

ACPWH research

Welcome to the second research page, a feature that we have to thank Dr Yvonne Coldron for starting. I know that her presence as research officer on the executive committee has really pushed the topic of research onto the ACPWH agenda. As the new research officer, I hope that I can carry on the work that she started.

Current ACPWH researchers

In the first version of this item, we asked for members to contact us if they were involved in any research, whether a small audit, Master's degree or PhD-level research. Unfortunately, no one got in touch. Does this really mean that none of our members are involved in any analysis of their service or practice through research? I know that this is not the case, so here is the plea again:

Please let me know if you are involved in any research, small or large, complete or not. It means that we can formulate a small database of the research that our members are contributing to, and it may well help other members who are embarking on research in the future or allow us to prioritize research questions that need answering.

So please do get in touch by e-mail!

Call for abstracts for Birmingham 2008

You may have already seen the 'call for papers' information for the Birmingham 2008 Conference (p. 120). This is a great step forward for the ACPWH in its move towards becoming a more research-orientated association, bringing us closer to the format of other society conferences.

I would encourage those who have been involved in poster or abstract presentations at other conferences to take the lead and demonstrate to other members how these are done. Equally, if you have never presented at conference level, please don't feel daunted. If you have information that would benefit the members as a whole, do have a go!

I am very happy to discuss your thoughts prior to submission or read over your abstract and give feedback. So please get in touch if you

have any queries. Submissions should be made to Clair Jones (clairjones76@btinternet.com), the chair of the education subcommittee.

The National Physiotherapy Research Network

As reported in the previous issue of the Journal (No. 101, p. 98), the National Physiotherapy Research Network (NPRN) is a network funded by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) that has the aim of encouraging and facilitating engagement in physiotherapy research nationally.

There are 20 hubs in Aberdeen, Cumbria and Lancashire, Dublin, East Anglia, Edinburgh, Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire, Keele, Leeds, Limerick, London, the Midlands, North East England, Northern Ireland, Sheffield, Southampton, South East England, South West England, Wales, and the West of Scotland. Membership is aimed at students, clinicians, managers, consultants or academics, and participants can be either experienced or new researchers. The hubs can offer you:

- peer review;
- advice on research training and funding opportunities;
- mentorship schemes;
- information on research resources;
- the opportunity to share good research practice;
- the opportunity to disseminate recent research outcomes; and
- greater awareness of research taking place in your area.

If you want to find out more about your local hub, sign up for the news on the Interactive CSP (iCSP) research network (www.interactivecsp.org), where links can be found that will enable you to contact your hub organizer.

Annual report

The NPRN annual report can be found in the documents section on the iCSP research network. It informs you about the executive and its activities, as well as the hub activities and their plans for 2007–2008. The priorities for

2007–2008 will be to develop a programme of workshops designed to support the research development needs of CIOG members and others.

Research funding workshop

The NPRN organized a research funding workshop in July 2007, and a full report can be found on the iCSP website in the research network. The workshop included topics such as types of research funding, funding bodies, advice on planning a funding application, tips on preparing an application, research for patient benefit and tips on applying to the Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme.

There is not currently a date to run this course again in 2008, but the NPRN are considering future dates that will be advertised on iCSP, so watch out for these. In the meantime, the full report gives some very useful information and web links.

Research for Patient Benefit programme

Some of you may have heard about the RfPB programme. This is part of a shift away from lab-orientated to translational research (i.e. research focused on the patient), and it represents a significant opportunity for researchers in the allied health professions. The programme structure means that applicants are competing only with other applicants within their region. The small grants range from £20 000 to £50 000, and larger grants are available of up to £250 000. Further information can be found on the National Institute for Health Research website (www.nihr.ac.uk).

James Lind Alliance: answering the uncertainties in treatment

The James Lind Alliance (JLA) (www.lindalliance.org.uk) is a non-profit-making initiative that is

funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Department of Health. Its aims are to identify the most important gaps in knowledge about the effects of treatments and prioritize the unanswered questions. All too often in research, the agenda (or research priorities) is (or are) dictated by finance, and not by clinicians or patients.

Please make sure that you read the article by Buckley *et al.* in this issue of the Journal entitled 'Prioritizing incontinence research: patients, carers and clinicians working together' (pp. 45–50). This outlines what the JLA is aiming to achieve.

The ACPWH was invited to become involved with the JLA in early 2007 in a partnership that was intended to explore unanswered questions regarding the treatment and management of urinary incontinence. This partnership involves patients, carers and professionals, all working together in order to identify questions of everyday clinical importance in the treatment and management of urinary incontinence that cannot be answered satisfactorily by the existing research evidence. Once questions have been 'harvested' by the various groups involved, those that appear most frequently will be presented to the MRC and other boards who issue funding. It is then hoped that they will be taken into account in the commissioning of future research.

We need your help to harvest the questions that you feel cannot be answered by current research, and that either you or your patients enquire about.

There is a questionnaire in the research section of the ACPWH website entitled 'JLA Questionnaire'. Please do complete and return it to either the e-mail or postal address provided. This has also been posted on iCSP and information will have been published in *Frontline* by the time this issue of the Journal goes to press.

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