



Hard to believe it is the end of another year. It has been a good year for the School with many events and visitors and of course REF 2014. The UK-wide research assessment of higher education institutions has placed Queen's in the top 20 for research quality and impact. It also confirmed that over 75 percent of research within the University is world-class or internationally leading. The School has performed very well with 100% of our research deemed to be of an international standard - with 78% being internationally excellent or world leading. When rated by the impact of our research all of the impact was rated internationally excellent. I would like to congratulate and thank all our staff, students and our collaborators for all their hard work in achieving this fantastic result. Everyone deserves a well-earned rest, so happy holidays and best wishes for 2015.

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## NEWS

### Acting Head of School – Professor Sam Porter



Professor Sam Porter has taken up the position of Acting Head of School and Dr Maria Lohan has taken over the role of Postgraduate Tutor within the School. This is an exciting time within the School and we welcome the experience and skills that will be brought to the new posts by both Professor Porter and Dr Lohan.

### Rethinking Antenatal Care: the potential of CenteringPregnancy for NI

The School hosted a free two day **seminar and workshop** in August 2014 co-sponsored with Queen's Improving Children's Lives fund and the Centering Pregnancy charity. The guest speaker was Sharon Schindler Rising, a certified nurse-midwife who graduated from the Yale School of Nursing. Sharon is the CEO of the Centering Healthcare Institute, Inc (CHI), a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving maternal/child health by transforming care through Centering Groups. The event was very well attended by health care professionals involved in leading and providing antenatal/postnatal care and education for women in both hospital and community settings.



### Nephrology Workshop – Renal Cachexia: Defining Clinical Characteristics and Inclusion Criteria

The workshop took place in September 2014 in the Belfast City Hospital. Key note speaker on the day was Professor Denis Fouque, Professor of Nephrology at the University Claude Bernard, Lyon.

The workshop was run by the School of Nursing and Midwifery in conjunction with the HSC Research and Development division of the Public Health Agency Northern Ireland. This event was extremely well attended by service users, clinicians and researchers interested in renal cachexia.



### Business Eye Announces 2014 Healthcare Awards Winners

Congratulations to Phyl Gargan our research midwife for winning the Clinical Excellence Award in the Business Eye 2014 Healthcare Awards.



**Dufferin Public Lecture – Essential Language in Palliative Care: new understandings of metaphor use**

The School hosted a Dufferin public lecture in November 2014 and the invited guest speaker at the event was Professor Sheila Payne. Professor Payne is a health psychologist and President of the European Association of Palliative Care and Co-Director of the International Observatory on End of Life Care at Lancaster University.

The aim of the lecture was to address two questions; How is language used by patients, family carers and professionals in palliative care contexts? How are metaphors used to understand the experience of cancer and construct the meaning of a good death? The event was very well attended by allied health professionals and researchers.

**CANCER NURSING, SUPPORTIVE AND PALLIATIVE CARE THEME****Publication and Radio Interview**

Dr Gillian Prue has recently been published in a number of press articles on her work on the importance of vaccinating boys as well as girls against HPV. The articles have appeared in; Monthly Prescribing, Science Newline, MedicalXpress.com, ScienceDaily, Doctors Lounge, Examiner.com, Medical Daily and thisisgloucestershire.co.uk. Dr Prue also gave a radio interview on this subject following her BMJ publication (<http://www.bmj.com/content/349/bmj.g4834>).



Dr Helen Noble was invited as Scientific Programme Chair at the EDTNA/ERCA conference in Latvia. Having accepted an NIHR post-doctoral fellowship she has stepped down from this role and is acting as a member of the Scientific Programme Committee assisting in the preparation of the Scientific Programme for the 44<sup>th</sup> EDTNA/ERCA International Conference taking place in Dresden, Germany 26-29 September 2015 <http://www.edtnerca-conference2015.com/>

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH THEME**

Dr Fiona Lynn was awarded a Santander Mobility Scholarship Award of £1000 to fund a visit to the School of Nursing and Midwifery's Brazilian partner in Florianopolis, Brazil.

During her visit Fiona collaborated with Prof Maria de Lourdes and her colleagues on common research interests relating to antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care for pregnant women, infants and their families. She made study visits to community health centres and a rehabilitation centre for mothers undergoing therapy to treat substance misuse. Fiona also presented a research seminar to colleagues and students on Systematic Reviews.



The picture shows Fiona Lynn, with the Care & Comforting Research Group, based at the Department of Nursing, Federal University of Santa Catarina.

### MUSIC IN MIND

Health Minister Jim Wells commended research carried out at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University Belfast into how music therapy may help the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents. The commendation was made during a keynote address at the Music in Mind Conference at Riddel Hall on 23 October 2014, which was also attended by Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell and Jennifer McCann.



The 'Music in Mind' study is the largest randomised controlled trial to date to investigate the effect of music therapy on communication skills in children and adolescents experiencing social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. Study findings demonstrated that music therapy delivered within the clinical setting had a positive effect on communication and interaction skills for those young people aged 13 and older. In addition, music therapy significantly improved self-esteem and reduced depression among all children and young people. Further analysis of the data will be undertaken to assess the cost-effectiveness of music therapy. In relation to policy and practice, these findings support the integration of music therapy as a treatment option into routine clinical practice within child and adolescent mental health services.

### SPECIAL FEATURE

#### World AIDS Day – 01 December 2014



Noeleen Fitzgerald, Dr Say Quah, Mr Joe Harris Belfast Trust, Dr Carmel Kelly QUB, Dr Keith Kerrigan

The School of Nursing and Midwifery in conjunction with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust hosted a World AIDS Day Event on Monday 01 December 2014. This event was very well attended by Trust staff, charity representatives and both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness and learn the facts about HIV and put knowledge into action. Many scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment. There

are laws to protect people living with HIV and we understand so much more about the condition. But, despite this, people do not know the facts about how to protect themselves and others from HIV, and stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with HIV. World AIDS Day is important as it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education.

### PATIENTS AND THE PUBLIC



Back row (L-R): Dr Joan Regan, Professor Kevin Brazil, Dr Audrey Roulston, Professor Julia Verne. Front Row (L-R): Dr Sheila Kelly, Mrs Margaret Grayson, Ms Deborah Preshaw, Lady Christine Eames

#### "You Only Die Once: An end of life discussion."

A student led initiative cosponsored by the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Postgraduate Student Centre was held in the Great Hall in November 2014. The event was organised by an interdisciplinary committee of PhD students from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and other Queen's University Schools. The event was designed to encourage communication

about difficult end of life situations in both research and practice through video, presentations and question and answer panel. As such the speakers reflected academia, clinical practice and personal experience with end of life issues and discussed a variety of issues and stages throughout the end of life journey.

Over 120 people attended the event, including researchers, hospice workers, staff from all of the health and social care trusts across Northern Ireland, and the lay public. The Panel was made up of Dr Joan Regan, Professor Kevin Brazil, Mrs Margaret Grayson, Professor Julia Verne and Dr Audrey Roulston. Their presentations addressed the roles, responsibilities and challenges of breaking bad news, "End of Life Care Wishes: How do we uphold patient wishes?" what constitutes a good death from a personal view, the role of autonomy and paternalism in end of life care, and bereavement care. Deborah Preshaw, a PhD Student within the School, led the event and deemed it a huge success both in numbers and professions of attendees and the breadth of knowledge and discussion that took place on the day.

### Tiny Life Meet the Parents

Professor Linda Franck, an Honorary Professor with the School was sponsored by Queen's Improving Children's Lives fund to visit Northern Ireland to conduct a learning session with parents of premature babies in Northern Ireland. The aim of the session was to ascertain what information parents require and need when their babies are in a neonatal unit. The session was very successful and the information gathered will go into establishing relevant literature to parents of premature babies.



## EVENTS

### Seminar Series

|          |                  |   |  |
|----------|------------------|---|--|
| January  | Johanna McMullan | 'The value of labtutor software'  | Tuesday, 20 January 2015<br>G07 N                      |
| February | Teea Gilga       | 'Developmental pathways to autism as revealed by studies of infants at high-risk'                               | Monday, 09 February 2015<br>MBC Room 103               |
| March    | Charlene Treanor | 'The hidden effects of cancer treatment: what can we do for survivors with cancer related cognitive impairment' | Tuesday, 24 March 2015<br>MBC Teaching Centre Room 101 |
| April    | Cherith Semple   | *Cancer Nursing Support and Palliative Care theme – title tbc   | Tuesday, 21 April 2015<br>Lecture Theatre 2            |
| May      | Victoria Simms   | *Maternal and Child Health theme – title tbc  | Tuesday, 12 May 2015<br>Lecture Theatre 2              |

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Nursing and Midwifery currently have a number of PhD opportunities open for people who want to start a research career within the School; with the aim to commence study in October 2015, subject to funding. The available project titles and further information can be found at

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

National Maternity Survey

# Northern Ireland Survey

## of Women's Experience of Maternity Care



Researchers at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University Belfast are conducting the first comprehensive survey into women's experiences of maternity services in Northern Ireland. We are working in partnership with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at the University of Oxford and the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

This is an important opportunity for women to independently and in confidence express their views on their experiences of maternity care. We hope to get a better understanding of what maternity services are working well and where services could be enhanced. The overall findings of the study will be made available to help plan and improve maternity services in Northern Ireland.

- **The survey will start in January 2015 and will run to June 2015.**
- **All mothers who gave birth between 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 will be invited to respond and will soon receive the survey in the post.**

This research has been funded by the Health & Social Care Research & Development Division of the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.

**For more information Phone 028 9097 5760**