Welcome

For the past 10 years BUCRU has been responsible for running the Bournemouth Office of the National Institute for Health Research - Research Design Service South West. In this issue of the newsletter we are delighted to announce that the bid to run the service in our region for the next 5 years has been successful. This means we can continue to provide free support to researchers preparing grant applications to national peer-reviewed funding competitions and contribute to the development of funded research in the University and local NHS.

Over the past year membership of our research centre has expanded reflecting a growth of interest in clinical research in the University. We welcome our new members who share a passion for improving clinical practice by research.

This newsletter is our opportunity to highlight some of the achievements during the past year. We are always interested in working with colleagues across the University and health and social care sectors, so please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Professor Peter Thomas
Director (Methodology)
Gypsy Roma Traveller Health

Dr Vanessa Heaslip was awarded a National Florence Nightingale Travel Scholarship to pursue her research interests regarding Gypsy Roma Traveller health. As part of her award she spent time with teams in Oxford, Sheffield and at AUT, Auckland, New Zealand.

Dr Heaslip was able to make an international comparison between provision of health care in the UK with Gypsy Roma Travellers and provision of health care for the Māori in New Zealand. Recommendations include:

- The ethnicity categories used by healthcare services in the UK reflect the categories identified in the 2011 census which includes Gypsy Roma Travellers as a distinct ethnic minority category.
- That the UK collates systematic data recording mechanisms which identify patterns of illness experienced by Gypsy Roma Travellers and uses these data to lead and shape targeted healthcare interventions.
- There is a shift in UK healthcare policy from equality (treating everyone equally) towards equality (recognition of difference) and that different approaches may be needed to ensure parity of experience.
- Regulators of nursing in the UK need to explicitly refer to cultural safety rather than cultural awareness within their professional standards to ensure that nurses are proactively working to incorporate cultural differences into their professional practice.

Dr Heaslip is now using these recommendations as a basis for the next stages of her research.

MSc Clinical Research programme

Sharon Docherty has been working with other members of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences to develop a new MSc Clinical Research programme. The course, starting in 2019, will provide training opportunities for people with an interest in healthcare research. For more information visit the BU website (https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-clinical-research).
International Clinical Trials Day – Dorchester and RBCH

Dorchester:
To mark International Clinical Trials Day in May, we collaborated with former BUCRU team member Zoë Sheppard, and her research team at Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to take part in their research awareness-raising ‘Randomised Scone Trial’!
The format was simple; participants, after signing a consent form, were randomised to either the ‘jam and cream’, or ‘cream and jam’ arm of the trial, and then provided subjective ratings on important scientific parameters such as taste and texture having eaten their scone. Data are yet to be analysed, but findings are expected to deliver both a high academic and societal impact.

The event successfully garnered attention for clinical research from both hospital staff and patients alike, and was enjoyed by all. However, it was noted that the scone-containing end of the event table received slightly more attention that the leaflet/information-containing end!!

RBCH:
Helen, Andy and Louise also joined forces with Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (RBCH) and took part in some cycling activities involving measuring heart rates to see where they positioned on the board... it might have got a bit competitive!

NIHR Grant Applications – Seminar & Support Event

In June BUCRU (Bournemouth RDS SW office) hosted the NIHR Seminar and Support event. A free event directed at researchers considering applying to peer-reviewed funding schemes for applied health or social care research – its aim was to help improve their chances of success.

Festival of Learning

In July Helen, Louise, Andy and Sharon delivered “Research: you don’t have to be just a guinea pig!” as part of the BU Festival of Learning.

It was an interactive presentation offering an insight into the research cycle from the patient’s perspective including a stimulating game of ‘Buzzword Bingo’ where the audience had to tick off research ‘buzzwords’ and phrases to win a prize.
**Events**

**NIHR Grant Applications – Seminar and Support Event**
Are you planning to submit a grant application to NIHR? The Research Design Service Southwest hold one-day events several times a year aimed at helping you to improve your chances of success. It is separated into a morning session - open to anyone - in which RDS advisers give presentations and pointers and tips about what makes a good grant proposal. There is also an afternoon session offering support in the form of one-to-one appointments for those who would like to discuss their own proposal with an RDS adviser.

Please see [http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/events.htm](http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/events.htm) for all RDS events.

**RDS Project Review Committee**

The RDS SW Project Review Committee provides an excellent opportunity for researchers to obtain a critical review of a proposed grant application before it is sent to a funding body. The committee brings the benefit of seeing the proposal with “fresh eyes”, replicating as far as possible the way the real funding committee will consider an application. The committee includes research advisers with a range of expertise who have considerable experience of obtaining research funding and lay members, resulting in comprehensive comments and advice.

**BUCRU Research programme update**

In addition to supporting projects led by colleagues in the University and the NHS, BUCRU also has its own programme of research focusing on complex interventions and long-term conditions.

**Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis (MS):**

**Creating a FACETS digital toolkit to promote quality of life of people with multiple sclerosis**

FACETS is a group-based face-to-face fatigue management programme for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) - a neurological condition which affects the central nervous system. Fatigue is one of the most common and debilitating symptoms of MS with its invisible nature making it difficult to understand and recognise.

FACETS was developed by members of the Bournemouth University Clinical Research Unit (BUCRU) in collaboration with the Dorset MS team at Poole Hospital and has progressed through a national multi-centre randomised controlled trial which was funded by the MS Society, with results showing improvements in fatigue severity and self-efficacy at four months and additional improvements in quality of life at one year. To date, around 200 health care professionals have been trained and over 1,500 people with MS in the UK have received the programme.
However, FACETS is not currently available in all areas, people with mobility or cognitive impairments might find it difficult to attend group sessions and some people - those working full-time or not keen on groups - might find a digital delivery format more useful. For these reasons BUCRU has worked with the MS Society on a funded consultation project to scope and map alternative digital models for the delivery of FACETS. Key challenges and opportunities for delivering a digitised version were identified in the consultation, including the current lack of high quality mobile apps supporting “homework” elements of FACETS such as activity monitoring, and symptom monitoring and management. This led to a successful application for Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) to work on a collaborative cross-faculty project to create a free-of-charge, stand-alone, digital toolkit for people with MS. This will result in a mobile app focusing on the “homework” elements of the FACETS programme.

To achieve the creation of the digital toolkit a multi-disciplinary project team with expertise in psychology and behaviour change, human computer interaction and business development and evaluation has been assembled. Working with Dr Sarah Thomas and Professor Peter Thomas from BUCRU, Dr Nan Jiang, Dr Huseyin Dogan and Keith Pretty from SciTech, Dr Andy Pulman is the Post-Doctoral Researcher in Digital Health and User Experience for this project and has joined the BUCRU team for the next year. The team will work closely with the MS Society and the iMSpire (International Multiple Sclerosis Partnership In REsearch) network.

Andy has been nominated for several awards during his career and is also the author of a number of articles on technology, health and eLearning in addition to a pocket study skills book published in 2009. Since 2011, he has also self-published a number of iPhone and Android Mobile Apps. Andy’s research interests include digital professionalism, the use of technology to improve health, empathy and dignity through technology, the use and integration of apps for education and health and interesting technology-related phenomena like divided attention disorder.

For updates on this project you can visit the MS research at Bournemouth University blog: https://research.bournemouth.ac.uk/project/ms-research-at-bournemouth-university/

**Mii-vitaliSe project**

The results from this project have now been published; please see ‘publications’ on page 9.

Louise Fazakarley is conducting a PhD based on this project and is in the final stages of completion.

**Digital Health**

Work on the Digital Health theme centres around the cross faculty and NHS Digital Health Interest group. Please contact Professor Tamas Hickish for further details.
Emotional Processing

A German version of the Emotional Processing Scale is due to be published by Hogrefe, the European Psychometric Test publisher, in 2018. This has been an excellent collaboration between Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust, Bournemouth University and 9 Hospitals and Universities in Germany. Dr Birgit Gurr who is clinical lead at the community brain injury and adult neuropsychology service at Poole Hospital and visiting fellow at BU with Roger Baker, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Anna Stuflesser, Research Psychologist at BU, have translated and rewritten the English EPS for the German market. A truly collaborative effort.

England Team:
1. Prof Roger Baker: Original author, lead of EPS project, development of theory and English Version
2. Anna Stuflesser: Validation and norms of the German test, second author
3. Dr Birgit Gurr: Lead of German project, German manual, theory and revision of research, first author; healthy sample German groups Bournemouth

New Zealand/Germany:
4. Prof Maria Kleinstaueber: German manual, theory, research and lots of help with validation, third author

German teams:
5. Dr Cornelius Muelenz: Hogrefe project lead (Goettingen, Harz)
6. Prof Jeannette Bischkopf: healthy norms (Kiel)
7. Dr Matina Hug: clinical sample, Reha Klinik Uelzen
8. Dr Carsten Moschner: clinical sample, Reha Klinik, Liebenburg, (Harz)
9. Dr Mark Obermann: clinical sample, Reha Klinik Seesen
10. Prof Herrmann-Lingen, clinical sample, Goettingen Uni-Klinik
11. Dr Johanna Boettcher, clinical sample, Uni Berlin
12. Marcela Moariu, clinical sample, Uni Berlin
13. Steffi Brook, clinical sample, Physioline Berlin
14. Anna Schumann, clinical sample, Uni Leipzig
15. Jonathan Hagel, healthy sample, Leipzig
16. Christa Schauer, healthy sample, Halle
17. Astrid Bode, healthy sample Halle
18. Arnhild Bischoff, healthy sample, Muenchen
19. Sylvia Benz, clinical and healthy sample, Wiesbaden
20. And more individual people
This year marks my 10th year in the unit so it seems an opportune time to reflect. I joined the unit in June 2008 with its former title of Dorset RDSU (Research and Development Support Unit) led by Professor Roger Baker. We were based at Poole Hospital until May 2010 when we moved ‘back’ to BU (The RDSU was originally based in Royal London House back in 1996!).

It was a busy first few months in the job as 2008 was the introduction of our RDS SW (Research Design Service South West) journey where we won a 5 year contract to provide advice to NHS researchers and others working in partnership with the NHS, who are developing peer-reviewed funding applications. Towards the end of 2018 our third 5-year contract will start. So to say we have been busy bees is an understatement. Soon after we moved back to BU we changed from 'RDSU' to 'BUCRU' although the day-to-day business remained much the same. Professor Peter Thomas also took over as Co-Director of the unit.

My role in the unit is Office Coordinator so I’m a bit of a Girl Friday ranging from many ‘admin-y’ things such as dealing with new enquiries, maintaining databases and a large part of my work is arranging appointments and meetings for anyone seeking advice about their research, triaging to the most appropriate person to help. However other aspects of my job include supporting some of our PPI (Patient and Public Involvement) work. Another area I have a fair bit of input into is the marketing side of things, blogging, Tweeting, producing materials, also getting involved in events such as the Festival of Learning and other conferences and events.

I studied here at BU back in 1999 for my 4 year undergraduate degree (Business Studies) and then straight on to do my Master’s degree in Consumer Marketing, followed by a few years away from BU working at Bournemouth and Poole Primary Care Trust and now entering year number 10 here in BUCRU.

Please do get in touch with us at the earliest opportunity about your research ideas and see how we can help you. It’ll most likely be me answering the phone... I look forward to hearing from you.

A warm welcome to Juan Campos-Perez - our new Clinical Research Coordinator who will be working on collaborations with a focus on the acute trusts.

Also a big welcome to other members of staff at BU who have joined our research centre: Iain Darby, Vanessa Heaslip, Megan Jadzinski, Ahmed Khattab, Andy Pulman, Mariam Vahdaninia, Tanya Andrewes, Ursula Rolfe.

“My name is Iain Darby and I am a Lecturer (Academic) in Paramedic Science based in the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences. I have spent 17 years working with the ambulance service in various locations within both Berkshire and South West Hants - the last 12 as a registered Paramedic. I joined BU in June 2016 and am seeking to expand my scope of work into that of research. I am interested in a number of topics and hope to commence a PhD within the next 18 months.”


Earl, H.M., Hickish, T. et al., 2017. Disease-free and overall survival at 3.5 years for neoadjuvant bevacizumab added to docetaxel followed by fluorouracil, epirubicin and cyclophosphamide, for women with HER2 negative early breast cancer: ARTEMIS trial. Annals of Oncology, 28 (8), 1817-1824.


BUCRU 2017 Publications


Collaborative Grants won in 2017/2018

- October 2016 - Haslip, V – Funder: National Florence Nightingale Travel Scholarship. Amount: £5,000
- August 2017 – Thomas, S., Jiang, N., Dogan, H., Thomas, P., Pretty, K., Project Title: Creating a FACETS digital toolkit to promote quality of life of people with Multiple Sclerosis Funder: HEIF 6 Amount: £95,971
- September 2017 – Thomas, P., Snook, J., Project Title: The importance of identifying iron deficiency anaemia in the early detection of colorectal cancer Funder: Poole Hospital (match funded PhD at BU) Amount: £21,000
- November 2017 – Ellis-Hill, C., Thomas, S., Thomas, P., et al. Project Title: HeART of stroke writing group Funder: Faculty of Health and Social Sciences Amount: £2,000
- December 2017 – Kenny, T., Thomas, P., Thomas, S., Project Title: The Treatment Expectations & Priorities of People Living with Multiple Sclerosis Funder: Roche Amount: £115,000
BUCRU is a model for supporting and conducting local health-related research. We support researchers to improve the quality, quantity and efficiency of research across the University and local National Health Service (NHS) Trusts. We do this through:

- Helping researchers from the University and from the NHS with developing high quality applications for external research funding (including small grants) – free of charge
- Ongoing involvement in funded research projects
- A “pay-as-you-go” research service for other projects
- Developing our own research programme

BUCRU supports Bournemouth University staff and researchers working locally in the NHS. There are no restrictions on topic area or professional background of the researcher. BUCRU is partly funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and incorporates the Dorset office of the NIHR Research Design Service.

**Free initial discussion**

We offer up to two hours of free research consultancy time to local NHS colleagues or businesses. We are keen to continue supporting the development of research and researchers in our locality. For larger projects a grant application is often needed to secure funding, and BUCRU (via the NIHR Research Design Service) can help with that. Sometimes a grant application isn’t the right approach; for example, for new researchers, small projects, projects that have a primarily local focus, collection of feasibility or pilot data. In these situations we offer a “pay-as-you-go” service aimed at the NHS and the commercial sector in areas such as study design, quantitative methodology, statistics, patient and public involvement and general research know-how. We are now offering a free initial discussion - this is often enough time to provide sufficient advice to get a project started in the right direction or to get advice on data analysis. Please get in touch if you would like to take up this offer.

**Contact details**

Email: BUCRU@bournemouth.ac.uk Tel: 01202 961939
Web: www.bournemouth.ac.uk/bucru Follow us on Twitter: @BU_CRU

If you would like us to come to your event, we would be happy to provide more information on what we can offer your team.
Welcome

CoPMRE has had a productive year and below is a glimpse of some of our activities. In June we sadly bid farewell to our Co-Director for Education, Dr Tim Battcock with a celebratory retirement champagne and afternoon tea. Tim has worked with BU for a number of years. In 2007 he became the Education Lead and after Professor Thompson’s retirement he was promoted to co-director. Tim has led two education programmes, the Professional Skills in Medicine for FY2 doctors and the Professional Development for Senior Doctors. He was instrumental in securing a Physician Associates Programme at BU starting in January 2019. We shall miss his leadership and sense of humour and wish him a long and happy retirement! Professor Tamas Hickish now has overall responsibility for CoPMRE, with Professor Michael Vassallo acting as education lead.

This year we also welcomed some new members to our Visiting Faculty: Visiting Professor: Mr Kevin Turner; Visiting Fellows: Drs Ganesh Kuhan, Bob Sangar, Ismail Mallick, James Bromilow; Visiting Associates: Alexander Breen, Sarah Chessell, Lee Tbaily, Andrew Bates and Kevin Brooks.

Our Fifteenth Annual Symposium entitled ‘Globalisation and Healthcare: Opportunities and Challenges’ will be held at the Executive Business Centre on the 17th October 2018. We hope to see you there!

Audrey Dixon, CoPMRE Manager

Events

Fourteenth Annual Symposium

One hundred and twenty delegates attended CoPMRE’s Fourteenth Annual Symposium entitled ‘Healthcare Simulation: Playing Seriously’ at the Executive Business Centre in October. The focus this year was on medical simulation which is emerging as a key element in the education of the healthcare workforce. As a discipline it includes areas of research, including technology, and societal benefits with a better prepared workforce.

Two keynote addresses were delivered by Andy Anderson, CEO for the Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPIH), and Lt Col Tania Cubison, Lieutenant Colonel with the Royal Army Medical Corps as well as a Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon with the Queen Victoria Hospital at East Grinstead (pictured on far right and left). Other presenters included speakers from the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB), Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the NHS and Bournemouth University. The day included two showcases demonstrating the cutting edge research taking place between local Trusts and BU. Feedback was excellent with people commenting on a ‘first class symposium’. A full report and presentations can be found at www.bournemouth.ac.uk/copmre.
**Physician Associates Programme**

Recruitment has now started for the new Physician Associates Programme due to start in January 2019 at Bournemouth University. There are 20 places on offer. Interviews started on 26th September. For more information on the Physician Associate Programme at Bournemouth University visit our website at [https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/study/courses/pg-dip-msc-physician-associate-studies](https://www1.bournemouth.ac.uk/study/courses/pg-dip-msc-physician-associate-studies)

**Professional Skills in Medicine for FY2 Doctors**

This unique programme is now in its thirteenth year. It brings together FY2 doctors from across Dorset to explore and debate issues that reflect increasing competence and craftsmanship in professional practice. It takes account of the changing climate of medical careers and medical education, and provides a forum to reflect on clinical practice. We train on average around 90 Foundation Year 2 doctors per year.

**Professional Development for Senior Doctors Programme**

This is a four day programme delivered over the year for all newly appointed Consultants and for new GPs in practice.

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**Winter Visiting Faculty Day**

CoPMRE held its bi-annual Visiting Faculty Day at Royal London House on the 5th December 2017 with 27 in attendance. The day was opened by Professor Stephen Tee, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences (FHSS) who updated the Faculty on the BU2025 vision. An overview of FHSS Research Priority Areas was presented by the Research leads followed by a discussion on how the Visiting Faculty could best engage in these areas of research.

After coffee, Professor Gary Smith presented his collaborative work with BU on the vital signs and other observations used to detect deterioration in pregnant women. The study concluded that there is an urgent need to agree ‘normal’ vital sign ranges for pregnant women and for a national obstetric early warning system and chart.

This was followed by Jugal Dave, a PhD Fellow who spoke about his project with Dr David Coppini entitled “A smarter approach to diabetic neuropathy”. The aim of the project is to develop a smart device which can automatically categorise levels of diabetic neuropathy into normal, mild, moderate and severe.

Kevin Brooks, AHSN, informed the audience about the Funding Support provided by Wessex AHSN and BU. Finally Dr Tim Battcock gave a Physician Associate Programme update and Professor Tamas Hickish brought us up to speed with the work of the Digital Health and Care Interest Group.

**Spring Visiting Faculty Day**

CoPMRE held its spring Visiting Faculty Day at the Executive Business Centre. Fourteen posters (VF Programme Spring 2018) were presented showcasing the breadth of collaborative projects being undertaken by Bournemouth University and local clinicians.

The Best Poster prize was awarded to Dr Paul Whittington, Department of Computing & Informatics, Faculty of Science and Technology, for his presentation entitled “Automatic Detection of User Abilities through the SmartAbility Framework”. According to Professor Tamas Hickish, one of the poster judges, all the posters were excellent and addressed important health care issues. Dr Whittington’s poster was chosen as the research was generated by a deep understanding of disability, the use of mobile phone technology and generalisability to significant areas of health care need such as stroke and frailty. As such his work is scalable and feasible.

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**Education**

**Physician Associates Programme**

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**Professional Development for Senior Doctors Programme**

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Digital Health Interest Group

This past year we have been running a digital health interest group, based in BUCRU, to promote collaboration and accelerate innovation and invention. The group meets quarterly and has representatives from faculties across BU, a clinical digital healthcare lead, an innovation and commercial advisor, also from CCG, AHSN, RKEO. The group serves to assess the viability of proposed innovations and inventions and also seeks to create solutions to problems presented by stakeholders.

Globalisation and Healthcare at CoPMRE

Professor Paul Thompson visits LIRA University, Uganda

Paul Thompson, Visiting Professor, reports potential academic links between Bournemouth University (BU) and Lira University (LU) following a 2 week visit to Lira, Uganda by a small Poole Africa Link team in March 2017 (see pooleafricalink.org.uk). Lira town is the main municipal, administrative, and commercial centre of Lira District in northern Uganda serving an estimated population of 400,000. Lira is 320 kilometres, by road, north of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Lira has a 350 bedded Regional Referral Hospital (LRRH) funded by the Uganda government and sited in the centre of the town with somewhat limited resources.

LU was formally established in July 2015 but has been operating a Faculty of Health Sciences with departments of Midwifery (120 students) and Public Health (60 students) for the last 4 years (see http://lirauni.ac.ug). A new University Hospital is being built along with several other buildings on the 620 acre site. It is clear that LU is in the early stages of development but it is growing rapidly, has strong leadership and firm government backing to become the main university in northern Uganda. The early establishment of Departments of Midwifery and Public Health with BSc courses (with an MSc course planned), reflects the local priority in these areas and matches similar departments at BU. Collaboration at student, lecturer and department level may enrich both universities’ outputs. The expansion of internet capability and the planned development of e-learning capabilities raises the possibility of ‘virtual classrooms’, developments that reflect BU strengths. The concept of BULU fits well with the globalisation agenda at BU. Now seems an excellent time to formalise the foundations of collaborations.

New Craniofacial Centre, Nepal

Visiting Fellow, Tony Markus, established a new Craniofacial Centre on behalf of his charity, Future Faces, in Janakpur, Nepal, in August 2017. It is part of a small new health facility with the Janakpur Orthopaedic Trauma Hospital, a not-for profit multi-speciality trauma care, rehabilitation and training.

In the spirit of Sustainable Goals 2030 and the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery (2015), the aims are to train people with required knowledge and skills and establish safe and freely accessible services for the local population.

He has had discussions with Prof Edwin van Teijlingen who has a keen interest in Nepalese healthcare. It has been agreed there are many opportunities for collaborative research within CoPRME, BUCRU and FHSS on matters relating to the provision of health care, in particular surgical services, maternal health and education.
First International Neuro-Rehabilitation Conference in Mauritius

Anba Soopramanien, Visiting Professor and Chair-Founder Neuram Foundation held their first two-day International Neuro-Rehabilitation Conference on Spinal Cord Injury in Mauritius in May entitled Empowering patients through excellence in neuro-rehabilitation care. The conference which had over 150 attendees was opened by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Mauritius Mr Paramasivum Vyapoory. This conference was endorsed by Bournemouth University and it had much exposure in the local press: Le Defi, l'Express, Le Mauricien Ltd and Weekend, Mauritius Times, MBCTV (national TV station), ION (Private TV channel).

News from Other Visiting Faculty Members

Mr Kevin Turner
CoPMRE Visiting Professor Kevin Turner leads on a collaborative research venture on the impact of complications and errors in surgery.

Last September a conference was held at BU's Executive Business Centre which explored the impact that adverse events have on surgeons and examined how these effects can be ameliorated. Eminent presenters from across the UK shared insights from their surgical careers and personal experiences, presented the latest research in the area, and considered how better support and training could be provided for surgeons.

The conference was organised by the Bournemouth Adverse Events Research Team, a joint research venture between psychologists at BU and surgeons at Royal Bournemouth Hospital, who are currently researching the impact of complications and errors, which inevitably arise during surgery, on surgeons. It was clear that the conference had touched on a key issue for surgeons. This was summed up by the keynote speaker, Professor Sir Miles Irving, Emeritus Professor of Surgery at Manchester University, who said “The proceedings were excellent and clearly demonstrated that you have latched on to a problem which has the potential to become even more significant if not addressed.”

Professor Jonathan Cole
Visiting Professor Jonathan Cole, was a guest on BBC Radio 4 Thinking Allowed in conversation with an American academic, Assistant Professor Sharrona Pearl, who had just written Face Transplants and the Ethics of the Other. His own books are, About Face, 1998, which explores the relation between facial loss and identity, and The Invisible Smile, 2008, on the experience of Mobius Syndrome, a congenital condition in which people live without movement of the muscles of facial action and expression. He has also worked as an advisor to Changing Faces, an organisation supporting those with visible difference (or disfigurement).

Professor Cole has had a very successful year. He has been elected chair of the European Chapter of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (IFCN) and to the Executive of the IFCN itself. He is the first British chair of the European Chapter of Clinical Neurophysiology and most recently he became a Fellow of The Physiological Society.

Professor Gary Smith
Congratulations to the BU research team whose article 'Vital signs and other observations used to detect deterioration in pregnant women: an analysis of vital sign charts in consultant-led maternity units' was accepted by the International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia published by Elsevier.

The team led by Gary Smith (BU Visiting Professor in CoPMRE) comprises the following members in FHSS: Lisa Gale-Andrews, Professor Vanora Hundley, Professor Edwin van Teijlingen and three clinical academics based elsewhere who are also BU Visiting Faculty: Professor Debra Bick, Dr Mike Wee & Dr Richard Isaacs.
A number of studies have identified that fitter patients, facing surgery for cancer, experience fewer post-operative complications and an improved longer term cancer outlook. EDICT is a clinical trial, conceived by Prof Hickish, to examine the clinical and biological effects of a pre-operative exercise programme for these patients.

Following a fitness test, we designed a tailored exercise programme, using a stationary bike: Patients trained for 2 weeks right up to the point of surgery, followed by a second fitness test. We demonstrated that training patients with cancer was safe and could indeed make them fitter. We hope that this will translate into improved longer term outcomes.

The next part of our study is to analyse tissue specimens taken at diagnosis (before exercise) and to compare these with specimens taken at surgery (after exercise). We will find out whether the exercise has led to any changes in the cancer tissue itself, which may have important ramifications for the future of cancer treatment.

To date we have presented our work at the National Cancer Research Institute International Conference. We were shortlisted for the Alan Edwards poster prize and have our abstract published in the European Journal of Surgical Oncology. http://www.ejso.com/article/S0748-7983(17)30904-6/fulltext

In addition Andy Bates was awarded a £1000 scholarship to present our work to the British Association of Critical Care Nurses International Conference. His work on EDICT has contributed to a personal NIHR training award of £10,000.

**Publication News**


**Professor Mike Wee** had a new paper entitled, ‘Bacterial contamination of saline used for epidural procedures in an obstetric setting: a randomised comparison of two drawing-up techniques' published in the International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia M. Onofrei, MYK Wee, B Parker, N. Wee, S. Hill

This clinical study investigated one aspect of using an aseptic technique for epidural anaesthesia and found that the methods currently used for drawing up sterile saline for the procedure led to contamination with commensal bacteria. This has the potential to increase the risk of life threatening complications such as meningitis, epidural abscess and paralysis. The authors recommend that integral sterile epidural saline is packaged in the epidural tray set or double wrapped to reduce the risk of contamination.

CoPMRE Visiting **Professor Sam Rowlands’** paper on non-consensual sterilisation went online in December in the Journal of Intellectual Disabilities. This was a collaborative project with Prof Jean-Jacques Amy of Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. Another two papers have been accepted for publication.

Although some of the project is historical, the practice is alive and happening in the 21st century and marginalised groups are particularly susceptible – some of these groups could be considered as seldom-heard voices. Professor Rowland will be presenting on this topic in Budapest. Much of the subject has strong legal/ethical implications and Professor Rowlands is pleased that he will be collaborating with Jeffrey Wale from the Department of Law, Faculty of Media and Communication on one of the papers.

In April, his work was published in The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care entitled: “Legalised non-consensual sterilisation – eugenics put into practice before 1945, and the aftermath. Part 1: USA, Japan, Canada and Mexico.”

From the late 19th century until the second half of the 20th century, eugenics, a current of thought based on an erroneous interpretation of the mechanisms of transmission of certain ailments and deviant behaviours swept over the industrialised world. One of its applications consisted of the sterilisation of people considered unfit to procreate. Read this historical look at involuntary/forced sterilisation here.
Visiting **Professor David Kerr** has published a paper in **Diabetes Care** entitled: “Optimized insulin replacement and glucose monitoring underpinned by hypoglycemia-focused structured education should be provided to all with type 1 diabetes complicated by impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia”.

The paper can be read in full [here](#).

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Congratulations to PhD graduate **Dr Edward Carlton** (an ex-PhD student at BU supervised by **Professor Ahmed Khatatab** and **Professor Kim Greaves**) on his co-authored paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Data from Edward’s original work (The TRUST Study, part of his PhD thesis) has now been published in JAMA (Impact Factor 44.4) in a collaborative meta-analysis. This showcases the work from one of our fully funded PhD scholarships at BU.

The full paper can be read [here](#). Well done! Congratulations to both former PhD student and his supervisors.

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