

Research Update

Newsletter of the Northern Ireland Hospice & University of Ulster Research Committee

Newsletter 2009
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Research Committee Members

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Mrs Cathy Payne (NIH/UU)

Dr May Stinson (NIH)

Mr Stephen Ward (NIH)

Ms Tracey McTernaghan
(NIH) Administrator



Welcome to the first edition of the Northern Ireland Hospice and University of Ulster Research Committee's Newsletter.

We are delighted to launch this newsletter as an information resource for health and social care professionals involved in palliative care and the health and social care field.

Over the last ten years Northern Ireland Hospice and University of Ulster have been working collaboratively on research studies by means of the multiprofessional research group. This led directly to the formation of our new research committee in January 2008.

We hope to continue working together to encourage, promote and facilitate research and development, which will lead to the promotion of evidence based palliative and end of life care regionally, nationally and internationally.

In this newsletter we hope to regularly update you on our work and invite you to bring your research ideas to us.

Over the past year our work has continued to grow and examples are detailed overleaf.

Committee Priorities, Themes and Projects

Committee Remit

- To identify research and development needs, priorities and direction.
- To promote research awareness and research skills training.
- To encourage and facilitate research and development activity through agreed programmes of research.
- To be recognised regionally, nationally and internationally through undertaking high quality research.
- To promote and maintain strategic links and partnerships with academic institutions and other agencies.
- To ensure that research and development policies reflect Research Governance and regional guidelines.

Current Priority Themes

Clinical Symptom Management: to build baseline data on symptom control.

Organisation of Palliative Care across Boundaries: to examine palliative care issues between home, hospital and nursing home.

Communication: communication needs of patients at advanced stages of illness.

Marginalised Groups: systems of care to ensure doubly vulnerable people who are not disadvantaged.

Current Projects

- Palliative Care Needs of People with Parkinson's Disease, (Prof George Kernohan)
- Specialist Palliative Care and Learning Disability Service: promoting collaborative working, (Dorry McLaughlin)
- Involvement in the soon to be established All Ireland Institute of Palliative Care Research and Education, (Dr Max Watson)
- Organisation of Palliative Care across boundaries, (Dr Sonja McIlfratrick)
- Overview of Interventions for Managing Fatigue & Weight Loss in Adults with Advanced Progressive Illness, (Cathy Payne)
- Assessment of Patient Centredness in the Clinical, Administrative and Cultural Life of a Hospice In-Patient Unit, (Dr Sonja McIlfratrick & Prof George Kernohan)

Recently Completed Studies

A Study of Palliative Care Needs and Services Available in Advanced COPD

Extending Palliative Care Education to Nursing Home Staff across EHSSB Area

Future Studies

Review of Bereavement Services

End of Life Care for People with Heart Failure

Impact of Palliative Care Educational Activities among GP's in Northern Ireland

Palliative Care Needs for People with Dementia

Research News

Northern Ireland Hospice Courses

Friday 29 May 2009

Can I Help You? Helping clerical staff to deal with distressed patients & relatives £70

Wednesday 3 June 2009

Breathing Easier in Advanced Disease £90

Thursday 4 June 2009

Masterclass:
Understanding Spirituality and its Challenges in a Palliative Care Context £45

Wednesday 10 June 2009

Understanding the Impact of Cancer (Pastoral Workers) £40

6 & 7 October 2009

All Ireland International Conference

Pushing Boundaries in Palliative and End of Life Care

10-12 March 2010

The 8th Palliative Care Congress

An International Learning Opportunity, Bournemouth

Northern Ireland Hospice Interest Group

This research interest group grew from a discussion about the challenges involved in writing for publication for the first time. This group provides a forum to discuss, share ideas and experiences in this area. Membership is open to anyone, and already there are several people interested. The first meeting will be held shortly.

For further information, please contact:

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Northern Ireland Cancer Network (NICaN)

NICaN has been keen to encourage the development of quality palliative care research and establish close links with the local Universities and Hospices involved in conducting studies. Members of staff are involved in NICaN working groups.

The Network has been very supportive of the work of the Northern Ireland Hospice/University of Ulster research group and the role that it performs in promoting and reviewing research proposals from across the region.

With the future development of the All Ireland Institute of Palliative Care, it is likely that the structures for research governance and promotion may evolve but NICaN have been quick to acknowledge the important role which the Northern Ireland Hospice and University of Ulster Research Group have been conducting for many years and the expertise which has built up.



Other News – New System For Research Governance.

The Integrated Research Application System (IRAS) is a single system for applying for the permissions and approvals for health and social care/community research in the UK.

It streamlines the process for seeking relevant approvals as you do not need to enter the details for a single project in separate application forms.

IRAS retains familiar aspects of the online ethics application system and contains extensive guidance to support users of the system.

Research Ideas Form

Have You Any Research Ideas?

Would You Like to Become Involved in Research?

If you have a research idea arising from your work, we can provide you with advice, support and assistance with securing funding. For an electronic copy please email: education@nihospice.org

Title of Proposed Research:

Investigators:

Department:

The Research Question or Hypothesis:

Background:

Signature:

Date:

Simply complete and return to Tracey McTernaghan, Education Department,
Northern Ireland Hospice, Adult Services, 74 Somerton Road, Belfast, BT15 3LH