



ARC NWC Newsletter March 2020

A message from ARC NWC Director, Professor Mark Gabbay



Dear All

This is a special ARC NWC Newsletter we are sending out to all of our stakeholders, including those who have either registered / attended our ARCFEST events, to inform you what we are doing in light of Coronavirus and our plans moving forward.

Our planned **May 2020 ARCFEST has been cancelled**. We are still hoping to host ARCFEST 3 on 15th September and have a venue provisionally booked. However we will keep you updated as to whether this will take place as time progresses.

Thank you to all those that attended the last ARCFEST Liverpool on 27th February. We hope you found it productive.

Progressing Ideas generated from that ARCFEST have been paused, which unfortunately includes the shaping of ideas from the excellent pitches we received. A small selection of theme work is continuing and those involved in individual projects may be requested to work remotely/online for this.

Any clinical ARC NWC staff have been asked to return to, or take on additional, core NHS duties. Understandably, this means a fair bit of our work has to be put on pause as front line staff are also involved in the project work itself.

As an NIHR funded body we are temporarily re-focusing our efforts on how we can assist our members during this incredibly pressurised time. We have offered to help our members in five key areas where we may be able to work in partnership with their staff. They are as follows:

- **Evaluating the impact of new procedures triggered by Coronavirus**
- **Producing rapid reviews / current research information on Coronavirus**
- **Management and use of data sets between NHS and Local Authorities**
- **Offering our extensive community network (COREN) to help with implementation of information campaigns**
- **Evaluating the impacts on workforces and patients/carers/public of: social isolation, social distancing, new ways of consulting, impacts on referrals, acute assessment, long-term condition management and monitoring in terms of both process and clinical outcomes.**
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Members of ARC NWC staff have already started being placed in member organisations to assist with data management analysis and this includes working with the Merseyside Resilience Forum.

ARC NWC staff have also been working on applications for funding for applied research projects in relation to Coronavirus to produce results which can benefit both the region and be used by local health units.

May I thank you for your patience and support during these unprecedented times and encourage you to abide by the official health advice and look after yourselves.

Professor Mark Gabbay
Director, ARC NWC

If this communication has reached you by error or you do not wish to receive any further updates please email arcnwc@liverpool.ac.uk.

Health Services Research (HSR) UK 2020 conference goes virtual - important announcement



The HSR UK 2020 annual conference, planned for July 2020 in Manchester, cannot take place as intended due to Coronavirus. But with an incredibly full and varied programme, it will go ahead and be an entirely virtual and online conference, completely free to anyone to attend – from the UK and internationally. Some of which will focus on the contribution health services research is making to the global COVID-19 pandemic – as well as bringing oral papers, posters and sessions to life on the website.

If you are a poster or paper presenter or session organiser, representatives will be in touch to explain how contributions towards the conference will still go ahead. If you have already registered for the conference, organisers will be in touch shortly to explain how to either get a refund or defer your place at the conference to 2021.

Keep an eye on the website. <https://hsruk.org/>

Case study showcases pan-European research link up with care home in Sefton as the focus



A pioneering research project is bringing together leading researchers from ARC NWC and the Netherlands.

The research project jointly develops a meaningful garden space in a Liverpool care home by talking to care home staff and family members. It will have a particular focus on the use of green/garden space for the benefit of residents with and without dementia in nursing homes.

St Nicholas Care Home is a single-storey, purpose-built home located in the residential area of Netherton, north of Liverpool. The home accommodates 176 residents in 176 single rooms and will be the first location to have installed a new garden space with staff subsequently monitoring its usage over three months.

Dr Clarissa Giebel is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Applied Research Collaboration North West Coast (ARC NWC), based at the University of Liverpool and is spearheading the European link-up to ensure benchmarking between the countries delivers practical research findings for wider implementation.

She said: “We’re developing a dementia village idea. We are going into care homes, outlining findings from the Netherlands about the use of green/garden spaces and asking families to identify an external space concept they think would benefit all involved in the care of their relatives with dementia. Then the question is how do you implement it? We are bringing the research concept already trialled and evaluated in the Netherlands and seeing if we can implement it here.”

Read the [Case Study](#) about the project

Vivien moves on to pastures new

A leaving lunch for Vivien Holt, who is leaving ARC NWC, was held as a thank you for all of her efforts in Stockbridge Village, where ARC NWC have been working closely with ForHousing and others in implementing many community research/improvement projects.

Several videos have been made regarding the progress made in Stockbridge Village and are available on the ForHousing YouTube channel. We wish Vivien all the best and thank her for her efforts on the CLAHRC NWC/ARC NWC *Neighbourhoods for Learning* work. Vivien features in the video below which captures some of the achievements made. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DemosUqpxoc>

Snippets

Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library is responding rapidly to Coronavirus by providing trusted evidence to inform health decisions. Resources and news freely available here <https://www.cochrane.org/coronavirus-covid-19-cochrane-resources-and-news>

Technology for Advisers

We are currently trialling ways to engage with our Public Advisers using the latest technology. Several are participating in trials so please bear with us.

North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards 2020

Seems like a life time ago now but all of the winners from the event hosted on 28 February are here <https://www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk/news/NWC-Award-winners-2020>

Dementia workshop

Thank you for an incredible turnout again for the latest Liverpool Dementia forum held on March 4th at the University of Liverpool. The Walton Centre's Dr Rhys Davies' insightful talk on *Rare Dementias* was very well received and his [slides are available here](#).

Internships for Member staff



TO ARC NWC MEMBERS: We have extended the deadline to April 24th for our Research Fellowship Internships 2020.

Open to individuals within our Member organisations who have an established interest in research, implementation and evaluation these internships are designed to support individuals within our Member organisations to prepare an NIHR Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Doctoral Fellowship, Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship, Development and Skills Enhancement Award, or Advanced (Postdoctoral) Fellowship. NIHR Advanced Fellowships now also consider applications for Knowledge Mobilisation Research. Applications for Pre-Doctoral and Doctoral

Fellowships must be supervised by Academic Researchers from Edge Hill University, Lancaster University, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Liverpool or the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan). Fellowships must align with an existing ARC NWC research theme

For more information visit [this page](#).

Emma pens words for new NHS book



ARC NWC Senior Research Fellow Dr Emma Halliday has been getting her creative juices flowing for a new book of NHS poetry.

Emma's words are part of a newly released anthology which features poems written by professionals connected to the NHS as well as leading UK poets.

The anthology offers a unique insight into the real experiences of the people at the heart of the NHS – from the student nurse at the start of his career to the heart surgeon on the eve of her retirement. It also features stories of those whose vital work is often unseen and unsung from domestic cleaning staff to sign language interpreters, researchers, etc.

Emma's poem is called 'Burnt Out' . It was inspired by a BMA report which highlighted the high levels of stress and burn out among doctors and medical students, and the impact on their mental health. <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2019/may/serious-mental-health-crisis-among-doctors-and-medical-students-revealed-in-bma-report>

Emma, who works on the ARC NWC's Equitable Placed-Based Health and Care (EPHC) theme at Lancaster University, said: 'I am delighted to have my poem published in this wonderful anthology which reflects the voices of those working in and supporting the NHS. I'd encourage everyone to buy a copy to support all the staff of the NHS, especially in light of the front line response taking place during the current COVID-19 crisis.'

The poems in the book offer unflinchingly honest and intimate accounts from the people who care for us from the moment of birth to the end of life. In crystallising the most beautiful and painful moments of being human, they speak directly to all our experience. Above all these poems are about our shared humanity. They are about the compassion and care that lie at the heart of the NHS and in all our lives. They also serve as a stark reminder of the human cost of trying to offer compassionate care in a system that is

underfunded and understaffed and the importance of showing the same compassion and support to the staff we depend on to hold the NHS together.

Leading UK poets have donated poems to this anthology including Michael Rosen, Roger McGough, Lemn Sissay, Sabrina Mahfouz, Kate Clanchy, Sam Guglani, Charly Cox, Molly Case, Wendy Cope and the estates of UA Fanthorpe, Dannie Abse and Julia Darling

The book is available from bookshops and can also be purchased from the publishers at <https://fairacrepress.co.uk/shop/these-are-the-hands-poems-from-the-heart-of-the-nhs/>



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