

## The work of Research Active Staff Networks across the university in 2012/13.

Support for research networks is an important part of LDC's work with research active staff. In the 2012/13 academic year £7,000 of funding was used by ten networks to enable a range of activities to take place:

- Individual start-up events
- Programmes of regular meetings
- Events to support staff development and communication within an individual department or faculty
- Cross-faculty collaborations on a specific theme
- Consolidation of existing networks

Examples of activities that have taken place include:

- IDH Network for Biomedical Engineering Researchers, WMS & NHS professionals.  
A pilot event was held on 27 February 2013, attended by over 55 researchers. IDH brand awareness was created and a number of possible collaborators for IDH were identified. In addition, two participants found collaborators for their research by attending the event.
- Human Hip Group.  
The introductory seminar allowed the process of scoping a research agenda from a broad range of contributors and research areas to support the strong clinical practice in the Coventry and Warwickshire region. As a result, a GRP Science and Technology for Health Network application has been submitted. [ask Glen Turley for any progress on the application?]
- WMS Book & Journal Club (continuing in 2013/14)  
From the 7 meetings held so far the network lead reported, "... colleagues have commented that the meetings provided an excellent forum to discuss fundamental statistical methods for medical statisticians and how these relate to their day-to-day work."

In summary, feedback from across the networks focused on the opportunity for professional development and providing space for researchers in a given field to:

- Highlight their activities
- Build awareness and collaborations amongst colleagues
- Share best practice, develop skills and receive training through increased liaison with LDC and other university support departments.

Quotes:

"Sharing ideas, interests and agendas can only strengthen research." Penny Smith, ERN report

"[The network is a ...]conduit for information for enabling research and creating supportive research environments." Vannessa Goodship, WMG Researcher Forum report

Many of the network leads noted in their reports that activities will continue this year. Funding for 2013/14 has already been agreed for:

- WMG Researcher Forum (continuation)
- Education Research Network (continuation)
- Researching Human Fatigue in the Workplace (continuation)
- Medical Statistics Book & Journal Club (continuation)
- Women in Science: A Day With ... Science Career Development Talks