

## FIRE — 2010 IN REVIEW .....

As we are approaching the end of 2010, it is time for us to reflect on our activities over the past year and to give you a brief update on our progress with the FIRE Project.

We wish you all the best for the festive season and the coming new year.

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*Facilitators in a residential programme, Kapellerput,  
Netherlands, May 2010*

**The experience of facilitation: “... is like a ‘spring garden in autumn’: the ground might look bare but there are new shoots appearing all the time and some flowers coming into full bloom”. (from a facilitator)**

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## WORK PACKAGE 1 — FACILITATION

The Type A and B Facilitation Programmes are well underway. The development programmes for the facilitators of both arms were held in the Netherlands in May 2010 and were hugely successful. The facilitators have set the work in progress in their respective clinical areas and are progressing the programme of work.

Monthly tele-supervision sessions are held with the facilitators and these are proving to be both supportive and challenging. The ongoing engagement and peer learning among group members is greatly appreciated and proving to be very helpful to the work being undertaken.

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## WORK PACKAGE 2 — EVALUATION

The FIRE project has been designed to ensure the process evaluation is embedded into the trial so that we can maximise the opportunity for learning about the different types of impact that facilitation may have over the life of the interventions. Consistent with the realistic evaluation approach we are taking we have been working on the development of a theoretical framework and associated propositions about the implementation of evidence in continence care within nursing home contexts. Over the

past six months the country Research Fellows have been engaged in various data collection activities including observations and interviews, and the framework provides a focus for handling the multiple data sources that are being collected within the FIRE project. Over the life of the project we will be testing and refining the propositions to provide a rich picture of the impact, context and practice of implementation within and across sites.

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## WORK PACKAGE 3—INTERVENTION

The intervention work package is designed as a pragmatic, randomised controlled trial and focuses on the extent to which research based recommendations for continence care are implemented in practice, and whether this impacts on costs and resident outcomes.

We have completed most of the baseline data collection and will be returning to sites at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months after the facilitation programmes to monitor the extent to which recommendations are implemented, and any impact on resident outcomes.

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Group working during the Facilitation Programme



## WORK PACKAGE 4 — DISSEMINATION

Work on the dissemination and stakeholder engagement strategy is ongoing. The theoretical propositions that underpin the study have been developed and refined, through initial consultation with the project board and advisory group. We plan to hold a stakeholder consultation event at the KUII meeting in Belfast in June 2011 to share the experiences of the study to date and seek feedback from others working in the field of implementation research. Internal dissemination plans are an ongoing feature of teleconference discussions within the Type A and the Type B intervention groups and both groups are planning closing events for when their respective interventions

end. These will be in addition to the country conferences that will take place in each of the four participating countries towards the end of the study. We are also in the process of compiling a European database of contacts to whom we will disseminate information about the FIRE project as it progresses. If you have received this newsletter and have colleagues who you think would find it of interest, please pass it on - and let us have their contact details, so that we can make sure they receive future information about the study (email details to our Project Manager [d.r.kennedy@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:d.r.kennedy@warwick.ac.uk)).

## WORK PACKAGE 5 — PROJECT & CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT

By April 2010 the ethics applications for the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden were completed. Some later amendments were submitted and the final approvals for these are expected by the end of the year.

Our Project Board met in March and then again in September. We also held the second meeting with our Advisory Committee which was very productive.

Large projects are rarely uneventful and FIRE is no exception. Our Risk Register is comprehensive, however the Icelandic ash cloud and then the London underground strike during the Project Board meeting were unforeseen. The ash cloud disrupted travel in May when our residential programmes were running in the Netherlands. We were fortunate that only one person was delayed

and he could still contribute by Skype until his flight was able to depart.

In August/September 2010 we submitted our first Interim Report to the EC. This took considerable coordination with so many institutions involved. We very much appreciated the efforts of all those contributing to the written and/or financial parts of the reports. The next report is due at the start of 2012.

We about to revamp our website and add more information to the public pages. The address is: <http://www.parihs.org/pages/firestudy.html>.

***The experience of facilitation “... as having to take many small steps and go slowly, step by step, making it work and giving feedback, with the result that colleagues are feeling valued and important”. (described by a facilitator)***



**Facilitating Implementation  
of Research Evidence**

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