

Health and social care organisation and workforce:

Project 1 - Health behaviour change interventions to improve health outcomes for people with HIV.

People with HIV (PWH) are at increased risk of a range of age-associated non-communicable comorbidities (e.g. heart disease) compared to the general population. Positive health behaviours (e.g. leading an active lifestyle) are a fundamental part of managing these long-term conditions and can improve health outcomes and quality of life.

Healthcare professionals (HCPs) are widely considered to have a key role in promoting those behaviours but multiple factors, including a lack of time and adequate knowledge, limit this. From a patient perspective, many indicate they would be receptive to these interventions during routine care, however the relationship they have with the HCP is a key factor. The majority of PWH have positive relationships with their HIV service, meaning HIV practitioners in the UK are ideally placed to deliver lifestyle interventions.

Using a mixed-methods approach, informed by behaviour change theory, this project will examine the role of brief health behaviour change interventions in HIV care within the UK.

Project aims:

- To understand the role of HCPs in providing health behaviour change interventions to PWH.
- To understand the barriers and facilitators to HCPs providing health behaviour change interventions to PWH.
- To co-produce design intervention(s) with relevant stakeholder using a theoretical behaviour change framework.

For further information and to discuss your ideas, contact Dr Martin Lamb at m.lamb@shu.ac.uk

Project 2 - Embedding community participation in the diabetes health system: participatory, developmental, realist evaluation.

The project aims to contribute new knowledge and theory about how community partners and health partners can work across organisational boundaries to support patients with diabetes access health care and manage their condition.

This project will support an existing network of partners in the city focussing on a range of ethnically diverse groups drawn from African Caribbean, Somali, Yemeni, Arabic, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Roma Slovak and Chinese Communities.

The exact research design will be led by the successful candidate, however, we envisage it will include community participatory research, alongside voluntary community sector partners, to establish acceptable, culturally competent approaches and make clear the discriminatory processes in the existing systems.

Developmental realist evaluation may support the implementation of new processes and pathways, paying particular attention to rooting out and addressing modifiable causes of disparity. Data collection methods will include observations, qualitative interviews and workshops and the analysis of routinely captured monitoring data.

For further information and to discuss your ideas, contact Dr Katie Shearn at k.shearn@shu.ac.uk

Project 3 - An exploration of research culture and research capability and capacity within the Allied Health Professions

[Doctoral student to focus on either the paramedic, operating department practice or diagnostic radiography professions]

In recent years the Operating Department Practice (ODP) and Paramedic professions have transferred their pre-registration education programmes to degree-level entry. This transition is now well-established and has been further enhanced by the provision of postgraduate education in many universities. However many experienced practitioners have received limited research training; new graduates and student practitioners entering the workplace may have little access to research role models. While diagnostic radiography is now an increasingly research-active profession, there is considerable variation between imaging departments in terms of adopting and embracing a research culture.

This project aims to explore the current scope of research activity seen within these professions, and will seek to identify challenges and opportunities for enhancing professional research culture. Recommendations for developing research capability and capacity within the professions will be drawn from this work. While there is scope for the successful candidate to influence the research questions and methodology proposed, the project may include:

- Literature review capturing professional, educational and registration requirements, guidelines and frameworks for practice
- Publication and citation analysis to identify and explore the current publishing landscape in the profession
- Data collection from key stakeholders in education and/or clinical practice to identify barriers and facilitators to establishing a research culture within the profession. This could include interviews, focus groups or survey methods.

For further information and to discuss your ideas, contact Prof Julie Nightingale, Professor of Diagnostic Imaging Education at J.Nightingale@shu.ac.uk