



NRS Ageing Specialty Group

NRS Ageing Specialty Group is affiliated to NIHR CRN: Ageing

Newsletter, July 2022

Summer holidays?

According to my calendar it is now summer, although you would not know it from looking out the window. Like the summer sunshine, I am also very aware that the traditional summer reduction in NHS activity has failed to materialise, and staff are working just as hard as any winter.

Trying to keep clinical research going in this environment is incredibly challenging and I salute all the research teams working in the ageing space in Scotland. If there is anything that NRS Ageing can do to support you, then let me know.



@DrTerryQuinn

I was encouraged by the recent statement from the General Medical Council, stating that research should be considered a core activity for clinicians rather than an optional extra for a select few.

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/position-statements/normalising-research---promoting-research-for-all-doctors?s=09>

Contact us: cams-ageingscotland@glasgow.ac.uk

Updating the NRS Ageing website and other social media

As promised in the last Newsletter, I am working with the NRS team to update the website content. This is a work in progress and I am always open for ideas on new content to feature on the site.

I also think we should have more social media presence and plan to start a twitter account. Any suggestions for content most welcome.

Check out the website here:

<https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/research-areas/age-and-ageing> and send comments or thoughts to me.



Update from Ageing National Speciality Group

At the end of June, we had a meeting of all the ageing researcher leads from across the UK, chaired by Prof Miles Witham. The planned in-person meet did not happen, but it was a productive meeting nonetheless. It was interesting to see research activity in the UK ageing portfolio. There are 58 studies registered as 'ageing' including almost 5000 participants, with 27 new studies included in the last year. These numbers are especially impressive given the challenges of covid, but we now face new issues around staffing, funding, and capacity for research. Rest assured that the networks are working hard to keep supporting ageing research.



Miles Witham

Associate Principal Investigator Scheme

One of the major challenges in delivering studies is finding local teams to support the research. For multicentre studies, participating sites need a 'Principal Investigator' (PI) who will help with the study activities at site. Being a PI is not (usually) a lot of work, it can be a nice extra to add to appraisal and ultimately it should be fun!



If you are interested in being a PI in Scotland, we have a database where you can add your details: <https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=8418591>

Traditionally, the PI role was considered as exclusively for clinicians who have completed training, predominantly consultants. Of course, PI status is not the exclusive domain of doctors – nurses, AHPs and other health care staff are all welcome to take on the PI role. There are lots of trainees who are keen to get experience of working on studies. The NIHR associate PI scheme is a 6 month part time placement for non-research based health professionals to participate in an actively recruiting study while being mentored by the site PI. Scotland currently takes part in 193 studies which are registered to the scheme with 127 trainees who are/have actively engaged in the scheme.

If this sounds interesting, more details here: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/health-and-care-professionals/career-development/associate-principal-investigator-scheme.htm>

Economic Value of Medical Charity Research in Scotland

Two reports from the Fraser of Allander Institute and British Heart Foundation Scotland were discussed in Scottish Parliament in June. Both concerned the positive role of medical research charities in Scotland's research environment. It was noted that medical research charity funding in Scotland, supported 7,475 jobs, £470 million in output and £320 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2019. This makes funding from medical research charities amongst the most effective of all sectors, reportedly supporting £1.33 million in GVA and 31 jobs for every £1 million invested. I would fully support the call from British Heart Foundation Scotland for continued support for clinical research infrastructure and research careers to ensure the long-term health of the medical research environment and to amplify the benefit of investment into medical research to the economy.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Research opportunities

Professor Kia Nazarpour (University of Edinburgh, School of Informatics) is leading the establishment of the Edinburgh Movement and Rehabilitation hub (MoveR). As part of the initial engagement, he is conducting a short survey to reach out to wide networks of stakeholders. The survey should not take more than 5 minutes to complete. Link here: www.tinyurl.com/MoveEdin



Kia Nazarpour

The University of Edinburgh in partnership with Dunhill Medical Trust are offering 5 fully funded 4-year PhD studentships. Applicants will have the opportunity to choose from 12 different projects all themed around the incredibly important topic of delirium.

<https://www.findaphd.com/phds/program/dunhill-medical-trust-phd-studentships/?i300p5755>

Supporting international researchers

Eline Kelbling is a visiting academic from Netherlands, she reached out through the NRS Ageing website as she was keen to spend time working in Scotland. NRS Ageing were able to help her find a research supervisor and placement in University of Glasgow.



Now she needs the help of the broader Scottish ageing research community. As part of her project, Eline is looking at the content of questionnaires that assess extended activities of daily living. She is keen to find out whether the tasks traditionally assessed in these questionnaires are still relevant in 2022. She has a short questionnaire and is keen for academic and healthcare professionals to give their views. I know we all have questionnaire fatigue, but this one only takes five minutes and will (once again) prove how supportive the Scottish ageing research community are to our international researchers.

Link to questionnaire: <https://glasgow-research.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/adlsurvey-copy>

Does your unit have any news you would like to share with the group in future communications? If so, we would love to hear from you at cams-ageingscotland@glasgow.ac.uk You can unsubscribe at any time by replying to this email.



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