



Wales Equality and Diversity in Health and Social
Care Research and Support Service

Gwasanaeth Cydraddoldeb ac Amrywioldeb Cymru mewn
Cefnogi Iechyd ac Ymchwil Gofal Cymdeithasol

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Research News & Information

◆ **National Institute of Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR)**

The Wales Office of Research and Development for Health and Social Care (WORD) has embarked on the implementation of a long-term strategy to build and strengthen the R&D base in Wales for the benefit of health and wealth generation. WORD achieves this through a complex range of largely competitive programmes designed to meet both policy need and the requirements of scientific excellence. WORD's strategic approach has evolved to ensure alignment with the Science Policy for Wales and opportunities created by Welsh Membership of the UK Office for the Strategic Co-ordination of Health Research (OSCHR).

In November 2007 the Minister for Health and Social Services agreed to the creation of a National Institute of Health Research as the operational arm of WORD (SF/EH/5163/07). The Minister recognised that the name of the Institute would need to change to reflect the inclusion of social care. WORD has since undertaken preliminary work to establish a National Institute of Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR). The creation and implementation of NISCHR will meet the One Wales commitment to create a health research institute.

Through NISCHR WORD will offer new and enhanced Wales-specific capacity building initiatives and research funding programmes, mechanisms for badging quality through the creation of a 'faculty', and opportunities for Wales-based researchers to participate in UK programmes emerging from the work of OSCHR. NISCHR was formally launched on 11 March 2009.

◆ **NHS /equity across ethnic groups**

Is there equity of service delivery and intermediate outcomes in South Asians with type 2 diabetes? Analysis of DARTS database and summary of UK publications. Full text/authors at: <http://jpubhealth.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/fdp003v1>

UK South Asians have a four- to six-fold increased prevalence of type 2 diabetes compared with the White European population. South Asians develop diabetes earlier in life, at lower levels of obesity, suffer longer with complications and have a subsequent higher mortality risk than their White European counterparts.

The provision of diabetes care in Scotland is guided by evidence-based standards set out in the Scottish Diabetes Framework and in guidelines produced by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN). These describe processes of care in relation to clinical management and patient monitoring, education and screening.

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and NHS policy in Scotland require the NHS to promote equitable provision of services. To demonstrate compliance, data are needed to show that services are provided in an equitable manner (i.e. in proportion to needs) and that outcomes are similar.

Main finding of this study The analysis shows that even in a setting with relatively few South Asian people the automated name search method, combined with visual review by experts, is useful in the absence of alternative methods—producing information that helped to fill a major gap. The technique should be considered where ethnic coding is not achievable. Surprisingly, South Asians were more likely than non-South Asians to have had a structured review during the year under examination, and were as likely, or even more likely, than non-

South Asians to have other measures carried out. Despite these satisfactory processes of care, the outcomes for diabetic control (reflected in higher HbA_{1c} levels and retinopathy) in South Asians were not as good as the White population. Cholesterol and BMI tended to be lower in South Asians than in non-South Asians, though differences in obesity were no longer apparent when ethnic-specific definitions of obesity were used. Other outcomes were comparable between the ethnic groups. Overall, the equity of the care given is extremely encouraging, particularly given that at the time of the study there were no particular local policy initiatives to achieve this, and that the study preceded the 2004 quality and outcomes framework for primary care. The work adds to the small body of literature, and provides rare information on health care in ethnic minority groups outside the metropolitan centres.

◆ **National signposting service for health and social care researchers -
RDDirect for health and social care researchers**

RDDirect is a national signposting service for health and social care researchers, and among its many useful resources is an online Research Process Flowchart which maps the different stages of research and provides hints, tips and checklists for researchers at all levels. Website: <http://www.rddirect.org.uk/>

Funding Opportunities

◆ **WEDHS Joint Initiative Funding Scheme**

The Wales Equality and Diversity in Health and Social Care Research and Support Service (WEDHS) offers a way to improve the health and wellbeing of black and minority ethnic (BME) people in Wales through an innovative programme of research and development. WEDHS has established the Joint Initiative Funding Scheme to strengthen the ability of voluntary and community groups to carry out activities that enhance the health and well-being of BME people in Wales. The Scheme will also allow for regional research and support priorities to be addressed in collaboration with the WEDHS Regional Hubs. These funds are available for health-related activities that focus specifically on

BME patients, service users and community groups. WEDHS does not have a list of typical activities; you can be as creative and original as you like.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.wedhs.org.uk/how%20we%20work/joint.php> or by contacting Olivia Ambang on 01443483107 (Monday to Thursday). Completed grant application should be sent electronically to Olivia Ambang <<mailto:oambang@glam.ac.uk>> or sent free by post to: WEDHS Joint Initiative Funding Scheme, HESAS Research Unit, GT FREEPOST CF2486, University of Glamorgan, Treforest, Pontypridd, CF371GZ.

◆ **PhD studentship**

A PhD studentship based at Sheffield Hallam University is available as part of the Inequalities Implementation Theme of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Collaboration in Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care for South Yorkshire (SYCLAHRC). This ambitious 5 year programme involves partnership between Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Sheffield and the surrounding NHS and 3rd sector organisations of South Yorkshire. It focuses on improving patient outcomes through the conduct and application of applied health research and service design in the areas of chronic long-term conditions, self management, health inequalities and public health.

The PhD studentship will be based within the Centre for Health & Social Care Research at SHU and will focus on one of the following areas:

- * access to healthcare among people with learning disabilities
- * inequalities in early diagnosis of chronic illness
- * chronic health conditions and worklessness

Proposals that give due consideration to ethnic diversity are encouraged. Further information: Dr. Sarah Salway s.salway@shu.ac.uk

◆ **Fellowship/Studentship**

Research Studentship, "Men's involvement in antenatal genetic screening", University of Birmingham Nursing and Physiotherapy. A pilot study investigating men's experiences of antenatal and postnatal genetic screening, using email

communication with participants is currently underway. The fully funded studentship (fees and stipend) will employ qualitative and quantitative research methods to examine men's involvement in antenatal genetic screening, with some novel method development in order to promote men's participation in the context of contemporary society. For an informal discussion, please contact Dr Alison Metcalfe, Tel. 0121 414 2666, email: a.m.metcalfe@bham.ac.uk

To apply, please submit a CV and covering letter to Michelle Arnold, Postgraduate Administrator, Nursing and Physiotherapy, School of Health and Population Sciences, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, Tel: 0121 415 8146. The entry criteria for a research degree can be found at Website:

<http://www.healthsciences.bham.ac.uk/researchdegrees/entry.shtml> (This studentship is only available to UK and EU students). Closing date for applications: 23 March 2009

Events

◆ Screening Services Community Awareness Programme

Screening Services as part of Velindre NHS trust is responsible for the delivery of the national breast cervical and bowel screening programmes. The screening promotion department are working in partnership with community groups to help raise awareness specifically for members from the BME community.

The aim of the programme is to educate the BME community about the benefits of and limitations of regular screening. Research has shown that the uptake of screening is low within areas of high BME populations. The reasons for this could include a cultural or language barrier; a communication breakdown or a lack of information about screening.. For whatever reason, by working with the community and addressing their needs our aim is to empower people to access screening services..

Screening services are running a series of Community Awareness Workshops designed to educate volunteers from within those communities. The programme would provide information about Breast, Cervical, and Bowel cancers; how the screening programmes work; and include discussions surrounding the barriers and approaches to encourage uptake and dispel myths.

The screening service is looking for volunteers from within the BME community who are keen to promote this message and increase the uptake of screening and be part of a BME community awareness action team. The first training session is scheduled for Friday April 10th.

If you interested in attend this Awareness project or would like more information then please contact: Dafydd Snelling on 01792 453145 or email Dafydd.snelling@velindre-tr.wales.nhs.uk Or Bridget Young on 02920787830 or email bridget.young@velindre-tr.wales.nhs.uk

◆ **7th International Conference on Workplace Bullying and Harassment – call for papers.**

The biennial conference will take place over three days at the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff, and will bring together researchers, academics, practitioners and students from around the world in the summer (2nd - 4th June) of 2010. For more details and call for papers see web: <http://www.bullying2010.com/>

◆ **Developing Today's Talent as Tomorrow's Leaders**

Windsor Fellowship is pleased to announce recruitment to this year's intake for the Leadership Programme Wales. Windsor Fellowship offers undergraduates from Black and Asian Minority Ethnic Communities unparalleled development opportunities through its two-year Leadership Programme, and is currently recruiting nationwide. Please note you do not have to be resident in Wales to apply for this programme.

Programme Overview

- Six residential skills training seminars focusing on presentation skills, team working, developing employability and accelerated learning techniques
- 1-week residential outdoor Personal Enhancement Programme (PEP)
- 2 paid internships with the Welsh Assembly Government (across Wales)
- To undertake a minimum of 2 hours voluntary work per week

Eligibility Criteria

- First year undergraduate of a three year degree or second year undergraduate of a four year degree course
- From a Black, Asian or minority ethnic community
- Commitment to Wales

Visit the Windsor Fellowship website (<http://www.windsor-fellowship.org>) for further information, or request an application pack by sending an email to: KhanR@windsor-fellowship.org.

◆ Research Seminar on Fairness and Equality

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has commissioned a study that is currently being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen) looking at public understandings of equality, fairness, and good relations across Great Britain. This work will be used to help shape the EHRC's future activities to ensure that they are as aligned to public understanding as possible.

As part of the research three seminars in England, Scotland and Wales with key stakeholders working in the field of equalities and diversity are being held. The Wales seminar which will take place on Tuesday 31st March at Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff, 24-26 Newport Rd, CF24 0DD. The seminar will last from 1.30am until 5pm. Lunch will be served from 12.30pm

The purpose of the seminars is to share our emerging findings on how the public currently understands equality, fairness and good relations with key stakeholders. The kinds of topics that we will be aiming to cover include:

- What does the research suggest about attitudes, including what underpins them and how and why they vary?
- What does the research suggest about the process of developing public understanding and how attitudes change?

The results of the discussions will feed into the final stage of the project, the development of survey questions to measure public understanding and attitudes.

The seminars will be recorded and transcribed so that they can contribute to the wider study being run by NatCen and ScotCen which has so far included a review of existing evidence and 23 focus groups with the general public in England, Scotland and Wales to explore their understanding of, and attitudes to, fairness, equality and good relations. The final report will include the names of everyone who attends one of these seminars, but input to the seminars will be written up on a non-attributable basis.

Please also contact them if you have any questions about the seminars or the wider research project. Please RSVP to: Ashley.Brown@natcen.ac.uk or 020 7549 9512

◆ User Involvement conference

University of Brighton Health and Social Policy Research Centre conference, "Critical perspectives on user involvement". 24 April 2009, Brighton, England

This conference will be taking a critical look at user involvement. Service user involvement is now official policy - what are the consequences of this? Has it lost its radical edge? Has it made a real difference? What has happened to autonomous user groups? Is there an expectation that users MUST get involved? The conference will address these and other questions from the perspective both of user activists, and researchers and others who study user movements and user involvement. Contact: Sallie White. Email:

S.S.White@brighton.ac.uk.Website: <http://snipurl.com/bt84t>,
[www_brighton_ac_uk]

Acknowledgements

Articles for this bulletin were received from our sister e-group (minority ethnic health - MINORITY-ETHNIC-HEALTH@JISCMAIL.AC.UK), our OPAN colleagues (<http://www.opanwales.org.uk/>), our PHIRN colleagues (www.phirn.org.uk) Dave O'Carroll of RCN Research and Development Co-ordinating Centre, the Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales (BVSNW) and members of the WEDHS network. To find out more about WEDHS, visit our website at www.wedhs.org.uk. Please contact Dr Susanah Kimani (skimani@glam.ac.uk) if you wish to include an item in the next bulletin.

