



MAHSC NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

DIRECTOR'S DIARY



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It is now a year since MAHSC and fellow Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs) in London (Imperial AHSC, Kings Health Partners and UCL Partners) and Cambridge (Cambridge University Health Partners) received official designation as AHSCs from the Department of Health. Each of us has been working hard to progress a common mission to improve patient benefit and public wellbeing through research, education, innovation and service excellence, albeit via individual strategies based on our own particular brand of expertise and asset mix.

This month, MAHSC's Board of Governors held an Away Day to review the original vision, take stock of what had been achieved so far and consider priorities going forward. In combination with the output of our Executive Management Team Away Day of last month, we are now well prepared to move ahead into an exciting and productive second year.

SPECIAL REPORT: COLLABORATION FOR LEADERSHIP IN APPLIED HEALTH RESEARCH & CARE (CLAHRC) FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

The Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) for Greater Manchester is one of nine CLAHRCs in England that were established in 2008 by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to improve population health and healthcare through partnership working between a leading university and its surrounding NHS trusts. All nine CLAHRCs meet regularly to share knowledge and experience, ensuring that advances made by any one CLAHRC are available to all. The Greater Manchester CLAHRC is between the University of Manchester and 20 NHS primary care, acute and mental health trusts and is funded jointly by the NIHR and the partner trusts. The CLAHRC (hosted by NHS Salford) is directed by Professor Bonnie Sibbald and involves staff from the NHS partners and University, including the Schools of Community-Based Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, and Manchester Business School.

Our mission is to improve healthcare and reduce inequalities in health for people with vascular conditions by:

1. Supporting patient self-management and improving quality of care by developing and evaluating a series of inter-related interventions
2. Improving health care provision and reducing inequalities in access to care by implementing these and other evidence-based interventions in the NHS across Greater Manchester
3. Building NHS capacity to plan and implement evidence-based changes to care pathways for people with vascular disease through close working and knowledge exchange between University staff and NHS providers and commissioners.

What is the CLAHRC doing?

Knowing *What* to implement: Research themes

Each research theme forms one component of an integrated plan to improve NHS support for patient self-management and reduce inequalities in access to care, based around the Whole System Informing Self-Management Engagement (WISE) model.

● **People with Long Term Conditions**

This theme is developing better information strategies and resources to support self-care in people with long term vascular conditions. <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/patients>

● **Health Care Practitioners**

This theme is developing better approaches to the management of depression in patients with vascular conditions. Training packages and support for a care pathway are being developed in partnership with NHS staff and patients; and are being specifically tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and South Asian patient groups. Cost effectiveness will be assessed through a randomised controlled trial. <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/practitioners>

● **Health Care Services**

This theme is developing and testing new models of access to specialist care that support patient self-management for diabetes and chronic kidney disease. This is being tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and ethnic minority patient groups. <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/services>

● **Health Information Systems**

This theme is developing new software systems that will enable healthcare commissioners and practitioners to monitor variations and inequalities in healthcare provision for people with vascular conditions, and assess the likely impacts of interventions intended to improve patient care. <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/systems>

Knowing How to implement: Implementation themes

There are four inter-related programmes of implementation which will ensure that knowledge gained from the research is applied to improve healthcare in Greater Manchester for patients with vascular conditions. Work will occur in two phases: currently the CLAHRC is working to implement research findings suggest will improve health outcomes for people with vascular conditions. From the start of 2011, the CLAHRC will begin implementing new approaches to care being developed within its own research themes.

All PCTs in Greater Manchester, together with relevant hospitals, are now actively engaged through the CLAHRC in introducing evidence-based improvements in healthcare for people with vascular conditions.

● **Stroke**

The Stroke theme has developed a six-month post-stroke assessment tool for patients, in line with the National Stroke Strategy. We are currently working with PCT commissioners and providers to develop and test local models for delivering the assessment tool, tailoring it to the needs of local populations and making best use of available resources, before it is then implemented in practice. <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/stroke>

● **Diabetes**

The Diabetes theme is implementing proactive support services, principally telephone-based, for people with a range of vascular conditions or risk factors. These services are tailored to suit the context of each of the four participating PCTs (NHS Bolton, NHS Salford, NHS Stockport, and NHS Tameside and Glossop). <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/diabetes>

● **Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)**

The CKD theme is using the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Breakthrough Series Collaborative methodology to work with general practice teams to improve the identification and management of CKD, supported by improvements in staff education, leadership, information and patient involvement. <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/kidney>

● **Heart Disease**

The Heart Disease theme is developing and implementing an evidence-based best practice Standard of Care for Heart Failure (HF) for patients in NHS Manchester and a support programme for patients and clinicians to support its implementation. <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/heart>

Please email us on clahrc@srft.nhs.uk, visit our website at <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk>, or call us on 0161 743 3620 if you would like further information. We will be publishing our first Annual Report in late April 2010, which will be available to download from our on our website.

MAHSC MEMBER SUCCESSES

- **The University's Faculty of Life Sciences enjoyed a Royal visit when the Countess of Wessex came to see the work of the Healing Foundation Centre**, which aims to advance the understanding of wound healing and tissue regeneration. Manchester's Healing Foundation Centre represents a 25 year, £10 million commitment between The Healing Foundation and the University, its ultimate goal to identify treatments that will improve the lives of patients with disfigurements, either congenital, or following accident and disease. For more information on the Centre, which was formally opened by the Healing Foundation Lead Ambassador Simon Weston OBE in 2007, please see <http://personalpages.manchester.ac.uk/staff/enrique.amaya/healing.htm>.
- **The largest ever study** to investigate whether its possible to prevent children with hay fever going on to develop asthma **is underway at UHSM (University Hospital South Manchester)**. Researchers from the North West Lung Research Centre, along with others from centres across the UK and Europe, are looking to recruit 600 children between the ages of 4 and 11 years who have no asthma symptoms but who have hay fever and need medication. The idea is to study the youngsters to see if treatment with a prescribed and approved hay fever tablet, which contains natural grass pollen, can also reduce the risk of children with hay fever developing asthma
- **Researchers in Manchester believe a hormone therapy drug already used to treat breast cancer can significantly reduce its spread in women with a particular type of the disease**. Professor Nigel Bundred at UHSM (University Hospital of South Manchester), working with MAHSC colleagues at the Christie Hospital; Edinburgh and Nottingham studied whether the drug Exemestane (an aromatase inhibitor class drug) halted the growth of in situ breast cancer and potentially prevented it progressing to invasive breast cancer by spreading outside of the ducts of the breast. The results suggest that the drug is a potential alternative to tamoxifen in patients who have undergone breast conservation
- **The Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) was officially accredited as a Cancer Research UK (CR-UK) Centre in February 2010, one of around 20 Centres to be accredited by the end of 2010**. The initiative is one of CR-UK's highest priority strategic initiatives, the vision of which is to develop long-term, sustainable Centres of excellence in cancer, delivering world-class research, improved patient care and greater local engagement. It was modelled on the partnership working in Manchester, which led to the formation of the MCRC in November 2005.
- **New treatments for inflammatory lung diseases and a host of other conditions could be developed following a study into the impact of circadian rhythms – or body clock. In a partnership between the University of Manchester, the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a team of scientists will investigate how our biological clock controls inflammation in lung diseases such Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**. It

is hoped that this project, worth more than £500,000, will lead to the development of new drugs which will target how the internal body clock regulates the severity of inflammation. In the UK 27,478 people died as a result of COPD in 2004. Other diseases with an inflammatory aspect include asthma, which is a predisposition to chronic inflammation of the lungs in which the airways are reversibly narrowed.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

- **Push us over the edge.....**Three of Manchester's leading businesswomen will be joining **The Christie's Chief Executive, Caroline Shaw** to compete a skydive from 12,000ft to support the largest early clinical cancer trials unit in the world. To donate please visit www.justgiving.com/fearlessfoursome
- **A young scientist in the University's Faculty of Life Sciences Wellcome Trust centre for Cell-Matrix Research has won a prestigious Society of Biology Science Communication Award.** Ceri Harrop's energetic efforts to bring science to the public include writing and presenting a short television series, presenting a radio show and working as an ambassador for her subject in the national ESRC-funded New Outlooks in Science & Engineering (NOISE) campaign, as well as founding and chairing the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Matrix Research (WTCCMR) public engagement committee. For more information see www.wtccmr.manchester.ac.uk
- **Professor Radford, Director of Research and Development at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, and MAHSC Academic Section Lead for Cancer,** has been appointed as the Teenage Cancer Trust's new Professor of Teenage Cancer Medicine in The University of Manchester's School of Cancer and Enabling Sciences. The Christie runs the second largest of just eight specialist teenage cancer units in the country.
- **Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust is pleased to announce that Professor J F W Deakin has been appointed to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) College of Senior Investigators.** Senior Investigators are recognized for their outstanding contribution to health and social care research. There are now four NIHR Senior Investigators based at the Trust, the other investigators being Professor Nick Tarrier, Professor Shôn Lewis and Professor David Challis
- **The UK's first Burns Nurse Consultant has been appointed at UHSM.** Jacky Edwards has been a senior nurse specialist at Wythenshawe Hospital since 1998 and has played a lead role in the evolving Northern England Burn Care Network, which covers Northern England, North Wales and the Isle of Man. She will provide strategic leadership to the health and social care community by actively improving lifestyle and health outcomes as well as research and teaching to promote new techniques and treatments for patients at Wythenshawe Hospital, and across the UK
- **UMIC Welcomes the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills –** UMIC, the facilities management and business support service provider for the University of Manchester, welcomed Lord Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, to its world-class business incubation facilities at the Core Technology Facility (CTF) on 12 March. UMIC supports numerous biomedical business; Renovo, Epistem, DxS (recently acquired by Qiagen), Gentronix and Motac all began life with UMIC and have gone on to great success. These companies and others in UMIC's facilities have raised in excess of £100m in venture capital with several now listed on the London Stock Exchange or AIM markets.
- **Two of the University's Clinical Lecturers have recently obtained Clinician Scientist awards .**Dr Rachel Lennon, NIHR Clinical Lecturer & Consultant in Paediatric Nephrology, Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals Foundation Trust and the University of Manchester, has been awarded a Wellcome Trust Intermediate Clinical Fellowship. Dr Joanne Reeve, NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Primary Care, National Primary Care Research and Development Centre (NPCRDC), has been awarded an NIHR Clinician Scientist Award.
- **Four HEFCE clinical senior lectureships in 2009/2010 have been awarded to individuals in the MAHSC partnership.** Dr Kath Checkland, NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Primary Care, National Primary Care Research and Development Centre (NPCRDC), University of Manchester, has been awarded a HEFCE Clinical Senior Lectureship in Primary Care. Dr Hector Chinoy, Consultant Rheumatologist, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust (previously NIHR Clinical Lecturer) has been awarded a HEFCE Clinical Senior Lectureship at the University of Manchester and Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. Dr Richard Warren, NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Dermatology, has been awarded a HEFCE Clinical Senior Lectureship in Dermatology at the University of Manchester and Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. Dr Yong Du, Consultant in Nuclear Medicine, has been awarded a HEFCE Clinical Senior Lectureship at the University of Manchester and the Christie NHS Foundation Trust.
- **Two Research Training Fellowships have been awarded** to Dr Emma Burkitt-Wright, NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Clinical Genetics, University of Manchester and North Western Postgraduate Deanery, has been awarded a Wellcome Research Training Fellowship and Dr Ewan Langan, NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Dermatology, University of Manchester and North Western Postgraduate Deanery, has been awarded an MRC Clinical Research Training Fellowship
- **Dr Anne-Marie Buckle from the University's Faculty of Life Sciences** sadly and unexpectedly lost her battle with cancer over the New Year. Anne-Marie came to UMIST in 1995, while working in UMIST and subsequently The University of Manchester, she developed methods to establish haematopoietic stem cell lines from cord blood and study their differentiation in vitro. Anne-Marie's approach to science was always one of hard work, mixed with refreshing modesty and openness which made her a highly regarded, respected and valued research group leader, advisor, mentor and colleague. To commemorate Anne-Marie's commitment and enthusiasm for both teaching and research the Faculty of Life Sciences has established the 'Anne-Marie Buckle Memorial Prize' that will be awarded for the best final year student project in the general area of Cell and Molecular Biology.

EVENTS

- **The Christie NHS Foundation Trust** recently hosted visitors from GlaxoSmithKline's European Centre of Excellence to showcase some of the research that is undertaken by the Manchester Cancer Research Centre. The event was very successful and the visitors were impressed with the cancer research in Manchester and, in particular, the enthusiasm for translational research
- **The Paterson Institute for Cancer Research** recently held their annual Schools Day. 66 sixth form students from 13 schools across Manchester attended and participated in practical lab sessions. The purpose of the event was to highlight cancer research as a potential career. Feedback from the students was extremely positive, with many indicating that they would consider a career in cancer research.
- **Laboratory staff from AstraZeneca visited The Christie** this month to further their understanding and the relevance of their work to cancer patient care. These tours take place every 2 months and approximately 100 AstraZeneca staff have participated in the programme to date

For more news on these stories and more from the MAHSC members see the following websites:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/>

<http://www.christie.nhs.uk/press/default.aspx>

<http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/Pages/News.aspx>

<http://www.mhsc.nhs.uk>

<http://www.srht.nhs.uk/news-media/>

<http://www.salford-pct.nhs.uk/PressNMedia.aspx?section=0>

<http://www.cmft.nhs.uk/trust/media-centre.aspx>

TELL MAHSC/ASK MAHSC

Are you a MAHSC member with a good news story about your organisation, your team or an individual? Let us know and we will try to feature on this newsletter. Please email mahsc@manchester.ac.uk with subject line 'MAHSC newsletter'. Have a look on the MAHSC website for further information www.mahsc.ac.uk.

MAHSC 'HQ' is hosted by the University's Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences (FMHS) on the 4th Floor of the Simon Building. We can be contacted on 0161 306 0639 or via email at mahsc@manchester.ac.uk

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MAHSC is a partnership between The University of Manchester, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust, NHS Salford (Salford Primary Care Trust), Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust