



New Research Training & Mentoring Scheme Launched

NHS Tayside have teamed up with senior health services researchers from the University of Dundee to identify and help train the new principal investigators of the future – committed health professionals who would like a career in research but want to retain a significant role in clinical practice.

The scheme is being run under the auspices of the Social Dimensions of Health Institute which includes staff from the School of Nursing & Midwifery and the University of Dundee Medical School. NHS endowments have been provided to second 8 nurses, midwives or allied health professionals for one day per week to join a mentoring group co-ordinated by researchers with an excellent track record in writing successful grant applications and a wide range of experience of research methods. Individuals will be supported in a constructive atmosphere to develop their research ideas and write and submit a fundable research proposal. The development of the research idea and proposal provides the vehicle through which a range of research methods and processes will be learnt. Where projects are finally funded there will be the opportunity to work longer term on these and supplement the knowledge gained with practical real life experience of research.

The group draws on a successful “apprenticeship” model that was developed by Dr Brian Williams (Director of SDHI), Kath Fairgrieve (Lead AHP for Tayside) and Professor Liz Wilson (Director of Nursing) several years ago. Jacqui Morris, a physiotherapist and one of the organisers of the research training scheme, has benefitted from an earlier version of the same programme which ran in 2003, through funding provided by Anne Jarvie, Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland. Five AHPs from various backgrounds participated and two were successful in obtaining external funding for their research. Jacqui obtained a grant of £129,000 from the Chief Scientist Office to investigate an intervention for the upper limb in patients with stroke. Having completed the project, she has subsequently been seconded as a Clinical Research Fellow with the Alliance for Self-Care Research at the University of Dundee. She has just completed her PhD thesis and is now Research Development Lead for AHPs in NHS Tayside whilst also continuing her research career at the University. She says:

“The scheme changed the course of my career in ways that I could never have predicted. From being a clinical physiotherapist, I have gone on to complete my doctoral studies, publish research papers and present my work at national and international conferences as well as developing multi disciplinary research collaborations. Although it has at times been hard work, it has definitely been worth it for me. If you have a burning clinical question that you would like to answer, are interested in finding out how to do it and are prepared to put in the effort, you will find this a very rewarding process”



Further information

Further details about the scheme are available on the SDHI and School of Nursing and Midwifery websites. See www.sdhi.ac.uk or www.dundee.ac.uk/nursingmidwifery

Further information and an opportunity to meet clinical and academic staff involved in the scheme will be provided at the NHS Tayside NMAHP Research Open Day **“Making Footprints: Developing Active Researchers in Clinical Practice** to be held on *30th June 2009 in Lecture Theatre 1 and Promenade Area, Ninewells Hospital from 9.30 – 4.30*. Please come along to ask questions and find out more about this really exciting opportunity for clinical staff.

To apply, interested NHS nurses, midwives and allied health professionals should provide a brief CV including details of their current post and workplace, and a short statement of why they are keen to participate in the scheme, which includes one or two paragraphs about the clinical topic and/or problem they would like to investigate.

Applications should be sent by e-mail to jacqui.morris@nhs.net by 31st July 2009

For informal enquiries or further information please contact one of the following:

Jacqui Morris on jacqui.morris@nhs.net

Mary Wells on e.m.wells@dundee.ac.uk

Brian Williams on b.y.williams@cpse.dundee.ac.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!