Welcome to the 12th edition of Research Update!

The Committee meets every two months and continues its work of providing research governance for projects arising from Hospice, other palliative research organisations and individuals.

Congratulations to Sonja McIlfatrick, Institute of Nursing and Healthcare Research, Ulster who has been elevated to Professor of Nursing. We wish her well in her continued career.

We are also delighted to announce that Sonja has been elected President of the International Network for Doctoral Education in Nursing (INDEN) from July 2015. Ulster’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Hugh McKenna was one of the founding members in 1999 and INDEN has gone from strength to strength, promoting the vision of quality doctoral nursing education that is available and accessible to all nations.

Karen Carr, Education Team Leader, Northern Ireland Children’s Hospice successfully secured an All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care Education Fellowship. Along with Fiona Woods, Tutor, Laura Lynn Ireland Children’s Hospice, Karen visited PCC4U in Brisbane, Australia. PPC4U is internationally recognised as a ‘best practice’ leader in designing and implementing e-learning programmes within palliative care.

Finally, good luck to our Lecturer in Palliative Care Clare McVeigh, who recently submitted her PhD thesis and is also a Finalist for the International Journal of Palliative Nursing 2015 Researcher of the Year Award.

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<th><strong>Research Studies</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Differentiating Audit, Service Evaluation and Research</strong></td>
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<td>Are you new to the Research arena, then the following information may be of assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The attempt to derive generalizable new knowledge including studies that aim to generate hypotheses as well as studies that aim to test them.</td>
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<td>Quantitative research – designed to test a hypothesis. Qualitative research – identifies/explores themes following established methodology.</td>
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<td>Addresses clearly defined questions, aims and objectives.</td>
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<td>Quantitative research - may involve evaluating or comparing interventions, particularly new ones. Qualitative research – usually involves studying how interventions and relationships are experienced.</td>
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<td>Usually involves collecting data that are additional to those for routine care but may include data collected routinely. May involve treatments, samples or investigations additional to routine care.</td>
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<td>Quantitative research - study design may involve allocating patients to intervention groups. Qualitative research uses a clearly defined sampling framework underpinned by conceptual or theoretical justifications.</td>
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<td>May involve randomisation</td>
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<td><strong>ALTHOUGH ANY OF THESE THREE MAY RAISE ETHICAL ISSUES, UNDER CURRENT GUIDANCE:</strong>-</td>
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**Source:** NRES Ethics Consultation E-group
Research Studies

New Research Study
The Use of Narrative in Palliative Care

Healthcare professionals and academics are still learning about palliative care nurses’ experiences as they address patients’ physical symptoms as well as the mental, social and existential needs of patients and their families. Stories are a simple way to convey complex messages, and storytelling research is not new to palliative care. Studies have shown nurses experience a wide range of responses to these occurrences, including less burnout than other healthcare professionals, an enhanced understanding of the human condition, and job satisfaction. As a result, palliative care research is shifting away from a focus on burnout and stress to professionals’ health and well-being.

This new study taking place at Northern Ireland Hospice aims to better understand the experiences of palliative care nursing staff. It will explore communication avenues with colleagues and families on the patients’ journey towards end of life. The findings from this pilot research project will be used to develop a larger study to explore the identified themes in other palliative care settings within the United Kingdom.

For further information on this study you can contact Prof George Kernohan, tel: 028 9036 6532; wg.kernohan@ulster.ac.uk or Dr Jill Hendron tel: 028 9036 6642; ja.hendron@ulster.ac.uk, University of Ulster.

Current Projects

Establishing the Prevalence and Incidence of Deep Venous Thrombosis of the Leg in Patients Admitted to a Specialist Palliative Care Unit – HIDDeN study (Dr Clare White and Prof Max Watson)

The development and evaluation of a psycho-educational intervention for patients with advanced cancer who have cachexia and their lay carers. (Dr Joanne Reid and Prof Sam Porter)

An Exploration of the Decision Process between the Primary Care Team and Patients and Families Receiving Palliative Care. (Paula Brogan)

Update from All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care

A new public awareness campaign was launched in 2015. The campaign focused on user experiences and directed people towards the Let’s Talk About survey. This was an opportunity to highlight key messages on Palliative Care, to deepen public awareness and understanding, and to encourage new membership for the Voices4Care service user and carer group.

A workshop focusing on Innovations in Palliative Care Education took place on 6th May 2015, Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin. This event was a great success and focused on good practice in the development of palliative care education using innovative methods. Congratulations to our Head of Department Sue Foster, who presented on the use of ECHO and also the development of the Introduction to Palliative Dementia Care for the AIIHPC learning platform.

Six Education Fellowships up to the value of €12,000 have been awarded. The fellowships were aimed at developing knowledge, capacity and leadership skills of those working in palliative care communities throughout Ireland.
Other News and Events

Have you any research ideas?
Would you like to become involved in research?

If you have a research idea arising from your work, we can provide you with advice, support and assistance with securing funding. For a Research Ideas form please go to the Education & Research section at www.nihospice.org

Future Events

5th International Seminar of the European Palliative Care Research Centre and the EAPC Research Network
Leeds, UK, 15-16 October 2015


Hospice UK Annual Conference “The art and science of Hospice Care”, ACC, Liverpool, 10-12 November 2015

9th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care Dublin, 9-11 June 2016. Abstract Deadline 15 October 2015.

Recent Publications


Further publications can be found on the Hospice website: http://www.nihospice.org/projects_publications

Newsletter compiled by Clare McVeigh, Tracey McTernaghan and Claire Armstrong