the University of Bath's involvement is led by Prof. Chris Eccleston. This project aims to increase the knowledge transfer of research and enhance the quality of life and well being of older and disabled people.

The AVONet collaboration will continue until April and will provide a comprehensive guidance document for physical activity intervention design. The team will also submit a large grant proposal to evaluate interventions in this field.

Research findings will be profiled in a public event organised by AVONet and KT-EQUAL focusing on physical activity and healthy ageing, at the beginning of July.

Upcoming research funding deadlines:

NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research

- Project grants up to £2 million

Competition 9
Competition launch 7th June 2010

Stage 1
Application submission deadline 11th Oct 2010, 5pm
Notification of outcome of Stage 1 Application Dec 2010

Stage 2
Full Application submission deadline 21st March 2011, 5pm
Notification of outcome of Full Application July 2011

NIHR Programme Development Grants

- Project grants up to £100k

Competition 4
Competition launch 14th June 2010
Submission deadline 25th Oct 2010, 5pm
Review of applications Feb 2011

Notification of outcome of applications March 2011

NIHR Research for Patient Benefit

- Project grants up to £250k

Competition 13
Registration of intention to submit deadline 13 Aug 2010, 5pm
Submission deadline 24 Sept 2010, 5pm
Declaration and signatures deadline 01 Oct 2010, 5pm
Submission outcome March 2011

2nd Call for i4i Early Product Development (FPD2)
Call opens 21 April 2010
Submission deadline for outline applications 04 Jun 2010, 5pm
Application outcome: full applications invited Mid Sept 2010
Submissions deadline for full applications 05 Nov 2010, 5pm
Declarations and signatures deadline 12 Nov 2010, 5pm

Application outcome Mid/late Feb 2011

Jobs

Pain Research Officer



The Bath Centre for Pain Research and the Pan Bath and Swindon Primary Care Research Consortium are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic Research Officer to support high quality, externally funded pain research trials, based in primary care. Specifically the post holder will support research undertaken for a newly awarded NIHR Research for Patient Benefit project, run by a leading clinical psychologist at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, using cutting edge cognitive behaviour therapy, examining the transfer of pain services from tertiary to primary care. As part of wider portfolio building, the post holder will also work flexibly and responsively to support a small but growing portfolio of primary care based research trials. The full time role is based in the Bath Centre for Pain Research in the University of Bath.

We are looking for individuals with a PhD in a relevant subject, experience of pain research, working in primary care and excellent communication skills. Knowledge of NHS regulations and Microsoft office is desirable. For enquiries please contact Lisa Austin, Research Manager; laustin@bath.ac.uk

Upcoming events

Telehealth what it is, what it can do and where it is going



11th June, University of Bath

Event organisers: Professor Chris Eccleston, University of Bath
Dr Nigel Harris, Bath Institute of Medical Engineering
Heather Williams, University of Bath

The Pan Bath and Swindon Primary Care Research Consortium are holding a conference in collaboration with the Bath Institute for Mechanical Engineering (BIME) focused on telehealth, SMART HOMES and community and primary care. The Consortium has a long history of support for BIME as they continue to work on SMART housing for people with dementia; improving care through the application of sensitively designed technology. Their installations in people's homes allow users to remain independent for as long as possible therefore supporting Government and Primary Care Trust strategy to enable self management for chronic conditions in a community setting.

The progress into telecare and telehealth, which BIME is pioneering, is an area in which primary care see as the future in managing the increasing elderly population in our largely rural and dispersed geographical region. Swindon PCT are currently pursuing related, leading initiatives to provide a more responsive community based model of care and increasingly, PCTs are seeing the future in terms of mainstreaming its use of telehealth solutions, to provide more timely and preventative care and support for people with long term conditions.

This event will celebrate and explore the work of BIME and other local telehealth initiatives. The conference will include presentations by guest speakers, as well as a poster session and an excellent opportunity for networking - the aim of the meeting is to develop new research opportunities and collaborations. The event is organised by the prestigious KT-EQUAL network whose remit is to increase the Knowledge Transfer of research and has a focus on assisted technology in a community setting. If you have any queries, please contact Neil Carpenter, n.a.carpenter@bath.ac.uk

To reserve a place, register here: <http://www.sparc.ac.uk/workshops/2010-06-11-telehealth-and-telecare/index.asp>

Pan Bath and Swindon Primary Care Research Consortium

Incorporating news from

RehabNET



Summer 2010 Newsletter

The Pan-Bath and Swindon Primary Care Research Consortium (PBSPCRC)

The consortium is an established partnership between three local Primary Care Trusts and the School for Health at the University of Bath. The Consortium also has active links with the Research and Design Service and with research staff at local organisations, including Bath Institute of Medical Engineering (BIME), the Research Institute for the Care of the Elderly (RICE) and the Bath Centre for Pain Research (BCPR). The Primary Care Trust partners in the Consortium are Bath and North East Somerset PCT, Swindon PCT and the North Wiltshire and West Wiltshire localities of the new Wiltshire PCT. The Consortium office is located in the School for Health building at the University of Bath - which means we are ideally positioned to make links with research staff at the University, and to encourage collaboration between NHS researchers and University staff.

What is the role of the Consortium?

- To distribute the research funding allocated by the Department of Health to our PCT researchers.
- To support and encourage research across the PCTs - by all interested staff.
- To provide research management advice and answer queries about ethics, and research governance and R&D (Trust) approval for research.
- To oversee the research approval process for both academic and commercial projects being undertaken in our area.
- To provide information on NIHR funding and opportunities.
- To ensure accurate returns are made to the WCLRN and support UKCRN initiatives.

The team consists of:

Lisa Austin Research Manager

E: l.austin@bath.ac.uk T: 01225 386575

Irene Blair Research Governance Facilitator

E: i.blair@bath.ac.uk T: 01225 384197

Neil Carpenter Business Support Officer

E: n.a.carpenter@bath.ac.uk T: 01225 384034

Please direct your queries as follows:

Research management issues to Lisa Austin

NHS R&D queries issues to Irene Blair

General R&D issues to Neil Carpenter



The consortium is based at the University of Bath.

Full details of the services offered by the Consortium are available on the website at:

www.bath.ac.uk/health/researchsupport/pbspccr

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/HealthRes_SW

Visit our blog: blogs.bath.ac.uk/healthresearch

Drop in Session

Is applying for research governance giving you a headache?

...Come to a Research Governance drop in session - every Monday from 2-4pm in the PBSPCRC office, Level 5 Norwood House, University of Bath (room 5.35).

If your research uses Primary Care Trust patients, patient data, staff, or facilities the Chief Investigator must obtain NHS R&D (research governance) approval as well as Ethics Committee approval before any research can start. To apply for NHS R&D approval for academic or commercial research you should complete IRAS and Site-Specific Information Forms and provide the relevant study documents. This and other processes such as obtaining Research Passports/honorary research contracts and identifying a sponsor for the research, can be confusing so if you have any queries please come along to see Irene Blair, PBSPCRC Research Governance Facilitator, during a drop in session from 2-4pm every Monday afternoon. No need to book, just turn up. The Pan Bath and Swindon Primary Care Research Consortium approves research on behalf of the University of Bath, Bath & North East Somerset PCT, Swindon PCT and Wiltshire PCT (west and north localities). Irene will be able to advise you about NHS research approval and answer general research governance queries.



RehabNET

E-bulletins

These bi-monthly bulletins focus on NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) research funding. We believe this funding, which contains many funding streams for research and training, offers the best opportunities to our researchers and is suitable for all research. The bulletins also contain the latest news, jobs and conference information

Sign up to RehabNET

Full details available on website :

www.bath.ac.uk/health/research/rehabNET

Email Neil Carpenter to receive the bulletin at

n.a.carpenter@bath.ac.uk



NHS
National Institute for
Health Research

Research Design Service

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has established a new network of Research Design Services (RDS) to help researchers develop and design high quality research proposals for submission to national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research.

If you have a research idea and would like to discuss further please contact Neil Carpenter, n.a.carpenter@bath.ac.uk to make an appointment with the consultants.

Retirement of Dr Kieran Morgan



Goodbye to Dr Kieran Morgan, BANES PCT. After a long career in the PCT, Dr Morgan celebrated his retirement as Public Health Director with colleagues in the Bath Guildhall on the 30th March.

We would like to say thank you for being such a big supporter of research in your time with us in the South West and wish you a long and happy retirement. The PBSPCRC welcomes Paul Scott, as it's new R&D lead.

The PBSPCRC has both a strategic and an operational role. The strategic role involves: fostering research developments that are responsive to the needs of the community; encouraging and supporting research bids to external funding agencies; and fostering research partnerships and involvement in wide programmes of research. The operational role comprises, ensuring that robust research governance systems are in place and adhered to; allocating research funds and monitoring expenditure throughout the year; and providing financial reports to the western comprehensive local research network.

BIME designer goes to Downing Street 16th February 2010

A design engineer is one of a select few who were invited to Downing Street to celebrate their contribution to the NHS - Simon Halsey is one of nearly 100 people who are recognised in a new book, Extraordinary You - Science in Healthcare, which profiles the pioneering work of healthcare scientists within the NHS, and details their reasons for choosing a career in science to encourage more people to join the profession. The book was showcased at a reception in Number 11 Downing Street and was attended by key healthcare professionals, along with Health Minister Ann Keen and Chief Scientific Officer Professor Sue Hill.

Simon works for the Bath Institute for Medical Engineering (BIME), a design and development charity working in the fields of medicine, health care and assistive technology for disabled people. BIME is based within the Royal United Hospital Bath but works closely with the PBSPCRC, as well as with a wide range of commercial companies. The charity bridges the gap between one-off design solutions for individual patients and mass retail, and comes up with and sometimes manufactures, products that are desperately needed but which have a limited market.

The project that has given Simon most satisfaction has been designing a paediatric wheelchair called 'Wizzybug', which is aimed at very young children. In the past, pre-school children have had very limited access to mobility devices, as it was not recognised that they could control powered chairs. There is also growing evidence that independent mobility is key to a child's development in these formative years. It was a considerable design challenge but Wizzybugs are already a big hit with children around the country.



For more information about BIME please see: www.bath.ac.uk/bime



Vetting and Barring Scheme

On 12th October, 2009, the Vetting and Barring scheme was introduced. The purpose of the scheme is to replace and strengthen present monitoring arrangements, to prevent unsuitable people from working or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults. The implementation of the Vetting and Barring scheme in the NHS is being phased over a five year period. The Research Passport scheme aligns with the principles of Vetting and Barring, and has been updated to take account of the new scheme.

Revised Research Passport documentation and a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions Toolkit will be available on the following website soon: www.nihr.ac.uk/news/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=974

For further information, please contact Irene Blair, i.blair@bath.ac.uk

Introducing the new Western CLRN Research Nurses

Welcome to Debbie Howcroft from Bath and Jo Taylor from Taunton who have joined the Western Comprehensive Local Research Network (WCLRN) Team as Lead Research Nurses to provide general training, education and workforce development. They will support staff to deliver NIHR Portfolio studies, and offer many courses in the local area, such as Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training for new and experienced staff.

Information is also provided on regulation, serious breaches and safety reporting. Courses on inspection readiness raise delegate's awareness of audit and inspection, demystifies the process and provides survival ideas. Informed consent training allows delegates to review the guidance and explore their own practice if they are involved or plan to be involved in the consent process. The session for clinical trial pharmacists looks at the regulation and guidance for IMP studies and their conduct.

For further information on training dates and locations please contact Lisa Austin, l.austin@bath.ac.uk

New Guidance on research costs released (ReSeT Guidance)

This document clarifies the distinction between the three categories of costs associated with non-commercial research studies: Research Costs, NHS Support Costs and Treatment Costs. It is supported by two annexes - Annex A provides an exemplar set of common activities that have been attributed to the

three specific cost categories and Annex B provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). These Annexes will be updated on a regular basis and users need to ensure that they have the latest version (please refer to individual Health Department websites for their country specific FAQs). For further information please see here: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113956

The document supersedes earlier guidance contained in Attributing Revenue Costs of non-commercial research in the NHS (ARCO), but should not be applied retrospectively to studies funded prior to 31 August 2010. The document must be used to attribute the costs of non-commercial research studies taking place in the NHS where the outline or full grant funding application is submitted to funders on or after 1 September 2010.

The document should be read in conjunction with Guidance on funding excess treatment costs related to non-commercial research studies and applying for a subvention. For any research costing queries please contact Lisa Austin: l.austin@bath.ac.uk

Satellite meeting: Physical Activity Monitoring



In March, local Clinicians, scientists and service users attended a meeting in Bath, sponsored by KT-EQUAL and led by Dr Nigel Harris of BIME, to gain a common

understanding of the challenges associated with the prevention of falls and fractures. Falls and fractures are a major health and economic burden.

Clinicians gained an understanding of some potential engineering solutions that might prevent injuries and fractures. Engineers and Scientists benefited from a better understanding of the interplay between clinical, physiological and psychological factors that contribute to increased falls risk. The afternoon session explored the problem using an interactive approach that includes a clinical case consultation and problem solving workshops. Delegates included a cross section of people from industry, health and public health, academia and service users. There was a good opportunity for networking and the further development of new research opportunities and collaborations.