

## 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/soc/shss/rcn>

# RCN Research Institute



## Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WARWICK

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## Families and Diabetic Care

**Gunn K. Seers K. Posner N. Coates V (2012) 'Somebody there to watch over you': the role of the family in everyday and emergency diabetes care. Health and Social Care in the Community, doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2524.2012.01073.x.**

The role of family members in diabetes self-care can be critically important both in everyday situations and in crisis. Constant vigilance is especially tiring, and the impact on family members, including young carers, may be considerable.

It is important that relatives and friends are sufficiently supported in their caring role, taking into account the diversity, complexity and subtleties of family life. In addition, people who

do not have relatives to look out for them need to be identified and supported.

These themes were identified in a paper published in the journal *Health and Social Care in the Community* in November 2012. The research was part of a project on pathways to urgent or emergency care for people with diabetes, funded by the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme. Forty-five people admitted to hospital because of a diabetic emergency were interviewed about their experiences and their self-care.

**Contact: Kate Seers**

## How is evidence used in evidence-based policy?

**Seers K (2012) How is evidence used in evidence-based policy? Evidence Based Nursing 15(3):65 July**

Kate wrote an editorial in Evidence Based Nursing that explored how evidence is used in evidence based policy. She argued that research evidence is only one factor taken into account when deciding on policy. Other issues such as experience, resources, values and traditions and the political popularity of the message can all influence what will become policy. Research evidence itself may be robust, but can also be incomplete or uncertain.

The importance of a dialogue between researchers, health care professionals and policy makers is highlighted, as is keeping a balance between research on current policy imperatives, whilst still doing research that may be important

but outside such policies at the moment. People involved in making policy are likely to have different perspectives and priorities, and it is important that these are made explicit.

**Contact: Kate Seers**

### The work of the RCNRI aims to:

- ▶ Produce high quality research that improves patient care and impacts on policy
- ▶ Increase research capacity within nursing by providing high quality research training
- ▶ Contribute towards the RCN delivering on its strategic objectives

**Contact: Kate Seers**

## Professor Wendy Cross

Professor Wendy Cross, Head, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

We were delighted to meet Professor Wendy Cross who stopped off at Warwick on her way to give a symposium in Berlin. Wendy leads a large school of nursing at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. We shared information about our respective research streams and interests. Potential opportunities for collaboration on funding bids and joint journal articles were identified. Professor Kate Seers in

conjunction with a team from the Warwick Medical School will be visiting Monash later in the year

to develop funding bids in relation to complex interventions.

**Contact: Kate Seers**



Left to Right:  
Kirstie Haywood, Carol Mockford, Wendy Cross, Kate Seers, Liz Tutton, Sophie Staniszewska

## Quality of Life Research

### **The Journey of Quality of Life Research: a path towards personalized medicine**

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQoL) (<http://www.isoqol.org/2012conference/>) was held in Budapest, Hungary. The conference drew attendance from researchers, health professionals, and patient advocates from all over the world, providing an outstanding networking opportunity.

The conference addressed three key themes: comparative effectiveness and patient-centred outcomes research, personalized medicine, and innovations in ehealth. At the forefront of this was the central role that patients and advocacy groups play in shaping future clinical and research endeavours.

As Co-Chair of the Quality of Life in Clinical Practice Special Interest Group (SIG), Dr Kirstie Haywood hosted a meeting to discuss the position of government and industry with regards to Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) Guidelines in Europe, the patient perspective of the use of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in clinical decision-making, and to explore the potential for more active patient collaboration as partners in the PRO research agenda.

Invited discussants included representatives from government agencies (The European Medicines Agency), the pharmaceutical industry, and patient advocates. Under the auspices of the European Hematology Association (EHA), Kirstie was also invited to present the results

from current fatigue-related work (Fatigue and Ankylosing Spondylitis), and to contribute to a wide-ranging debate on the value of PROs in clinical practice in patients with haematological malignancies.

**Contact: Kirstie Haywood**

# Dr Ella Van Raders

We are delighted to announce that Dr Ella Van Raders has completed her PhD. Ella was a Specialist Nurse in pain before becoming Project Lead for readmissions at East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust. The title of her PhD is: "Pain is what the patient says it is, but...an ethnographic study of the factors which influence nurses when they make pain management decisions in a clinical setting."

Ella's work demonstrates the real struggle involved in undertaking ethnography in practice when you are an experienced specialist practitioner.

Using ethnography Ella undertook participant and non

participant observation and interviews with 36 staff members.

Ella's findings highlight the difficulty of effectively managing pain when the culture does not support pain as an active priority. Nurses often thought that a single pain action was satisfactory and rarely discussed aspects of pain management within their teams.

**Contact: Kate Seers**



Ella Van Raders and Kate Seers

The RCN Research Institute, within the School of Health and Social Studies, 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.**

# Dr Louise Stayt

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Dr Louise Stayt, Senior Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University has successfully completed her PhD. Louise is an experienced Intensive Care Nurse and was interested in understanding patients' experience of technology in intensive care.

There is evidence of the physical and psychological impact of Intensive Care in relation to reduced function, anxiety, depression, ICU delirium and Post Traumatic Distress Disorder. However little is know about the patients' experience and relationship with

technology. Louise interviewed 19 patients using a Heideggerian approach 3-7 months after their intensive care experience. The complexity of their experience

was expressed through three themes 'My useless body', 'Making sense of it', and 'Technology and care'.

**Contact: Kate Seers**



Liz Tutton, Louise Stayt and Kate Seers

# INVOLVE 2012

## INVOLVE 2012 Conference

Sophie Staniszewska attended the INVOLVE 2012 conference in Nottingham. This 8th biennial conference aims to encourage critical thinking and discussion about: how people are involved in research; learning and support for involvement; researching impact and future direction. Sophie presented on the development of the GRIPP2 Checklist.

This checklist provides guidance on the key information that should be presented in papers that report patient and public involvement. The GRIPP 2 Checklist is being developed using a consensus process with key collaborators including the EQUATOR Network, University of Oxford, INVOLVE, Kings, Peninsular Medical School, and University of Ottawa.

Lee Gunn and Sophie Staniszewska also presented a poster for the BIG study summarising how well the palliative care needs of children with key life-limiting conditions and their families are met. The RCN RI led on the patient and public involvement elements of the study and the study was carried out in collaboration with Together for Short Lives, the Universities of Lancaster, York, Coventry and Greenwich.

The BIG Study was funded by The BIG Lottery Fund  
<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>

**Contact: Sophie Staniszewska**

## The Barbers' Company Clinical Nursing Scholarship 2013

The Barbers' Company Clinical Nursing Scholarship enables nurses making a career in clinical nursing to undertake further education, research or a clinical project. The Scholarship of up to £7,500, is offered for the fees or subsistence of a nurse normally undertaking a taught Masters' programme relevant to nursing or research in an academic department in the United Kingdom, or at an approved academic department of nursing overseas. Applicants are asked to submit a brief outline of about 500 words on their course/research/project, together with their CV and covering letter to:

PA to the Director RCNRI, School of Health and Social Studies, University of Warwick, COVENTRY CV4 7AL

The closing date for applications for the 2013 Scholarship is 28 February 2013

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