

August 2015



This year we have had two new appointments, Dr Rhonda Curran and Dr Anne Grant and it is great to now have them as part of the research team. You can find out more about them and our research highlights below. Also, many congratulations to Maria Lohan on her promotion to Professor. This is a great achievement and very much recognition of Maria's leadership in research into men's reproductive health. Looking forward to a new academic year, new PhD students, new projects and collaborations – working together to promote high quality evidence based health care.

Prof Fiona Alderdice  
Director of Research  
School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Queens University Belfast

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofNursingandMidwifery/Research/>



## NEWS

Anna Carolina Raduenz Huf Souza, a Postgraduate research student from the School of Nursing, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil visited the School of Nursing and Midwifery in June as part of ongoing research collaborations. During this time she presented on the topic of Pregnancy Care in Florianópolis, Brazil at a seminar attended by staff, students and members of the public.



## CANCER NURSING, SUPPORTIVE AND PALLIATIVE CARE THEME



Dr Dorry McLaughlin has recently been commissioned by the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care to undertake an Education Fellowship Project. The overall aim of this project is to adapt and develop an evidence based educational tool for health and social care professionals caring for people with learning disabilities at end of life to an open access on line resource. This educational tool, which was an output of Dorry's PhD, has a robust service user perspective in both its development and delivery. Within the DVD people with learning disability take part in role play and a family carer speaks about her perspective of end of life care. To date this fellowship has enabled Dorry to visit live examples of good practice in settings which have been nationally recognised and awarded for innovation and new development in relation to end of life care for people with learning disabilities. These visits have been to Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Glasgow and PAMIS at Dundee University. Video podcasts illustrating live examples of good practice and excellent innovation have been taken to add to and update the educational resource in a new open access, on line format. This project is in partnership with Queen's University, School of Nursing and Midwifery and the School of Nursing, Ulster University. Consultation will also take place with a reference group of national and international experts in this field as well as representatives from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, QUB.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH THEME

### NI Science Festival

The School of Nursing and Midwifery took part in the recent NI Science Festival as part of the Research Impact series of events, organised by the Queen's Research and Enterprise Directorate and the NI Science Festival. Professor Fiona Alderdice, Dr Rhonda Curran, Dr Fiona Lynn and Dr Oliver Perra showcased the launch of the Parent and Baby LAB. The Parent and Baby LAB was established to develop simple, low cost assessments and interventions that enhance family well-being and impact development.



Pictured in the photo are Dr Oliver Perra, Dr Fiona Lynn and Dr Rhonda Curran

### New Staff



Rhonda Curran joined the School in November 2014 as a Research Fellow aligned with the Maternal and Child Health research theme. Within the School Rhonda is responsible for coordination of the Parent and Baby LAB: Learning About Baby Together, is involved in the NI survey of women's experience of maternity care and is currently focusing on a scoping review on cytokines as biomarkers of inflammation in pregnancy. In 2007 Rhonda obtained her PhD in immunodiagnosics ("Improved diagnosis of botulism") through the School of Biological Sciences, QUB. She previously worked as a post-doctoral Research Fellow in the School of Pharmacy, QUB, on a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation/Wellcome Trust funded "Mucosal HIV Vaccine Project", one of 43 projects that formed the Grand Challenges in Global Health Initiative. The project involved the development of novel antigen design and female-controlled mucosal delivery strategies for sustained mucosal protection against HIV-1 infection. In 2009 Rhonda was awarded an immunology themed research-lectureship in Macromolecular Drug Delivery within the School of Pharmacy, subsequently obtaining her PGCHET and fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. In 2011 Rhonda moved to join the Centre for Maternal, Fetal and Infant Research in the Institute of Nursing and Health Research, at UU, to Project Manage a European Research Network – EUROCAT: European Surveillance of Congenital Anomalies.

Dr Anne Grant commenced employment in the School of Nursing at QUB in January 2015 as a lecturer in mental health nursing. Her broad area of research interest is family focused practice and supports for vulnerable families. Her specific research interests are parental mental illness, early interventions for families when parents have mental illness and workforce capacity in relation to family focused practice. In 2014 she completed her PhD at Monash University in Australia.



In her PhD, she used a mixed methods study to examine psychiatric nurses' practice with parents who have mental illness and their children in adult mental health services across Ireland. Throughout her PhD and since completion, Anne has had an opportunity to work alongside a group of international researchers brought together by a collaborative research initiative co-ordinated by Monash University, with members from nursing, psychology, sociology and psychiatry. As a member of this group she is contributing to ongoing projects around workforce initiatives in the field of parental psychopathology. Anne also works closely with the HSCB in her contribution to the Northern Irish Think Family Initiative. Going forward she hopes to develop knowledge and skills in relation to designing and testing interventions for parents and children in this and related contexts as well as contributing to research that investigates and develops workforce capacity in relation to Family Focused Practice.

## PATIENTS AND THE PUBLIC

### Annual Public Lecture of the Sexual Rights and Reproductive Health of Young People (SIG)

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Dr. Julia Bailey, a speciality doctor in community sexual health and clinical senior lecturer in Primary Care at University College London, was welcomed as guest speaker at the 'Annual Public Lecture of the Sexual Rights and Reproductive Health of Young People'. Dr Bailey spoke about 'Internet and mobile phone interventions for sexual health—possibilities, pitfalls and potential.' Mary Crawford, director of Brook NI, provided a response to the main talk.

The event was very well attended by researchers from across numerous schools within Queen's and representatives from external organisations, such as the Public Health Agency, NSPCC and the Health and Social Care Trusts, to name but a few. Dr Bailey also facilitated a workshop the following day on 'Developing digital interventions for relationship and sexuality education. Dr. Maria Lohan, convenor of the special interest group commented, "This seminar provided fantastic practical insight into how to develop well-designed digital interventions in partnership with key stakeholders and end users."



Some of the attendees at the workshop. QUB PhD students E Agnew (School of Law), K Gillespie & M Templeton (School of Nursing and Midwifery), M. Cross (Belfast H&SCT), Dr J Bailey (UCL), G McKeever (NSPCC) and G Shorter (Lecturer in Health Sciences, UU).

## Awards



The Women with Diabetes Team were runners up of the Women's Health Award 2015 at the prestigious British Medical Journal Awards in London for their Diabetes Preconception Website. Developed by researchers in the School of Nursing and Midwifery in conjunction with the South Eastern and Belfast Health and Social Care Trusts, the resource is aimed at women with diabetes and healthcare professionals who care for them.

Professor Fiona Alderdice, Professor Linda Franck (UCSF) and Dr Rhonda Curran have been awarded a Tiny Life grant for £49,676 for the project "Preparing to Care for Baby" which will work with families to develop an understanding of their perspectives and needs when their babies are in a neonatal unit and to use this knowledge to develop web-based resources to improve the quality of care for infants during and after the transition home.

Many congratulations to Dr Carmel Kelly who won the prestigious Royal College of Nursing NI Nurse Researcher of the Year award in May for her work on pregnancy in the context of HIV infection, especially the development of the eLearning resource HIV and pregnancy: Prepared to care.





## EVENTS

### Seminar Series

September	Elaine Beller Bond University, Australia	Making Reports of Systematic Reviews More Usable to Readers	Tuesday September 01, 12:30 Teaching Room 204
November	Felicity Murtagh King's College, London	End Stage Renal Failure	Thursday 19 November 12:30 location tbc

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Deborah Preshaw, PhD student, has been invited to EAPC European Association for Palliative Care to present a poster on Ethical issues within the nursing home: A Systems Approach. Deborah's PhD research focusses on palliative care provision within the nursing home environment and the ethical issues faced by healthcare workers as a result of this work.

The School wishes to congratulate Gary Mitchell, PhD Student, who has been appointed to the post of Social Media Associate Editor for Evidence Based Nursing. In this important role he will advance the use of social media to improve evidence based nursing practice.

James Millman, PhD Student, recently presented at the plenary session of the Ulster University Mental Health conference. James' presentation was on the findings from a systematic review: Cancer and people with serious mental illness. The conference was attended by both academics and members of the public and primarily focused on how young people cope when facing adversity and change.



Research staff, students and families enjoying a school trip to the Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge in June 2015



Ms K Gillespie, Dr Maria Lohan, Dr Debra Kalmus, Dr Liberty Barnes, Cambridge University and Dr Laura Duberstein Lindberg, Guttmacher Institute

Katie Gillespie, 1st Year PhD Student, School of Nursing and Midwifery recently presented a paper at the International Conference on Men and Masculinities, New York 5th-8<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Her paper entitled "Relationship and sexuality education for boys: A systematic review of what boys and young men want and what works best' was part of an invited panel on *Advancing Gender Equality in Reproduction: The consideration of men* (convened by Dr Maria Lohan, School of Nursing and Midwifery and Dr Liberty Barnes, Department of Sociology, Cambridge University).