

## RCN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

DIRECTOR:

Prof Kate Seers

### OUR RESEARCH THEMES:

Patient & Public  
Involvement

Experience of Health  
Care

Person Reported  
Outcomes

Translating Knowledge  
into Practice

*This newsletter presents  
selected highlights of our  
research. For details of the full  
programme please see our  
website.*

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Website address:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/research/hscience/rcn>



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WARWICK**  
WARWICK MEDICAL  
SCHOOL

# RCN Research Institute Newsletter

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## British Pain Society

### British Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting

Kate attended the British Pain Society Annual Scientific Meeting in Glasgow in April. She was a co-author on a poster entitled "Can qualitative research films be useful in pain education?" by Toye, F. Jenkins, S Seers K and Barker K.

It was Kate's first meeting as Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee for the British Pain Society (a post she holds for three years). It was an exciting meeting, with a diverse range of ten plenary speakers and 24 workshops, alongside over 100 posters. There was plenty of opportunity for getting up to date on the latest science, and networking with other pain researchers, clinicians and interested lay delegates.

Contact: Kate Seers



Professor Kate Seers

## ESRC Seminar Series

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Seminar series, on which Kate is a co-applicant, provides opportunities to discuss the potential contributions that the social sciences might make to nurse education.

Seminar 4 was held in Edinburgh at Napier University in April. The seminar discussed opportunities and challenges for curriculum design and delivery. The final two seminars are at Nottingham University on "Student views, Student voices", and in March 2016 at Kings College London entitled "Next steps, New Start: Embedding the social sciences in nurse education".

See <http://socialscienceandnursing.com> for more details.



Edinburgh

## RCN Research Conference 2015

### RCN International Nursing Research Conference 2015

This year the research conference was held at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham. A team of researchers from the RCN RI attended the conference. There were many opportunities to discuss and debate and the conference was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Papers were presented on: Valuing patient and public involvement (PPI) in patient-reported outcomes (PRO) research: an international PPI café by

Kirstie Haywood; Late diagnosis of cleft palate: the role of specialist cleft nurses as rescuers by Stephanie Tierney; Open fracture of the lower limb: patients' experience whilst in acute care by Liz Tutton.

A symposium on EURECA: exploring, understanding and reducing emergency cancer admissions, a critical case study was also undertaken by the team that included Sophie Staniszewska. Sophie's paper focused on 'the glue to insightful understanding in research, patient and public involvement in the EURECA

study'. All the papers were well received and created a lot of discussion.

**Contact: Liz Tutton**



Stephanie Tierney, Sophie Staniszewska, Carole Mockford at the RCN Conference

## Parents' views of late diagnosis

### Specialist nurses to the rescue: A qualitative study of parents' views of their child's late diagnosis of cleft palate

At the RCN conference, Stephanie Tierney reported on a study she conducted in which she interviewed parents whose child had received a late diagnosis (more than 24 hours after birth) of cleft palate.

Findings highlighted how, in the lead up to diagnosis, interviewees often believed they were not listened to by medical professionals and were passed

from one person to another in search of an answer to their child's feeding difficulties. Once the cleft palate was detected, this news was not always delivered in a sensitive manner. For example, several parents talked about the person making the diagnosis doing so and then withdrawing, immediately, from the room.

This prevented interviewees from asking questions and left them feeling isolated and afraid. It was only when parents met members of the cleft service (usually a specialist nurse) that they felt as if they were in safe hands,

regaining a sense of trust in and respect for healthcare staff as a consequence. This was because specialist professionals encouraged them to express their concerns, to deal with their emotions and assisted with the child's feeding by providing special, flexible bottles. Such support enabled interviewees to adjust to their altered identity as a parent of a child with a long-term condition, who would need on-going medical involvement for the foreseeable future.

**Contact: Stephanie Tierney**

## Musculoskeletal Pain

### Toye F, Seers K, Allcock N, Briggs MI, Carr EC, Barker, K. A synthesis of qualitative research exploring the barriers to staying in work with chronic musculoskeletal pain. *Disability and Rehabilitation*. DOI:10.3109/09638288.2015.1049377

Published online: 28 May 2015

This paper examines barriers to staying in work when people have chronic pain. It reports on papers which included concepts related to work, drawn from a larger qualitative synthesis by Toye et al (2013). It synthesised 19 research papers (reporting 15 different studies). The paper found that people struggled to affirm themselves as good workers, found it hard to balance work and life

when they had unpredictable symptoms, work colleagues sometimes didn't believe them, the system didn't help them return to work and they battled for legitimacy. So keeping their credibility at work was hard for people with chronic pain, but work was central to their sense of self.

**Contact: Kate Seers**

## Publications

Sharma, T. Choudhury, M. Littlejohns, P. Staniszewska, S. (2015) Evidence informed decision making: the use of 'colloquial evidence' at NICE. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, 31:1/2 pp1-9

Toye F, Seers K, Allcock N, Briggs MI, Carr EC, Barker, K. (2015) A synthesis of qualitative research exploring the barriers to staying in work with chronic musculoskeletal pain. *Disability and Rehabilitation*. doi:10.3109/09638288.2015.1049377

Stayt, L. Seers, K. Tutton, E. (2015) Patients' experiences of technology and care in adult intensive care. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. doi:10.1111/jan.12664

The RCN Research Institute, within the Division of Health Sciences, Warwick Medical School at the University of Warwick, provides a vibrant student research community.

If you are interested in undertaking a PhD, part time or full time, please contact:

**Prof Kate Seers.**

## The Barbers' Company Annual Awards

The 2015 Barbers' Company Annual Awards Lunch, held at the Barber-Surgeons' Hall started with a reception attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra.

Here she is talking to Professor Kate Seers, and two of the 2014 Nursing Scholarship award winners Katie Horton-Fawkes and Rachel Yuen. Katie is studying a MSc in Advanced Nursing Practice and Rachel a MSc in Midwifery & Women's Health.



Barber-Surgeons' Hall  
Monkswell Square, London

The 2015 Barbers' Company Clinical Nursing Scholarships were awarded on 30th April. Short-listed applicants were invited to interview in London.

The quality of the applications was very high and it was a difficult decision for the panel to choose; however, 3 applicants were successful and received awards.

This year's successful applicants are studying a MA in Medical Education, a MSc in Advanced Nursing Practice and a MSc in Medical Ethics and Law.

Applications for the 2016 Award will be open from 1 December 2015 and close on 28 February 2016.

For more info visit:  
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/research/hscience/rcn/nursingscholarship/>

The 2015 Scholarship Awards Panel, Professor Kate Seers (centre) with Mr Jeremy Bolton from the Barbers' Company and Emeritus Professor Claire Hale.





# Patient and Public Involvement Journal

## New patient and public involvement journal now launched

### RESEARCH INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

The RCN RI has played an important role in the development and launch of a new international, open access journal focusing on patient and public involvement. BioMed Central is a publisher of 280 peer-reviewed open access journals and has recently launched 'Research Involvement and Engagement' (RIE), an on-line open access journal which considers manuscripts on any aspect of the engagement or involvement of patients,

carers or members of the public in design, delivery and dissemination of research in health or social care. The aim is to contribute to the international development of the patient and public involvement evidence base. RIE has an editorial board and a peer review process that includes researchers, clinicians and patients. <http://www.researchinvolvement.com/>

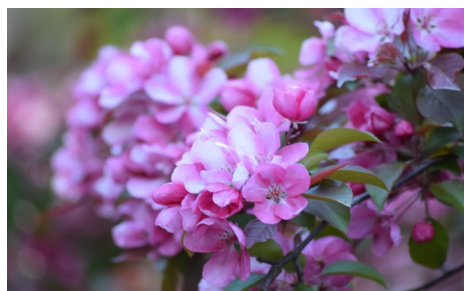
Sophie Staniszewska is Co-Editor in Chief, alongside Richard Stephens. Richard's interest in research comes from his own experiences as a patient, and as a participant in four clinical trials and eight other research studies. His interest in Involvement and Engagement

comes from his desire to make sure that research outcomes benefit patients, and that the process of participating is made as easy as possible.

#### Contact: Sophie Staniszewska



Richard Stephens, Sophie Staniszewska



Spring Blossom at Warwick Medical School



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