WELCOME

The Centre for Health Sciences Research (HSRC) is a thriving, multidisciplinary group, focused on improving health outcomes for a wide range of people and communities, through innovation and research. Based in the School of Health and Society, our research spans a wide range of areas, from foot and knee biomechanics and assistive device design, through to clinical rehabilitation, public health, psychology and diagnostic imaging. Working closely with our colleagues in the Centre for Applied Research in Health, Welfare and Policy (CARe), we are a strong community who work collegiately to build strength and capacity for research and who continue to be recognised as national and international leaders in health and social care research.

Following unification, both HSRC and CARe will produce separate newsletters twice per year. Watch out for the next CARe newsletter in three months’ time.

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Update from the Research Centre director

Since our last newsletter in November 2018, we have been making rapid progress with unification. Although we have retained two distinctly separate research centres (HSRC and CARe), we now have a school wide research environment (which is being led by Prof Penny Cook). This research environment will encompass all aspects of support and culture for research, including ECR mentorship, bidding support and equality and diversity. PGR students are now being managed at a school level by our new PGR director Dr Yeliz Prior along with two deputies, Michelle Howarth and Dr Marjana Scholtz.

In September 2019, it will be over a year since the process of unification was started and, to mark this event, we aim to launch a new school-wide research strategy! Working towards this new strategy, we will be holding a research away day on the 10th July. Following this event, Prof Ben Light will lead on the development of the new strategy which we hope will be ready for implementation by September 2019. In anticipation of this new strategy, each of the research leads from HSRC has developed, and hopefully started to implement, a theme-specific strategy. Each strategy contains details on areas relevant to research such as bidding, quality of research output, PGR students and external impact. If you were already part of developing it, then make sure you are familiar with your research theme’s strategy.

I am incredibly proud to announce that, at the end of 2018, the EPSRC confirmed that the strength of our prosthetics and orthotics research is going to be recognised by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) who have provided funding for a Centre for Doctoral training. This centre will address important global health challenges in the prosthetic, orthotic and wider healthcare technology sector. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Prof Chris Nester and Prof Malcolm Granat who made this happen through dedicated hard work. I am sure that this award will have a huge impact on the external profile of the HSRC over the forthcoming years. (In fact, Chris is already planning for the renewal of the CDT in 8 years time!)

In June this year, there will be a second UoS festival of research. As part of this celebration, there is a specific day which is dedicated to research in health and society and which is titled “Healthy Aging Living: Fusing Power and People.” At this event there will be a series of talks on prosthetics and orthotics in the morning followed by presentations around the topic of dementia in the afternoon. More details to follow shortly. If you are interested in giving a talk then please contact Steve Preece on s.preece@salford.ac.uk.
A lot has happened in our Research Programme since the last newsletter. Two of our students and one radiography staff member have completed their PhDs - congratulations to Dr Ali Mohamed Ali, Dr Al-Murshedi and Dr Szczepura. We have several new PhD students, welcome to Deborah Mizzi and Geert de Vries who will be undertaking mammography and dose optimisation research, respectively.

Since January 2019 we have first / co-authored a number of papers and posters at international conferences and journals; several more journal papers are under review. In February 2019, we published another open access book which arose from the Radiography Summer School we participated in last year. We have also submitted a number of research grants (with a combined value of £995k), of which we are awaiting the outcome.

Our collaborative relationships with Mid Yorks Hospital Trust, Rothband (a radiation protection company www.rothband.com), University of Southampton and The Christie Radiotherapy Centre have continued to successfully develop. With Mid Yorks we are developing a new imaging technique for imaging the hips, which involves laboratory-based experimental work and a hospital-based prospective human study - Kholoud Alzyoud, from Jordan, is a full time PhD student working on this project and is about to submit her thesis (good luck Kholoud). With Rothband we are co-designing new radiation protection products for use in medical imaging; we are also developing a new method to test X-ray imaging mattresses. Nadi Alresheedi, from Saudi Arabia, is a full time PhD student working on this project.

We have also seen success within our undergraduate BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography Programme. Ayesha Syed and Shirley Spence both received ‘highly commended’ awards in a Society & College of Radiographers Student Competition. They successfully submitted articles based on their final year projects for publication in Imaging & Therapy Practice (ITP). Well done to Ayesha and Shirley! Our 3rd year student, Shaun Dorey has submitted a Society and College of Radiographers Student CoRIPs grant - good luck Shaun.

As we enter the new academic year, we will continue our research efforts and preparations for REF 2020/2021. We continue to develop our impact case study on breast cancer diagnosis research using mammography. This will involve gathering evidence, developing the narrative and also the launch of a breast imaging research ‘impact’ website.

More time will be invested into grant bidding and planning for future impact. Impact now attracts more income through REF and our close links with clinical partners positions us well for planning and developing impact from our research with a focus on outcomes for patients, practitioners and industry.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING  Theme leads: Andrew England and Lucy Walton

HUMAN MOVEMENT TECHNOLOGIES AND REHABILITATION  Theme leads: Malcolm Howard Granat, Alison Hammond, Laurence Kenney

FOOT AND KNEE  Theme leads Richard Jones and Chris Nester

Originally from Zimbabwe, Simba Tanyanyiwa’s doctoral work was based at University of Southampton and funded by the NIHR doctoral scheme. He focussed on early diagnosis of sensory neuropathy in feet affected by diabetes. He is working on our partnership with North Manchester Diabetes Centre and on reducing the number of foot ulcers across Manchester. We are already exploring links to Computer Science for better data capture and management at clinical sites, and working with MMU and Health Innovation Manchester too. Simba will be representing the University at the 8th International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot in the Hague.

Centre for Doctoral Training in Prosthetics and Orthotics: Just before Christmas, Malcolm Granat received the news that the £5.5 million bid for the UK Centre for Doctoral Training in Prosthetics and Orthotics had been awarded! The Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) combines expertise from the University of Salford, Imperial College London, the University of Strathclyde and the University of Southampton with more than 25 global industry partners and national facilities. The aim is to create a new generation of highly skilled researchers who are able to deliver the technology and service innovations needed to meet the aspirations of prosthetic and orthotic users. The training will enable students to work across the continuum of skills required in the sector, understanding how high-quality and interdisciplinary science and engineering research can improve the everyday lives of people across the globe. This is believed to be one of the largest research bids ever won by the University and consolidates Salford’s position as a global player in the field.

Groups Merger: Following discussions between the Clinical Rehabilitation and Human Movement Technologies groups, we decided to merge. To consolidate the merger we held a team building day in Hathersage, guided by Alison Hammond, who is a keen walker. A pint or two in the Scotsman’s Pack ended a very pleasant day.
OTHER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS
Angela Ching, who was awarded her PhD
Abbie Monk, who was awarded her MPhil
Alix Chadwell, who got married on Saturday 11th May
Sibylle Thies who was promoted to Senior Research Fellow
Rawan Abdeen on her PhD defence! And Jo reeves on submission of her thesis
Carina Price who is having a baby!
Chelsea Starbuck who has had her work accepted at the International Ankle consortium meeting later this year, on ankle sprains

WELCOME
Martha Mulerwa – PhD by distance learning
Kenneth Rubango – PT PhD by distance learning
Thank you to our intern students from the Technical University of Delft, Tom Belet and Zoe Karthaus

NEW GRANTS
Granat M, Nester C, McAdam J. EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Prosthetics & Orthotics. £5,526,315
Howard D, Kenney L. Adaptive control of functional electrical stimulation (FES). I-Case studentship Shandong BetR Medical Technology Co. Ltd. £65,000
Hollands K. Care 2 Move (PhD Studentship). Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership. £11,000
Hollands K, Light B, Vasilica C, Chesterton L. Teaching Care Home Pilot - Phase 1 Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership £48,960
Price C, Prior Y. Nurse and Allied Health Professional Career Development Internship Scheme. Versus Arthritis. £6,000

Trent International Prosthetics Symposium (TIPS) and UK ISPO Annual Scientific meeting: Together with colleagues from Newcastle University and the University of Portsmouth, in April we hosted two conferences. The Salford team was headed by Laurence Kenney (Conference Chair) and Alix Chadwell (Early Career Chair), ably supported by the University Conference Team. TIPS is an international conference, focusing on upper limb prosthetics and attracted around 250 delegates from across the globe to the 2.5 day event, held at The Lowry in Salford. The event was followed by the annual scientific meeting of the UK ISPO organisation. Both events were very well received by delegates and many of Salford’s prosthetics and orthotics undergraduates also attended.

SPORT AND EXERCISE  Theme lead: Paul Comfort

To mark the 10 year anniversary of the MSc Strength and Conditioning and the Strength and Conditioning pathway at the University of Salford, Dr John McMahon has organised a Strength and Conditioning Symposium to celebrate the programmes success and the internationally renowned strength and conditioning research published by the teaching team during this time. Numerous staff and PhD students will be presenting at the event, along with our honorary professor Dr G Greg Haff. In addition, students and alumni have been invited to present research abstracts as posters, to celebrate the outstanding applied research that they are producing. Follow them on Twitter @SSACS2019

Dr Paul Comfort, Dr Paul Jones and Dr John McMahon’s new text book, commissioned by Routledge, entitled Performance Assessment in Strength and Conditioning, was published in November 2018 and has received outstanding reviews from practitioners and researchers. Along with the editors, numerous other staff from the Directorate of Sport Exercise and Physiotherapy contributed to the book including Dr Steve Atkins, Dr Allan Munro, Dr Lee Herrington, in addition to graduates Dr Peter Mundy and Dr Jon Radcliffe.

Dr Paul Jones has been invited to guest edit a special edition for the journal Sports, covering the topics of ‘Assessment and Development of Change of Direction Speed and Agility’.

Dr Paul Comfort has been invited to give two presentations at The National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) National Conference in Washington in July. The first presentation, entitled ‘The Isometric Mid-Thigh Pull – Correct Performance and Interpretation for Research and Applied Practice’ is informed by extensive research by the team, including PhD student Tom Dos’Santos, published over the last 10 years. PhD students Nick Ripley, Matthew Cuthbert, Steve Ross and Candice Hoffman have also funded themselves to attend the NSCA conference and are presenting a series of research abstracts. Dr Comfort has also just been informed that he will receive the NSCA 2019 Strength and Conditioning Journal Editorial Excellence Award at the conference banquet.

PhD student Nick Ripley, supervised by Dr John McMahon and Dr Paul Comfort, has been awarded a doctoral grant ($12,376) from The National Strength and Conditioning Association, which he will be using to fund a training intervention to improve hamstring strength and muscle architecture in an attempt to enhance performance and reduce injury risk, in academy football players. This award follows on from the success of PhD students in previous years, including Dr John McMahon, Dr Chris Thomas and Tom Dos’Santos.
**EQUITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**Theme lead: Penny Cook**

Our team has recently received a £150,000 grant from the Medical Research Council (MRC) and a research contract worth £160,000 from Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) to address two important gaps in research into ‘Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder’ (FASD): the range of disorders that are caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy. FASD is thought to be very common (affecting an estimated three to five per cent of children), and the consequences are serious in terms of long-term health, wellbeing and social outcomes. Surprisingly, for such a common disorder, there are no specific data for the UK. The estimates of the number of people affected are modelled from international data. Many people struggle to get a diagnosis and even when they do, there are no services to support affected individuals or their families. Our research will address these gaps: with the GMHSCP funding, we will improve the estimates for the prevalence of FASD by identifying cases in children of primary school age. Since children with FASD have a high risk of exclusion from school due to behaviour problems, the MRC grant will be used to develop an intervention that helps them to stay engaged with school and lead healthy and productive lives.

Now in year two of our five-year NIHR funded Communities In Charge of Alcohol (CICA) programme, our Alcohol Health Champions (AHCs) have been publicly recognised for their community based work. CICA aims to combat the growing number of people who drink excessive amounts of alcohol across Greater Manchester by training AHCs to carry out brief interventions and become involved in influencing local licensing decisions. The commitment and energy of some AHCs has resulted in well-deserved awards. Recently, James Carter and Angela Harris from Salford were nominated for the Josie Brown Personal Achievement Award and the Spirit of Salford Community Awards, respectively. At the annual ‘Be Wigan’ awards, the AHCs won the ‘Transforming Lives’ category (Image 1). Recently, Professor Penny Cook and Liz Burns were guests of Chris Whitty, the NIHR Chief Scientific Advisor (Image 2). Professor Whitty was interested in how the NIHR could encourage more funding applications to evaluate community-based interventions - like CICA - particularly those benefitting the most health-deprived populations in the north.

**MIXED REALITY FOR HEALTH**

**Theme lead: David Roberts**

The Mixed Reality for Health research theme has been in the news again for providing VR therapy technology and content for the treatment of Manchester Arena bomb victims. The Sunday times reported on 18 May reported the experiences of some of the 26 victims who have so far received the treatment. Testimonies included: Jade - “I thought I'd never entertain the idea of going back to the arena, but you can control VR... I felt real proud of myself”. Sue - “That first image really upset me as it took me straight back. That was hard but I needed to get some closure... You call where he was. That was very hard... You need to finish your journey”, Maria - “It’s not like I last saw it. People can tell you that but to see a picture of it yourself, changes something in your mindset.”

Many of our PhD students are completing this year. Alex and John have already completed PhD’s in VR neuroimaging and telepresence, respectively. Andrew has submitted his PhD on prosthesis acceptance, testing aspects of this with a VR body ownership experiment. Godson is about to submit his PhD which combined virtual humans and VR Neuroimaging. We need some bright new applicants to replace these excellent people.

We have developed a mixed reality clinic, where therapist and client can experience evocative simulation together, without losing site of each other or the real world.
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY  Theme lead: Sharon Coen

Applied psychology’s research continues to grow around all the key themes. The research themes are strengthening and expanding their reach, while forging new connections within and outside our local area.

VISUAL COGNITION CONTINUED SUCCESS!

In April, Catherine Thompson attended the Experimental Psychology Society conference to present work from her British Academy funded work on attentional control. Catherine has also been accepted to present her research at the European Conference of Visual Perception in August.

Maria Panagiotidi was involved in this year’s Sheffield Doc/Fest in a session titled ‘Living with robots’. "Drawing inspiration from the documentary, Hi, Ai, in which humanoid robots work, shop, sing and go to the movies, ethicist Professor Andy Miah, cognitive psychologist, Dr Maria Panagiotidi and Afrofuturist, Florence Okoye, delve into a world in which humanoid robots become part of our everyday lives. How might this change how we are cared for, how we care for others, and how we live together in the future."

Simon Cassidy produced a short video for the PsychShorts 2019 competition, an American Psychological Association initiative to strengthen public understanding of psychological science. Watch Salford University’s contribution created by the Applied Psychology Visual Cognition Research Group  youtube.be/uEoaYX0kK6U  @APA @SalfordUni

A team of psychologists from the Visual Cognition Research Group will publish the results of a recent study in Personality and Individual Differences, the official journal of the International Society for the Study of Individual Differences, in July this year. The study, funded by the British Psychological Society and the University of Salford’s Research Impact Fund, explores psychophysiological markers of information processing and decision making using brain imaging and eye-tracking techniques. Simon Cassidy, Robert Bendall, Adam Galpin, Lynne Marrow and Sarah Lambert brought their individual expertise in visual cognition, neuropsychology, cognitive neuroscience, psychometrics and individual differences together to collaborate on the design of a novel methodological approach bringing a unique perspective to the field of cognitive style. The study represents a great team effort and highlights the value of the School’s psychology lab facilities and award winning technical support. The Visual Cognition group will be showcasing the brain-imaging and eye-tracking equipment that supported the project at this year’s Festival of Research in June. Follow the DOI link and download a copy of the team’s paper available now as Open Access:  https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2019.02.034

HEALTH AND WELLBEING - RESEARCH IN PRACTICE

Student resilience continues to be a priority in higher education and forms one focus for Applied Psychology research at the University. Building on existing research in to individual psychological resilience Dr Simon Cassidy has been working with Viv Bell, Academic Skills Consultant, to help develop a series of University workshops aimed at promoting and developing academic resilience in students. The workshops are now being offered by the Library and will continue to run throughout the year. Information about the workshops is available via the link and selecting the Academic and Research Skills tab:  www.salford.ac.uk/skills-for-learning/home/all-workshops

Ailsa Parsons, Linda Dubrow-Marshall & Kerry Nair (counsellor with GMMHT/IAPT) presented and took questions on our Arts for the Blues approach - a new evidence-based creative psychological therapy for depression - at the annual BACP conference on 18/5.

Ailsa says “The presentation was well-received and we hope to build momentum as the evaluation - already trialled Within IAPT Manchester - is extended to other services and populations including cancer support.”
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY RESEARCH

Theme lead: Jo-anne Webb

The Occupational Therapy Research team continues to raise its research profile, reflecting a diverse range of research topics ensuring all have direct links with an individual’s occupational engagement and performance.

Carole Bartley – Recognition of research at both national and international level with invitations as guest speaker at ‘Talk Speaks’ London Radio, publication in WOUNDS UK, with submission to Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy for work focusing on posture and 24 hour positioning and the role of the OT. Carol is an invited member of the Scientific Committee ESS (European Seating Symposium) and is working on Cochrane Systematic Review in collaboration with Cochrane Institute University of Manchester.

Dr Rachel Russell – Research interests around home adaptations and modifications have led to International presentation invites at Home Modification Australia conference and the Australian Association of Occupational Therapists. Bids are underway to continue this work and include; UWE bid for Dunhill grant on home adaptations, Housing Lin bid for review of Adaptations Without Delay and Government funded Independent Review of the Disabled Facility Grant.

Dr Deborah Davys has papers under review with the International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation focusing on “Supportive strategies for men who have a care role: an occupational perspective” and “Occupational therapy, loneliness and social isolation”.

Jo Webb - Presented at WOUNDS UK conference and successful collaborations with Levitex foams Ltd result in Industrial MSc to commence Sept 2019 (£35,000 with matched funding). Invited National and International presentations for ongoing research into Single Handed care and innovations in Moving and Handling (Klip2Lift).

The Salford Social Prescribing Hub is an interdisciplinary team at the University of Salford to explore and improve social prescribing policy and practice. They are an evaluation partner on a number of projects: notably Salford’s Community Connector scheme coordinated by Salford CVS, and the development of a wellbeing garden at the RHS Bridgewater. Both evaluations will contribute to the evidence base of social prescribing, and the development of an ecosystem of organisations in different sectors supporting health and wellbeing in the community. In addition to research outcomes, the Salford Social Prescribing Hub aims to produce practical resources for social prescribers and make practical differences to people’s lives.

hub.salford.ac.uk/ssp/h

For OTs interested in social prescribing (“SocialPrescribing4OT”) visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/225022491881854/
ECR GROUP

In March, the Health & Society ECR Group launched a new support fund. The initiative reflects co-chairs Dr Alix Chadwell and Michael Lomas’ long held desire for the group to actively facilitate early career researchers who are keen to develop their research profile. With no set format, funds can be utilised for a diverse range of research activities, including pilot studies, training, specialised equipment, and the employment of support staff. As part of this round of funding, two to four small grants of between £500-£1K were made available. Following the review of received applications, the panel are delighted to announce that there were three successful applicants. Dr Sara Grace seeks to explore police culture in relation to the willingness of individuals to report colleagues’ wrongdoing. Dr Maria Panagiotidi will collaborate with partners at the University of Sheffield, as well as an innovative special school in Cardiff, to conduct research into robot-assisted therapy for children with autistic spectrum disorder. Ailsa Parsons will utilise the funds in order to develop therapeutic workshops for cult survivors. All three successful applicants will also present their work as part of the University’s Festival of Research event (17th June to 12th July 2019). Following the success of the initiative, the group intend to announce a new round of funding at the start of the 2019/20 academic year.

STUDENT REPS

The PGR student representative team has recently formed, following the merger of the two schools into the School of Health and Society. There are now 3 student reps over the School (Dillon Newton, Diana Hepworth and Sue Skidmore) for the coming year and as a team we’d like to start a couple of initiatives that will give the School PGR’s the opportunity to meet up occasionally. It’s a well voiced cliché that the PhD journey is a lonely one, and part of what we’d like to set up is an environment where we can get together and help each other when needed or just get to know one another. We’re keen to get together both informally for a chat, or to hold organised speaker sessions if there is a particular area that a few of us would like more information and discussion around. We’d also like to set up a Facebook group for School of Health and Society PGR’s, where we can chat between get togethers. Any suggestions for topics, venues, the best time to meet etc. can then be made through the closed Facebook page once it’s up and running, or via email if you don’t use Facebook.

At the PhD Journey session to held on 17th June 2019, we’ll be holding an informal session about the PhD journey, and potential hurdles and triumphs along the way. There will be new PhD students there, so it would be a great time to meet everyone. It will hopefully be followed by coffee, tea and a few nibbles. More information will be given nearer the time on the Blackboard announcements page, so please look out for it and come and say hello.

If you’d like to get in touch with Dillon, Diana or Sue our email addresses are below:
D.Newton3@edu.salford.ac.uk / D.Hepworth@edu.salford.ac.uk / S.Skidmore@edu.salford.ac.uk
POLITICS, POLICY AND PRACTICE - PSYCHOLOGY OF DEMOCRACY

The third biannual Psychology of Democracy conference at MediaCity on Friday 17th May attracted an enthusiastic and engaged audience from round the UK, including students, staff from this and other universities, as well as interested members of the public. Asking the questions, ‘Do we have the wrong kind of politicians and the right kind of citizens?’, the conference was backed by funding from the BPS North-West branch and the Political Studies Association, as well as the promotion team for Mike Leigh’s film ‘Peterloo’. Ashley Weinberg chaired the day and Sharon Coen spoke alongside other psychologists, political scientists and journalists, focusing her talk on the need to consider our moral perspectives and how we communicate in politics, especially when it comes to the hottest issue of our day: climate change. It was particularly apt that Shadow Secretary of State Rebecca Long Bailey popped by to share her thoughts on the future too. The Politics, Policy and Practice research team used the conference to kick off a new project examining links between Brexit and well-being as part of a longitudinal study continuing into the autumn.

BPS RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

As part of a larger project exploring Online Hate Talk, Sharon Coen and Jo Meredith ran an event on Online Hate Crime -Gender. Among the speakers was the founder of Yes Matters UK, Gemma Aitchison, who shared her experiences of receiving online hate while campaigning for Women’s Rights.

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES TO IMPRESS

Joanna Kolak, the RA working on Gemma Taylor’s ESRC project, has just completed data collection for the eye-tracking phase of their project, having tested over 90 children aged two to three years, which is no mean feat! They’re looking forward to presenting their first results at conferences this summer.