



Scottish School of Primary Care

 SSPC_News
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Report Summer 2017

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Meetings

The Scottish School of Primary Care (SSPC) hosted two significant meetings in May. The first, an International Workshop on 'Learning Together: Sharing International Experience on New Models of Primary Care'. Our thanks to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and to Dr Gregor Smith, Deputy Chief Medical Officer (CMO), for supporting the meeting.



A report of this rich and useful day will be posted soon on the SSPC website (www.sspc.ac.uk).

This was followed the next day by the SSPC Annual Conference which was attended by 107 delegates, including primary care policy makers, academics and health care professionals, GPs including Cluster Leads.

There were excellent keynotes on rural mental health in Australia (David Perkins), primary care in Canada (Renee Lyons), how to engage with policymakers (Frede Olesen, Denmark) and a thought-provoking talk on the future of medicine and healthcare from Pali Hungin, British Medical Association (BMA). In addition Brian Robson, Health Improvement Scotland (HIS) facilitated workshops on quality improvement in GP Clusters.

What was really striking was the quality of the research presentations and the open and realistic discussions about how to move GP Clusters and primary care forward in Scotland.

Editorial

We are pleased to have recently co-authored two important publications relating to quality improvement in GP Clusters.

The first is this month's British Journal of General Practice editorial, which was co-written with Gregor Smith (Deputy CMO) and Alan MacDevitt (BMA, Scotland). This highlights the Scottish Government approach to Quality Improvement in Primary Care in the post 'Quality and Outcomes Framework' era (<http://bjgp.org/content/67/660/294>), and reports the work of the group that produced the report "Improving together; a national framework for quality in GP clusters in Scotland 2017" (<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/01/7911/downloads>). The group comprised members of Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Scotland, SSPC, HIS, NHS Education Scotland, BMA, NHS Services Scotland, Health & Social Care Chief Officers and Scottish Government. It sets out the purpose and values of GP Clusters, guided by evidence and professionalism in a time of great challenge for health services generally and primary care in particular.

Our second publication is the most recent addition of our series of Briefing Papers 'Collaborative Quality Improvement in GP Clusters' which was co-written with Adrian Rohrbasser, a GP from Switzerland and Bruce Guthrie (SSPC), and which will be available within the next week or so on our website (http://www.sspc.ac.uk/publications/briefing_papers/).

This is based on evidence from around Europe and contains helpful advice on sources of support for Cluster Leads on facilitation and data analysis.



We would welcome your suggestions for topics for future papers to add to this series.

Finally, we welcome Frank Sullivan on his return to Scotland and the University of St Andrews as the newest member of SSPC.

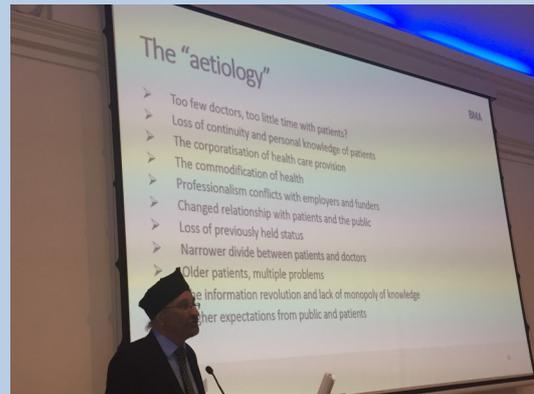


Professor Stewart Mercer
SSPC Director



Professor John Gillies
SSPC Deputy Director

Some Comments about our 2017 Annual Conference



Insight into primary care in other countries and other areas of the UK. Cluster workshop ...direct relevance to my work as a GP

Fantastic day ...I feel revitalised

One of the best conferences attended in a while.

Academic Careers and Research Capacity

Developing capacity to deliver high quality primary care research has been an important issue in Scotland since the publication of Sir Lewis Ritchie's 'Securing the future' report in 2009 (<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-nations/rcgp-scotland.aspx>).

Over the past six months, SSPC has discussed this at the Scottish Academic Forum and the Scottish Heads of Department meetings. Recently, Stewart Mercer and John Gillies met with Andrew Morris (Chief Scientist for Scotland) and Ricky Verrall (Head of the Chief Scientist Office) to discuss the gaps in career progression and our ideas for addressing these.



Building Primary Care Research Capacity

We have been thinking creatively about the added value of SSPC in the new primary care landscape. Consequently, we have been working on two new complementary initiatives. Combined, these will provide a 10 year strategy for primary care **evaluation** and **research** in Scotland that could guide policy and practice, and help deliver the Scottish Government's primary care vision. Discussions are at an early stage but offer good opportunities to use evidence more firmly in policy and service delivery.

To summarise, the initiatives are:

Primary Care Evidence Collaborative

Together with NHS Health Scotland, SSPC has been instrumental in setting up the newly formed Primary Care Evidence Collaborative. Partners in this include HIS, NES, the Alliance (Scotland), NHS Services Scotland and Scottish Government Analytic Services Division. The focus of this 10 year strategy is evaluation of primary care in Scotland.

Evidence-based Realistic Medicine for Integrated Primary Care

An additional proposal for this additional 10 year strategy, largely written by Bruce Guthrie and Stewart Mercer, has been discussed informally with the Chief Scientist Office and Primary Care Division of Scottish Government, as well as the Chairs of RCGP (Scotland) and BMA Scottish GPs Committee.

We believe that there is also a compelling need to fill many of the existing 'evidence-gaps' that we already know exist and that are likely to become more apparent as evaluation progresses. There is an important innovative 'middle-ground' that sits between the remit of the national research funding bodies and evaluation funders (ie between Randomised Controlled trials and studies measuring impact).

A focus on this 'research middle-ground' – working closely with the NHS partners in co-developing service developments using innovative methodological designs – could provide evidence for the clinical and cost-effectiveness of service developments within a relatively short timeframe, and help to deliver the evidence-base for Realistic Medicine.

2017 Higher Degree Opportunities

University of Glasgow Primary Care Master of Science

This programme attracts attention globally and is positioned for students from diverse backgrounds in primary care, including General Practitioners, Family Physicians, Pharmacists, Practice Nurses, Community Nurses, Practice Managers, Healthcare Policy Professionals and Allied Health Professionals.

It offers flexible learning with intake in September and January each academic year, there are options to take stand-alone courses, a postgraduate certificate, diploma or full MSc.

The MSc programme comprises six taught courses and a substantial piece of independent research or inquiry.

The programme courses are led by leading academics in the field of primary care. It offers a supportive environment for studying, including guidance and support for online study, and in-depth, timely responses to queries. You can access a [taster course](#) to see an example of the format of the online

University of Edinburgh Master of Science in Family Medicine

This pioneering, on-line, distance learning programme is targeted at doctors working in low/middle income countries with limited opportunity for post-graduate study in family medicine. Students working in rural areas are particularly encouraged through the provision of bursaries.

The programme is delivered in partnership with the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India and the International Christian Medical and Dental Association. The programme's team of tutors are practicing family doctors working in a variety of settings across the world.

Students are taught the principles of family medicine and evidence-based medicine focusing on application to local context as well as relevance to global health and the goal of universal health coverage. On-line learning is complemented by 2 weeks face-to-face teaching, allowing students to meet and form peer-support learning networks which continue beyond completion of the course. For more information, contact robin.ramsay@ed.ac.uk

Update on SSPC Evaluation of Primary Care Transformation Funds 'Tests of Change'

SSPC is pleased to report good progress on this. The core team has just completed the second round of scoping primary care transformation projects in the 7 territorial NHS Health Board areas that are not the focus of a 'deep-dive' case study (i.e. Borders, Dumfries & Galloway, Forth Valley, Fife, Glasgow, Grampian, Lothian). Work is also underway by the lead universities undertaking the case studies in the remaining Health Boards (i.e. Ayrshire & Arran, Lanarkshire, Tayside and Highland & Islands [Shetland, Orkney and Western Isles]) as well as the two specific tests of change (Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy) and the overarching Big Data case study. The final report of the Inverclyde Case Study, which was carried out ahead of the other case studies that were agreed with the Scottish Government, will be posted on our website once the final format has been agreed with the Scottish Government. Test of change reported in this included Phlebotomy, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy, and Telephone Triage for GP Home Visits.

Findings from all research teams indicate that the various tests of change across all Health Boards are at an early stage of development or implementation.

A big thank you to everyone helping us with this evaluation.

2017 NES GP Academic Fellowships

SSPC coordinated the appointment of these to its member universities. **Congratulations to the successful candidates and their host institutions:**

- Sarah Mills (University of Dundee)
- Marieille Captieux (University of Edinburgh)
- Khalil Hassanally (University of Edinburgh)
- Marianne McCallum (University of Glasgow)
- John Kyle (University of Glasgow)
- Laura Taylor (University of Glasgow)



More Congratulations

SSPC extends warmest congratulation to **Graham Watt, Emeritus Professor, who was awarded a CBE in this year's Birthday Honours for services to health care.** Graham retired in 2016 but, as one would expect, remains actively involved in projects associated with the Deep End.

Congratulations too to **Linda Gregson, Head of the Scottish Government Primary Care Transformation Team, who was awarded an OBE for services to education and social care.**

Finally, congratulations to Kate O'Donnell on being awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

.. look out for

the release of the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde report on the initial evaluation of investment in Prescribing Support Pharmacists and Technicians across Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership.

... and to keep abreast of Primary Care Transformation visit <https://khub.net/web/primary-care-transformation-network>

This group is set up to enable Primary Care and Mental Health Transformation, and to encourage sharing of information, learning and building relationships within and across NHS Health Boards, Partnerships and Government. The group currently comprises 240 members representing a range of health and social care professionals including GPs, Practice Nurses, Practice Managers and Health and Social Care Partnership Managers.

If there anything you would like to discuss with us, please email info@sspc.ac.uk or contact us on our Twitter account.

