 **FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH AND**

**LIFE SCIENCES – 2 October 2023**

**PhD opportunities for advertisement on QUB Coursefinder**

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| **Supervisor Details**:  Include name, email address and link to Pure profile. | Dr Patrick Stark, Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, QUB, [P.Stark@qub.ac.uk](mailto:P.Stark@qub.ac.uk)  https://pure.qub.ac.uk/en/persons/patrick-stark  Dr Gillian Carter, Lecturer, Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, QUB, G.Carter@qub.ac.uk  Dr Katherine Rogers, Senior Lecturer (Education), School of Nursing and Midwifery, QUB  For further information please contact Dr Patrick Stark via email [p.stark@qub.ac.uk](mailto:p.stark@qub.ac.uk) |
| **Project Title**:  Should be interesting and concise and reflective of the research area. | Co-designing a digital educational resource to improve medication adherence for people living with Parkinson’s Disease |
| **Duration:** 3 or 4 years. | 3-year |
| **Project Overview (50 words):** High-level summary which will be displayed in large typeface at the top of the entry. | Many people living with Parkinson’s Disease experience significant difficulties with medication adherence. This is particularly problematic given the time-critical nature of many Parkinson’s Disease medications. This negatively impacts treatment effectiveness and quality of life. There is, therefore a need to improve education for people living with Parkinson’s Disease to support them in medication adherence and this project will co-design a new digital educational resource to address this need. |
| **Project Description (200 words):** Abstract including relevant background, aims and objectives. | **Background:**  Parkinson’s Disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disease with a consistently increasing rate of prevalence in our ageing population. It has a significantly negative impact on quality of life, resulting in tremors, reduced movement capabilities and muscle stiffness alongside a range of non-motor symptoms including sleep disorders and memory problems. There have been recent advances in pharmacological treatment for Parkinson’s Disease but these medications are extremely time-sensitive, for example in terms of the daily regimen and repeat administrations. Previous research has found that there are often significant challenges around medication compliance for people living with Parkinson’s Disease in terms of their ability to adhere to the necessary schedule for their medications, which significantly reduces effectiveness of their treatment and subsequently their quality of life.    **Aims and objectives:**  This research will investigate support and education for people living with Parkinson’s Disease and seek to co-design an educational resource to support them in medication adherence and improve their quality of life. This will be achieved through a series of research objectives:  1 Conduct a scoping literature review of current educational resources for people living with Parkinson’s Disease to support them in medication adherence (Year 1)  2 Conduct co-design workshops with people affected by Parkinson’s Disease, carers, allied healthcare professionals and support organisations. These workshops will explore the current barriers to compliance and medication adherence, the needs of people living with Parkinson’s Disease, and best practice for improving medication adherence. (Year 2)  3 Develop content for the educational resource and its mode of delivery based on the outputs from objectives 1 & 2 (Year 2)  **Research impact:**  This research has relevance to all people living with Parkinson’s Disease and those who care for them. The educational resource will inform research to improve the quality of life of people living with Parkinson’s Disease and has the potential to be used and shared in healthcare settings and by support organisations across the UK. There is potential transferability to education for medication adherence for other neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s Disease.  **How to Apply:**  Complete the online application by clicking on the Apply now button or via this link <https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php>. Applicants must supply a cover letter (2 pages max) detailing your interest and experience applicable to this PhD and should attach this when prompted to upload a proposal.  **Closing date: 28 February 2023**  **Anticipated interview date: w/c 13 March 2023**  For further information please contact Dr Patrick Stark at [p.stark@qub.ac.uk](mailto:p.stark@qub.ac.uk) |
| **Project Keywords (up to 5):** To support user navigation via the Coursefinder keyword search tool. | Parkinson’s Disease, older people, chronic illness, nursing |
| **Funding information** | To be eligible for consideration for a DfE Studentship (covering tuition fees and maintenance stipend), a candidate must satisfy all the eligibility criteria based on nationality, residency and academic qualifications. The Studentship is open to UK and ROI nationals, and to EU nationals with settled status in the UK, subject to meeting the specific DfE nationality and residency criteria. Full eligibility information can be viewed via: [https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/student-finance-postgraduate-studentships-terms-and-conditions](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.economy-ni.gov.uk%2Fpublications%2Fstudent-finance-postgraduate-studentships-terms-and-conditions&data=05%7C01%7CK.Campbell%40qub.ac.uk%7C1599eb3a8f764b7df1b008dafd5d2c43%7Ceaab77eab4a549e3a1e8d6dd23a1f286%7C0%7C0%7C638100873850125006%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gfQfgFWuNxwoOSWUdf5KCqv7OpsUyBUT6Al2tuy2VW0%3D&reserved=0) |