With the Research Excellence Framework (REF) uppermost in researchers’ minds the SMH is presently obtaining external appraisals of our outputs. Early indications are that researchers are progressing well but that there is a need to secure publications in good time from projects underway or nearing completion. Although many journals will increase pre-REF publication capacity time lags due to resubmissions will pose a problem. SMH grant income is being maintained and in particular, collaboration with NHS colleagues is proving effective, especially through the School’s Research Design Service (RDS) and the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU). To provide continuity in research themes and income the next stage of our growth requires us to secure development and programme grants from NIHR, the research councils and major charity funds – we are working on this. Meanwhile, congratulations to the SMH team for successes in medical education, evaluation research and in the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) streams. This High Force provides a cross section of current activity.

Infinity over the Tees
HEAD OF SCHOOL: Prof Pali Hungin
DEPUTY HEAD OF SCHOOL: Prof Jane Macnaghten
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH: Prof James Mason
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF MEDICINE: Prof John McLachlan
DEPUTY HEAD OF UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE: Dr Jackie Spence
DIRECTOR OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES: Dr Sharyn Maxwell
CHAIR OF ETHICS COMMITTEE: Mrs Rebecca Maier
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR: Mr Andrew Watt

Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease
Founded 10 years ago, the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD) has established itself as one of the leading research centres of its kind in the UK and internationally. We are supported by The Wellcome Trust and centres of its kind in the UK and internationally. We are supported by The Wellcome Trust and

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Centre for Integrated Health Care Research
The leadership role within CIHCR has been passed from Prof Pali Hungin to Prof James Mason. CIHCR includes the Research Design Service, Durham Clinical Trial Unit, The Evaluation Research and Development Unit (ERDU, led by Prof Greg Rubin), The Obesity Related Behaviours Research Group (ORB, led by Prof Carolyn Summerbell) and The Mental Health Research Group (led by Prof Joe Reilly). CIHCR conducts and supports clinical and health services research. A number of studies are in progress. Some examples include:

- A HRUK funded national survey of variability in heart failure diagnosis and management
- A NIHR-funded study (ADVANCE) evaluating the impact of the new PFI builds at Roseberry Park and Lanchester Road on patient experience and outcomes
- A National Cancer Action funded implementation of a risk assessment tool for lung and colorectal cancer
- A NIHR-funded study addressing inequalities in obesity, specifically the effectiveness of public health interventions in reducing socio-economic inequalities in obesity amongst children and adults.

Within CIHCR, the RDS team offers advice and methodological support for research groups seeking funding in applied health research. The DCTU provides support to clinicians and academics, collaborating in funded studies. We encourage colleagues to look at our website www.rds-ne.nihr.ac.uk/ and to contact us to discuss their ideas by contacting Suzanne Sanders on (0191) 3440826 or by email rds@durham.ac.uk. The DCTU is currently supporting 4 NIHR-funded studies in gastroenterology and breast cancer. For further details about CIHCR contact Alex Motley.

James Mason

Centre research profiles

Medical Education Research Group
The Medical Education Research Group is led by Jan Illing and John McLachlan, and consists of Gill Morrow, Bryan Burford, Charlotte Rothwell, Madeleine Carter, Neill Thompson, Marina Sawdon, Gabrielle Finn, Andrew Chaytor, Cathy Williamson, Simon Forrest, Pam White, and Judith Barbaro-Brown, with PhD students Sam Ismaile, and Paul Crampton. This is probably the largest medical education research team in the UK. We are or have been contracted to all the major UK regulators and professional bodies, including the Department of Health, Scottish Government, GMC, NMC, HPC, UKCAT, NCAS, Royal Colleges and Medical Schools Council. Our broad expertise allows us to work across the undergraduate/post graduate divide with ease. We are also contracted to provide training in leadership in medical education to senior staff within the Northern Deanery.

One example project is our work with the HPC on understanding of professionalism within regulated professions. This involves extensive qualitative and quantitative research methodology, through focus groups, interviews, and quantification of conscientiousness.

John McLachlan

Centre for Integrated Health Care Research
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Tackling inequalities in obesity: how effective are public health interventions at reducing socio-economic inequalities in obesity amongst children and adults. Summerbell CD, Moore HJ, Hillier F. Sponsor: NIHR (Awarded)

‘I think it must run in the family’: Multi-generational households and the decision making processes around teenage pregnancy and parenthood. Brown S. Sponsor: The British Academy (Awarded)

IAS workshop on voice-hearing - 24th and 25th November - Hearing the voice: An international Interdisciplinary Workshop. Woods A. Sponsor: Wellcome Trust (Awarded)

Relating professionalism and conscientiousness to develop an objective, scalar, proxy measure of professionalism in anaesthetic trainees. Sawdon M. Sponsor: National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia (Awarded)

Optical diagnosis of small colorectal polyps in routine clinical practice (Disect InSpect ChiAracterise Resect and Discard; DISCARD2 trial): a prospective, multi-centre cohort study. Mason JM, Close HJ, Wilson D. Sponsor: RfPB (Awarded)

Tined lead test stimulation to predict long-term benefit from sacral nerve stimulation in patients with chronic constipation (TiLTS trial). Mason JM, Hancock HC, Close HJ. Sponsor: NIHR (Submitted)

A project to assess the impact of the working time regulations (WTR) on medical education and training. Morrow G, Burford BC, Carter M, Illing J. Sponsor: General Medical Council (Submitted)

NAEID/Cancer Networks Supporting Primary Care Rubin G. Sponsor: DoH (Submitted)

‘Pre-schoolers in the playground’ - a cluster randomised controlled trial of a physical activity intervention for children aged 18 months to 4 years old. Summerbell CD, Moore HJ. Sponsor: NIHR (Submitted)

Behavioural activation in the at risk mental health state (ARMHHS). (outline application) Tiffin P, Mason JM. Sponsor: NIHR (Submitted)

Welcome to our new staff

Dr Amelia A Lake is a Lecturer in Knowledge Exchange in Public Health (FUSE). Amelia’s current work is to explore the Obesogenic Environment. Amelia is a Dietitian by background and is a registered Public Health Nutritionist. She joins the Centre for Public Policy and Health.

Welcome to our new research students

Paul Crampton (PhD) (John McLachlan, Jan Illing) “Exploring the learning opportunities for medical students of extended exposure to inner city GPs.”

Simon Jameson (MD) (James Mason, Mike Reed (external)) ‘Analysis of outcome data from the National Joint Registry of England and Wales.’

Nicki McCreesh (PhD) (Mark Booth, Martyn Lucas) ‘The impact of environmental changes on transmission of schistosomiasis in East Africa.’

Jan Pedersen (PhD) (Martyn Evans, Angela Woods) ‘How does the idea of wonder engage with medicine, health and flourishing, and/or our understanding of embodied experience?’

Dalia Iskander (PhD) (Kate Hampshire, Mark Booth) Medical Anthropology.

Gabor Szegedi (Visiting Researcher) (Lutz Sauerteig) ‘History of Medicine in Hungary, Germany and Austria.’

Anastasios Tzitzikos (PhD) (Lutz Sauerteig, Violetta Hionidou (Newcastle)) History of Medicine.

Some recent publications from school staff


Hunter DJ. Curate your own exhibition British Medical Journal. 2011; 342:d2995


Narayanan RP, Mason JM, Taylor J, Long AF, Gambling T, New JP, Gibson JM, Young Rj, Telemedicine to improve glycaemic control: 3 year results from the pro-active call centre treatment support (PACCTS) trial. Diabetic Medicine. 2011;Jun 9:epub ahead of print


Tiffin PA, Finn G, McLachlan JC. Evaluating professionalism in medical undergraduates using selected response questions: findings from an item response modelling study. BMC Medical Education. 2011;11:43


Upcoming events/interest

Undergraduate Medicine: Prize Giving Ceremony
16th November, Ebsworth Building. Contact Jackie Spence for further details: Jacqueline.spence@dur.ac.uk

Exhibition: The Foetus Goes Public Images of the unborn from the middle ages to the 21st century
Upper Rotunda, Holliday Building Queen’s Campus: until 9th December 2011