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Message from the Centre Director (and his cat)

A lot has happened since our last newsletter of six months ago, so I will try to bring you up to speed on a few things. To start with I should like to report on Simba the Cat … he has grown to become huge, as the photo demonstrates 😊.

In July 2016 the Stern report was released (1) and presently this is out for consultation. I do recommend this to you as it is an easy and interesting read. Stern makes a number of suggestions, many of which I agree with. The first one which caught my eye was the need for a clear relationship between the research we do and our teaching, Research informed Teaching (RiT). RiT plays to TEF and REF agendas and with the latter in mind it seems it can now be used as impact. Within our Research Centre strategy we have a clear ambition about RiT and two new developments are moving forwards. The first is led by Dr Paul Sindall, Dr Anna Robins and Prof Malcolm Granat (2) and it sits within the BSc Exercise Physical Activity and Health, Level 5 module Exercise Training Contexts. It concentrates on patterns of free-living physical activity behaviour in both free-living and work-based settings. The second is led by Dr Steve Atkins and concentrates on lower limb biomechanics. For this development a number of our taught programmes are being considered for RiT along with research processes and outcomes from several of our researchers (e.g. 3, 4, 5). Another thing in the Stern report which took my interest was this “research active staff are returned in the REF”, and the number of articles per staff member can range from [maybe] 2-6. As yet we do not have clarity on what ‘research active staff’ means. If this is adopted it will have an impact on our REF strategy. Fortunately we are ahead of the game because our School ROME committee (6) already assesses all journal articles written by our academic staff and a log is kept of each article along with its proposed REF score. If you have time to read the Stern report please do take a look; failing this we are proposing to have a discussion about Stern on 21st December - so do look out for the email invitation.

During the summer we have been busy developing new marketing materials to promote our Research Centre. We now have a brochure / pamphlet (7) and several videos. The videos can be found on the landing page for each research group / programme (e.g. diagnostic imaging is located here (see reference 8, below, immediately above the Twitter feed). Can I suggest the videos could be also used as marketing materials to promote our UG and PG taught programmes? Dr Yeliz Prior is now the Deputy PGR Studies Director. Yeliz is leading on the development of our PGR student marketing strategy and I suspect the videos and brochure / pamphlet will be used within that. Yeliz will give an overview of the proposed strategy at our Open Research Centre (School Congress) meeting on 14th December; do watch out for the email invitation to this event.

Within our Research Centre, REF is led by Professor Richard Baker; Richard is also the Chair of our ROME committee. Recently Dr Kristen Hollands was appointed as Deputy REF lead for our Research Centre and she will work closely with Richard to deliver our REF agenda.

I should like to thank Dr Anita Williams for her work as Director of Post Graduate Studies. She has done a fantastic job. Anita has held this responsibility for several years and in January she will step down from the role. At some point in November / December an advert will be circulated by email within the School of Health Sciences about the role to find a replacement for Anita.

Our Early Career Researcher (ECR) group continues to move forwards. With support and guidance from Professor Malcom Granat our ECR group has been chaired by Dr Carina Price. This
year the group is being given additional support through the provision of a small budget to address aspects of its collective developmental needs. Aside this, the ECR group will identify further development needs which will be addressed through the School Research and Enterprise Committee (SREC).

Finally, please may I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2. www.salford.ac.uk/research/health-sciences/research-groups/measurement-and-quantification-of-physical-behaviour
3. www.salford.ac.uk/research/health-sciences/research-groups/rehabilitation-technologies-and-biomedical-engineering
4. www.salford.ac.uk/research/health-sciences/research-groups/knee-ankle-and-foot
5. www.salford.ac.uk/research/health-sciences/research-groups/gait-analysis
8. www.salford.ac.uk/research/health-sciences/research-groups/diagnostic-imaging

A very warm welcome to our new staff!

**Benjamin Griffiths** has started working on a KTP project focused on wearable technology. This project is a joint venture between the University and company called Smartlife, who are based in central Manchester and who have developed textile sensing technology which can be incorporated into clothing. Salford is working with Smartlife to help them to understand how to use their technology to measure heart rate, estimate energy expenditure and also collect muscle (EMG) signals. Ben will be based at the company premises but plans to work at the University one day per week. Ben will be working with Dr Steve Preece.

**Chelsea Starbuck** is working at the MIHP as part of the Salford-MIHP agreement. She is employed as a Research Fellow to work on the research collaborations from the health and performance agenda. She previously was an academic member of Staff at Marjon University and previously from Exeter University where she finished her PhD.

Having contributed to the department as a part-time academic for several years, **Michael Lomas** joined the school on a full-time basis in September 2016. His research interests centre around mental health and wellbeing, as he looks to promote positive functioning in varying contexts. He is currently also working towards a PhD in Environmental Psychology, exploring experiences of place attachment and psychological wellbeing in the context of neighbourhood regeneration.
Gemma Taylor joined the team as a lecturer in October 2016, she studied for her PhD at the University of Sheffield and completed two postdocs at Binghamton University, USA and Lancaster University. Gemma is interested in the role of screen media on children’s cognitive development, specifically focussing on memory and language development.

Let’s celebrate!

Achievements of our students & staff:

Equity, Health & Wellbeing:

We are delighted to announce two successful PhD completions, both with a work and health theme. James Chandler passed his PhD viva for ‘a study to explore the impact of working in a social enterprise on employee health and wellbeing in Greater Manchester’. James’ study suggests that social enterprises provide ‘good’ work environments that are, in a number of ways, conducive to employee health and wellbeing. This is an important finding given the contribution ‘good’ work can make to population health and adds to the understanding of how working in a social enterprise can impact on employee health and wellbeing.

John Hudson recently passed his viva on ‘the best laid plans: process evaluation of a preventative stress-management strategy in the public sector’. His external examiner was international workplace expert Professor Sir Cary Cooper, pictured here with John, who has been described as the media’s first choice for comment on workplace issues.

Dr Margaret Coffey (examiner), Dr John Hudson, Prof Sir Cary Cooper (External Examiner) and Dr Ashley Weinberg (John’s supervisor).
Faye Prior has passed her interim assessment on “Evaluation of a 'Live Active Tameside' Exercise Referral Scheme”. She was also successful in gaining a scholarship for training at the Manchester GRADschool, which was a 3.5 day training event at the University of Manchester in May with other postgraduates from the North West. The training was around personal and professional development, and this year the theme was 'The Developing Researcher: From Surviving to Thriving' ([www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate_home/GRADschools/](http://www.researchsupport.eps.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate_home/GRADschools/)).

Alan Price, who is working on neglect in children with foetal alcohol spectrum disorders, passed his interim assessment. Alan also presented his work at an international conference, EUFASD 2016 in September.

![Alan Price presenting at EUFASD 2016 in London, September 2016](image)

Applied Psychology: Social, Physical and Technology enabled Environments

A big, warm congratulations to John Hudson after a successful outcome to his viva (minor revisions) yesterday for his PhD around workplace stress and health. You may recall John on the #sharemythesis competition ‘Work-stress a huge issue, but what to do? Prevention sounds best, but is it true? Not enough evidence, so more research due!’ We wish him well as he continues his career at Staffordshire University.

Rehabilitation Technologies and Biomedical Engineering

We congratulate Helen Luckie, who has recently been awarded her MPhil for a thesis entitled “A 12 month follow-up of the re-education of arm and hand function following stroke (REAcH) randomised controlled trial: A mixed methods study”. Congratulations also to Alix Chadwell who passed her Internal Evaluation in September. Well done both!

Knee, Ankle and Foot

Congratulations to Yousef Shanib, Hussain Ghulam, Declan Sweeney, and Ana Martinez who all successfully completed their PhDs. Congratulations also to Hasan Al-Rayani, Sultan Al-Harbi, Msaad Alzhrani, Ziyad Neamatallah and Henrike Grueuel who passed their Internal Evaluation, and Abdullah Alyami who passed his Interim Assessment. Well done everyone!

Occupational Therapy

Congratulations to Dr Rachel Russell on being awarded her PhD ‘The development of a design and construction process protocol to support occupational therapists in delivering effective home modifications’. Rachel has also received a Research Impact Award to explore further the dissemination and use of the protocol in practice. We further congratulate Dr Jenny Ceolata-Smith
for being awarded the Vice Chancellor’s Early Career Research Scholarship to conduct post-doctoral research to further explore aspects of work, health and wellbeing.

Raising Awareness of Athena Swan – by Sibylle Thies

A couple of months ago we all received an email from Kay Hack, Head of School, informing us that the University had been successful in achieving the Athena SWAN Bronze Award in April 2016. By now we are all well familiar with the Athena Swan Bronze Award Icon as it has become part of our email signature. But exactly who or what is “Athena Swan”? Let me begin by saying that “Athena” is the Greek goddess of wisdom, protector of agriculture and patroness of the arts – hence it is a powerful name indeed. Presumably this is why “Athena” was chosen to be part of a project name in 1999, the “Athena Project” concerned with diversity, which ran till 2007. The Athena SWAN Charter later developed from work between the Athena Project and the Scientific Women’s Academic Network (SWAN). It is an initiative lead by the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU), a subscription based organisation that was set up to support Higher Education institutions to promote and achieve equality. The Athena SWAN Charter aims are to advance gender equality in Higher Education and specifically seeks to advance the careers of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) and also in arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law (AHSSBL). It covers women (and men where appropriate) in:

- academic roles in STEMM and AHSSBL
- professional and support staff
- trans staff and students

and does so in relation to their representation, progression of students into academia, journey through career milestones, and working environment for all staff.

Work is now ongoing to deliver the actions from this award, one of which is that Schools will submit their individual applications for a Bronze award by November 2018. In order to deliver on this action the School has set up its own School Self Assessment Team (SAT), which is chaired by Helen Matthews and I am supporting this group as co-chair. The SAT team aims to address any areas of concern identified regarding academic women’s career progression and to ensure overall equality and inclusivity of staff and students at Salford. The SAT team met for the first time in November, and one action that resulted from this meeting was to raise awareness in Directorate Executive Boards (DEB’s), staff meetings, student staff committees, and SREC meetings. So if you have not yet heard much about the ongoing activities you very soon shall in the months to come. It is envisioned that announcements will also be put on Blackboard for post graduates.
There are also a number of University task groups that will support delivery of the Athena SWAN action plan, one of which is the “University Women in Research Task Group” (led by Jo Cresswell). This group will ensure coordination of all Athena SWAN Bronze Award actions relating to the enhancement of the position of women in research at Salford, in accordance with set prioritisation, as well as initiation of new related actions as required. There will be two other task groups: Academic Women’s Career Progression and Leadership (Chaired by Kay Hack) and HR (chaired by Nicola Kettley).

Since I am directly involved in these activities and keen to make a difference from my researcher’s point of view, please feel free to speak to me about any gender equality issues in research. More news are soon to follow on these positive developments in our School, watch this space!

**Data sharing is caring! - by Dr Chris Pickford and Alex Clarke-Cornwell**

Gone are the days of hoarding data on pen drives and CDs to be retired to the back of a drawer at the end of a research study, pending ethical destruction in x number of years’ time. On the contrary, is it not unethical, considering the time and effort from both researchers and participants to collect vast amounts of data, to destroy it so willingly? We live in a constantly shifting technological landscape with storage limits and computational capacity rapidly expanding to accommodate the ‘big data’ ethos.

Thankfully, the mind-set of the research councils has shifted towards an open dissemination model at the end of a research programme. Moreover, many open access journals now require the original data to be published alongside any peer reviewed article. How then do we convince both university and NHS Trust ethics committees that this is now not only common practice, but is itself ethical?

As researchers, the idea of ‘giving away’ hard fought data may seem unthinkable; however, there are advantages! The more people that see and use your data, the more citations you get. Anyone using your data is more likely to seek you out for collaboration, potentially enriching the existing research in your field.

Although the benefits of sharing research data are clear, the practicalities of doing so are however more challenging. The intention to share data must be written into the original research protocol, and participants need to clearly understand this when giving informed consent – although this may seem obvious, helping them to understand anonymization can create a barrier to participation. The biggest hurdle by far is not where you store data, but how you access and interrogate it to make it useful and understandable to other researchers.

Further reading and links to articles on this topic can be found below:

- University of Salford – Research Data Management/Store and Access [www.salford.ac.uk/research/research-data-management/store](http://www.salford.ac.uk/research/research-data-management/store)
- University of Salford – Research Data Management/Publish and Share [www.salford.ac.uk/research/research-data-management/publish](http://www.salford.ac.uk/research/research-data-management/publish)
PGR News

Following on from the University induction for PGR students, new Health Science students attended a two-day induction at the beginning of November.

Dr Steve Preece (Deputy Research Centre Director) introduced the students to the School Research Centre followed by the PGR Director Dr Anita Williams who talked to them about monitoring and progression as well as personal development and personal tutor support. Contributions were also given by Emma Sutton on administrative support, Roy Vickers on resources, Sue McAndrew covered ethics and Bill Ayres discussed Data Management. Andy Kay also attended and gave some great advice about planning for their future careers and Jo Bragg, our student representative, talked about her role and what was available for networking. The final presentation on day 1 was from Professor Richard Baker who shared his experience of being a supervisor and gave the students lot of information on how to plan and progress effectively.

Day 2 consisted of Steve Preece talking about skills and resources and then current students presented their work and also shared their experiences of being a student at Salford - all good (phew!)!! Thanks to Alix, Niamh, Eleanora, Henrike and Suzanne for their valuable input.

Research Programme News

Equity, Health & Wellbeing (Professor Penny Cook)

Health and Work Champions Project

Rachel Martin (Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy), Christine Parker (Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy) and Yeliz Prior (Research Fellow in the Centre for Health Sciences Research and Deputy Director for Postgraduate Research Studies in Health Sciences) are delighted to have won
£10,000 to evaluate a national pilot initiative; the Health and Work Champions project, commissioned by Public Health England (PHE) and the College of Occupational Therapists (COT). The latest Green Paper from the new joint Health and Work Unit, currently out for consultation, stresses that despite all the evidence to support the value of good work for health and wellbeing, this is still not fully reflected in clinical practice and opportunities to support people in their employment aspirations are regularly lost (DH & DWP, 2016). This green paper also identifies the Health and Work Champions pilot project as one potentially useful initiative for tackling this issue.

The Champions, who are employed within the NHS, have been recruited on a fixed-term voluntary basis to deliver a standardised training module to other healthcare practitioners in their employing organisations and other organisations within their health economy. The aim is to use peer-to-peer education to shift healthcare culture in relation to health and work. This shift would see routine practice across healthcare using employment as a functional outcome of healthcare interventions and a clinical tool for assessing a patient’s recovery/or adaptation to illness or injury. Asking questions about staying in or returning to employment will become standard practice for healthcare professionals. The project also aims to give Health and Work Champions leadership roles in their employing organisation to raise their profile and utilise their expertise about occupation, health and wellbeing.

The University of Salford team have been tasked with evaluating the impact of the Health and Work Champions’ training and also the impact of taking on the Health and Work Champion role, on the Champion’s development and profile in leadership and management within their organisation. The team will be using a mixed methods approach to data gathering, with the report on the findings to be submitted to COT and PHE in the autumn of 2017. The team will then be working on associated articles for publication. See also: DWP & DH (2016) Improving Lives: The Work, Health and Disability Green Paper. Available at: www.consultations.dh.gov.uk/workandhealth/consult/

Other EHW news

The EHW group had a good presence at the ESRC Festival of Social Science in November. Margaret Coffey and PhD student Clare Edge presented at an event called ‘Who wants to work forever? Work, retirement and well-being in later life’, which covered the challenge that people are living longer and fewer people are being born. The government is seeking to encourage people to remain in work until later in life, but not everyone can or wants to continue working until much later in life (www.esrcmanchesterfest.ac.uk/events/who-wants-to-work-forever/).

PhD student Joanna Bragg also contributed to the ESRC festival, with an engagement workshop based on her study to assess the benefits of an intervention to improve well-being and address alcohol misuse. Following a very positive pilot study in a Manchester school, which has now incorporated the intervention into their curriculum, the intervention will be further tested in schools across the North West from January 2017 (www.salford.ac.uk/news/articles/2016/alcohol-intervention-workshops-to-become-part-of-curriculum-in-north-west-school-study).
**Penny Cook** was on the local organising committee for the fourth European Conference on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) held in London in September. FASD is the name given to the range of conditions which can result from alcohol consumed during pregnancy, and this was the first European conference on the subject to be held in the UK. Penny obtained a £3,000 grant from Alcohol Research UK, and as a result the conference was able to offer heavily subsidised places for people with or affected by FASD, as well as awarding three scholarships to researchers from lower income countries in Europe ([www.eufasd.org/EUFASD_2016/home.php](http://www.eufasd.org/EUFASD_2016/home.php)).

PhD student **Alan Price**, Honorary Researcher Dr **Raja Mukherjee** and Prof **Penny Cook** at EUFASD 2016.

Occupational Therapists **Angela Hook** and **Sarah Bodell** have continued to develop their free Occubuzz app. The app allows individuals to understand the relationship between what they do and how they feel, and how they can improve wellbeing by creating opportunities to do things that have meaning, purpose or value. The new version of Occubuzz, to be launched in December, has additional potential for us as researchers. We will be able to explore trends in the relationships between what people do, and how they feel, and start to learn about the types of activities that are more or less likely to be associated with wellbeing. This will be of interest to the Occupational Therapy community, but also to anyone with an interest in wellbeing.

Team members have had recent publication success, with PhD student **Clare Edge**, **Margaret Coffey** and **Anna Cooper** having a review on ‘Barriers and Facilitators to Extended Working Lives: a gender focus’ accepted for publication (Edge et al., 2016). **Alex Clarke-Cornwell** has had a paper published from her PhD research (Clarke-Cornwell et al., 2016). Honorary Research Fellow **Raja Mukherjee**, **Penny Cook** and **Sarah Norgate** (Applied Psychology) have published a review on approaches to tackling Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (Mukherjee et al., 2016).

**Diagnostic Imaging (Professor Peter Hogg)**

In the last few months **Jenna Allsup** was awarded an MPhil and **Seth Angmorterh** a PhD. Jenna investigated dose and image quality optimisation in accident centre x-ray imaging for patients on trolleys whilst **Seth** investigated the potential for developing pressure ulcers during diagnostic radiography and radiotherapy procedures. So far we have run 2 research seminars this academic year and both have been jointly organised with other discipline areas (pressure ulcers and social media in breast cancer screening).

Our **Word of Mouth Mammography E-network** won College of Radiographers Team of the Year, and this is led by **Dr Leslie Robinson**. This is a great accolade for the radiography team as whole and particularly for **Leslie** and her team. **Dr Andrew England** is now a committee member of the...
European Federation of Radiography Societies, allowing him to bring influence in the radiography profession at a European level. This is particularly valuable because through Andrew we have immediate access to new partnerships for research.

2017 will be another major year for us in terms of conference papers. The main conference we present at is the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) and last year we had the highest number of radiography papers / posters from any hospital or university in the UK. For ECR 2017 we have had a high number accepted already, 15 so far. We always encourage our PhD students to submit abstracts to this conference and once again several have been accepted so far.

Led by Professor Peter Hogg, throughout August we ran our multi professional multi-cultural residential research summer school again and this year it was hosted at the University of Salford. ‘OPTIMAX’ is aimed at students and tutors who are keen on research and want a taste of doing some in a team-based setting. This year we attracted students / tutors from 11 countries as far away as Brazil and South Africa. OPTIMAX always results in 5 or 6 draft journals papers which are compiled into an open access book (e.g. http://usir.salford.ac.uk/38008/1/Ebook%20Hanze%202015.pdf); the book from this year will be published into USIR by 1st March 2017. Aside this all the pieces of research were submitted as abstracts to ECR, and all have been accepted as poster or paper. OPTIMAX 2017 will be held in Oslo.

To keep up to date with radiography news you can view our blog here - https://salfordradiography.wordpress.com/. This blog gives an overview of our journal publications as well as a wide range of other Radiography Directorate activities.

Applied Psychology: Social, Physical and Technology enabled Environments (lead: Dr Sarah Norgate) - Edited by Dr Sarah Norgate, Dr Joanne Meredith, Dr Linda Dubrow Marshall and Dr Clare Allely.

New summits in research visibility have been conquered these past few months by our academics, PhD students, technician and undergraduates. Eight of us (Aleksandra Landowska, Dr Jo Meredith, Dr Linda Dubrow-Marshall, Sam Royle, Alicia Erskine, Dr Sarah Norgate, Dr Pete Eachus, and Professor David Roberts) from Applied Psychology were involved in the Manchester Science Festival 2016, with an estimated total footfall of around 1800 at the Science Jam event alone. Visitors were able to discovering the impact of virtual reality on mind and behaviour ‘hands on’ at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. Meanwhile Dr Sarah Norgate was over at the Saturday Science Jam at MediaCityUK with psychology student Alicia Erskine getting questions about premier of new movie www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug27MqT6tkl encouraging child recall about their family decision-making on the school run. Meanwhile, over at ‘Amorance’, this event was designed to take a scientific approach to people falling more deeply in love. Dr Jo Meredith met with couples to talk about how the online world is affecting the ways we fall in love in the 21st century, and Dr Linda Dubrow-Marshall and Dr Rod Dubrow-Marshall (Social Sciences) met with couples to explore “The dark side of love: losing your identity?” to enable them to reflect on a healthy balance between their individual and shared identities at the height of romance! Jo, Linda, and Rod had a great time engaging with the public about their research ideas and getting feedback to help them to develop future research plans which they are hoping to pursue, including at future public engagement events.
Our Media Psychology team – Dr Jo Meredith, Dr Adam Galpin and Dr Sharon Coen – hosted the 4th International Interdisciplinary Symposium on Micro-Analysis of Online data. Around 30 delegates participated, which included presentations, advice sessions for PhD students and data sessions. The keynote speaker – Dr Janet Smithson – spoke about how we can tell if online talk is “genuine”, whilst other presentations focused on diverse issues, from online discussions of breast cancer screening, to construal of political correctness on Twitter, to opening messages on Tinder.

Last but not least, Dr Clare Allely secured a popularity ‘hit’ with over 162,000 downloads of her article in the Conversation, which was a timely aperitif before Clare’s presentation in the King’s Arms for the Manchester Skeptics Society on the 17th November. Clare has recently co-authored two articles which featured as lead articles in the Criminal Law and Justice Weekly. Clare was also invited to present her recent research on mass shooters at TEDxWarwick on the 3rd December 2016.

Underpinning the value of our engagement, a reflection on the worth has been offered by Dr Chris Hewson (University Impact Coordinator) “Effective public engagement has never been more important in the light of increased public scepticism regarding the value of research. Furthermore, a potential change to the way research impact is defined within the Research Excellence Framework, means that it is highly likely universities will take a more strategic approach to the issue going forward.”

Finally, our research programme’s 2016 annual research meet involved 18 of us, and involved welcoming new academics (Dr Gemma Taylor, Mike Lomas) presentations about strategy, Scival analytics and social media. We took part in Virtual Reality demos as well as enjoying a cake-fruit picnic (special thanks to Lorna Paterson). Injecting much zest, Dr Sharon Coen and Hailee Ingleton (PhD student) have been arranging a topical 2016/17 research seminar series.
Fastforward to 2017, our PhD student community is handling progression points well, and we hope these individual will be ratified at University level early next year so we could celebrate these too.

Rehabilitation Technologies and Biomedical Engineering (Professor Laurence Kenney)

This year we welcomed Dominique Clevers, a Masters student from University of Twente, Netherlands, who is spending her ERASMUS internship with Dr Thies and colleagues. We also welcomed Abbie Monk, who is studying for her MPhil with Dr John Head and Professor Los Kenney.

Many people will have seen news items talking about so-called bionic hands (see, for example www.mirror.co.uk/news/technology-science/science/nicky-ashwell-bionic-hand-britains-5890286). These devices (myoelectric prostheses) are operated via electrical signals from muscles in the residual limb and have been the focus of considerable research and development effort, stretching back over 40 years. However, reports in the literature suggest amputees remain less than fully satisfied with the functionality of their devices and self-reported rejection rates remain high. Perhaps most surprising, in the recent Cybathlon event (www.cybathlon.ethz.ch/en/cybathlon-news/cybathlon-results/arm-results.html), at which makers of the latest high-tech hands pitched their devices against the traditional (so-called body-powered) devices, the traditional device came out top!

Our group is carrying out a number of studies to try and better understand the reasons underlying the reported problems with myoelectric prostheses. PhD student Alix Chadwell is investigating the relationships between features characterising the user and their prosthesis, with their performance on functional tasks and real world usage patterns. Andrew Hodrien’s PhD has begun to explore the complex issue of embodiment of prostheses, while our newest recruit, Abbie Monk, is investigating the role that prosthesis socket design may play. Both Andrew and Alix received significant interest in their work when they presented at the recent TIPS symposium in Glasgow (www.ispo.org.uk/events_meetings-V.html); you can read more on this exciting area of work in our recently published papers:


Other recent publications include:
Rehabilitation (Professor Alison Hammond)

Dr Yeliz Prior was successful in obtaining funding from the Logres Trust to support the development and testing of the online self-management hub for people with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions: the MSKhub.com. This work will be building on Yeliz’s earlier Vice Chancellor’s Early Career Research Scholarship and will attract partnerships from wider research groups and schools in the University, as well as collaborations with the ICZ and external research partners.

Prof Alison Hammond is part of a team awarded a EULAR Health Professions Grant (€30,000) for the project “Toward standardised reporting of the most commonly used Patient Reported Outcome Measures in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA).” The team met in October in Switzerland to start work establishing a common metric to make physical function PROMS results comparable, using our Evaluation of Daily Activity Questionnaire (EDAQ) as a reference framework, as it is the most comprehensive questionnaire of its type.

The A-GLOVES NIHR-funded multicentre RCT continues to recruit ahead of schedule! The team (Prof Alison Hammond (CI), Dr Yeliz Prior (Trial Manager) and Naz Arafin (Research Assistant) are thrilled at this achievement, a testament to the hard work of Yeliz and Naz in keeping the research sites engaged and enthusiastic, in what is a complex organisational feat. Qualitative analysis is already completed evaluating occupational therapists’ views of participating in a multicentre RCT.

Work research: Charisse Holder has joined us as a MRC/ARUK Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work funded PhD student studying Osteoarthritis and Work, supervised by Dr Yeliz Prior and Prof Alison Hammond and Dr Karen Walker-Bone from the University of Southampton as co-supervisors. Charisse has recently graduated with a First Class honours from the Occupational
Yeliz has visited the Institution of Work and Health, Toronto, Canada in October to build international collaborative research links with Dr Monique Gignac and her research group to expand the remits of the work research conducted at the Rehabilitation Research Group and create opportunities for future joint grants applications. Santander Travel Grant supported this visit. Yeliz was given the opportunity to deliver a plenary talk, in which she had the opportunity to showcase our research to wider international audience. This visit also has resulted in submission of a joint session proposal on work rehabilitation to the Rheumatology Conference in Birmingham NEC, on April 2017 (accepted) and the American College of Rheumatologists (ACR) in San Diego, on November 2017.

Above a photo of Yeliz with Monique in front of the iconic Toronto sign.

In terms of external esteem, Yeliz was an invited speaker at the OT Show, and delivered a talk about her recently published article on the non-pharmacological clinical management of Fibromyalgia. She will be also presenting at the Rheumatology 2017 annual meeting in Birmingham in April and the EULAR 2017 annual meeting at Madrid, Spain in June as an invited speaker to discuss work rehabilitation in inflammatory arthritis, presenting the results of the WORK-IA Pilot trial funded by the Arthritis Research UK and conducted by the Rehabilitation Research Group at five NHS sites in the UK.

On a more personal note, Yeliz was recently appointed as the Deputy Postgraduate Research Studies Director role in the School with a specific remit on marketing and recruitment, and she has now stepped down from the School’s Academic Misconduct Officer role, which will be taken on by Dr Andrew Tootell and Dr Claire Mercer. Yeliz is also representing the School of Health Sciences on the new Research Governance Working Group lead by Prof Nick Hardiker.

Yeliz was also successful in securing a bid to Evaluating the COT and Public Health England’s Health and Work Champions Initiative with her joint application to include Rachel Martin from the Occupational Therapy and Christine Parker from the Physiotherapy Directorate. This seminal work involves training of 20 occupational therapists and others in England to become a Health and Work Champion to deliver training in their NHS organisations to enable colleagues to as “the work question” and provide advice when delivering care to working age adults. This pilot project will run for six months from November 2016 until June 2017. More information is available on www.cot.co.uk/promote-ot/health-and-work-champions-promoting-health-and-treatment-benefits-employment

Alison is leading a project evaluating work measures in RA, exploring factors affecting employment, working in collaboration with Dr Monique Gignac, IWH, Canada. Alison is also a member of the “Employment and Inflammatory Arthritis Working Group,” (a coalition of arthritis charities, rheumatologists, commissioners, researchers and the ABPI Rheumatology Initiative) focused on enhancing employment opportunities in IA. The Group is developing information materials and raising awareness of employment issues in RA.
In addition, Yeliz and Alison have written a chapter on Work Rehabilitation within the 7th edition of the Occupational Therapy and Physical Dysfunction Textbook, which is now renamed as the “Occupational therapy for people experiencing illness, injury or impairment: Promoting occupation and participation” The textbook is currently in print to be published in February 2017 by Elsevier.

Knee, Ankle & Foot (Professors Chris Nester & Richard Jones)

It is all go in Knee, Ankle & Foot: The MIHP agreement has been formally signed and we will be doing a press release in the next few weeks about this. For further information see also: www.salford.ac.uk/news/articles/2016/manchester-institute-of-health-and-performance-announces-collaboration-with-salford-university

Joanna Reeves is undertaking a 6 month study period at the University of Guelph under the direction of Dr Kris Hollands and Prof Nester, focusing on measurement of nerve signals and foot sensation.

Farina Hashmi has been elected to join the Steering Committee for the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network. Please see this link for information: www.ukdctn.org/ukdctn/index.aspx

Richard Jones (4th from the left) recently went to the University of Sao Paulo Riberiao Preto and University Federal San Carlos to deliver lectures related to the research centre and the topics of clinical biomechanics in neurological and musculoskeletal impairments. The objective of the visit was also to provide research expertise to many projects involving clinical biomechanics from muscular dystrophy to osteoarthritis. Future collaborative projects have now been initiated with the groups.

Work on improving our understanding of children foot health and foot development has led to the establishment of the GREAT FOUNDATIONS initiative, a platform for a range of public health, health behaviour and biomechanics research related to children’s feet. See: www.greatfoundations.org.uk. Dr Carina Price and Charlotte Growcott are leading specific areas of work with Anita Williams, Jill Phethean, Farina Hashmi, Jane McAdam and Chris Nester, plus counterparts at the University of Brighton.
Farina Hashmi and Chris Nester have been successful in receiving a **H2020 Fast Track to Innovation Grant worth £350k**, with a Norwegian company who have developed a medical device to aid leg ulcer healing. We have not completed the grant paperwork yet and are aiming to start the project in February 2017. The overall research programme “Novel treatment for peripheral arterial disease (PAD)” consists of 8 work packages that aim to bridge the current gaps in the innovation process for a sustainable and novel Class IIa medical device (FlowOx™, picture left) for home treatment of PAD. FlowOx is designed and manufactured by Otivio. The device applies intermittent negative pressure to the affected limb. Case study results so far have shown improvements in lower limb ischaemic wound healing and short term improved blood supply to the lower limb in patients with PAD. This trial is powered to test for a positive impact on these two outcomes as well as quality of life. The research is driven by the expectation to achieve a successful commercial launch by 2020. The University of Salford will be responsible for conducting a multicentre randomised controlled trial to test the clinical efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the device compared to standard clinical care. We will be recruiting patients with critical limb ischaemia and lower limb wounds. The health economics data (and modelling) will be conducted in collaboration with Bangor University.

Foot, Knee and Ankle has welcomed new students **Wael Alghamdi** who has just begun a new PhD with Dr Steve Preece that investigates how trunk lean (body posture) can influence the activation pattern muscles of the hip and knee muscles, and **Vanessa Walters**, who is also a recent starter with Richard Jones researching the role of meniscectomy on risk factors for osteoarthritis.

**Measurement & Quantification of Physical Behaviour (Professor Malcom Granat)**

The Measurement and Quantification of Physical Behaviour group has continued to meet monthly for a seminar and an informal general chat. These meetings are always well attended and there continues to be a “bake of the month”, with an increasing number of “star bakers” emerging. In addition we have team building days where, at the moment, the consensus for these informal yet useful getting-to-know-each-other sessions is a walk in the hills. This is invariably followed by more in depth discussions over a beverage, or two, which aids the flow of ideas and helps make more difficult scientific concepts become somewhat clearer!
The group has expanded since the last newsletter we would like to welcome as new members to group: Paul Sindall, Andrew Findlow and Eddie Caldow. Eddie will be our next star baker, hopefully!

The group have been actively supporting a range of grant applications with deadlines this month. There is a second stage Alzheimer’s Society bid looking at the use of technology to monitor physical behaviour to support people with dementia to live independently. We have also submitted an outline NIHR bid looking at workplace interventions, based around the standing desk, to reduce sedentary behaviour.

One of our group members, Chris Pickford, was asked to speak as part of the opening panel debate at the 11th UK Dementia Congress in Brighton last month. The debate was lively and drew interest from a number of audience members involved in care as well as people with dementia. Later in the week the debate was featured in an article in the Daily Mail online and later in the Sun. Chris was unsure what Impact Factor these two “journals” might have.

**Sport & Exercise (Dr Paul Comfort)**

Dr Paul Comfort has been awarded an International Collaboration Grant (£26,561) from the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) for an intervention study determining the effects of two different training interventions on both performance and muscle architectural adaptations. The study will take place at the University of Salford, with Team Salford Athletes, local sports teams (data has already been collected with Crewe Alexandra FC) and in America, with his collaborator Dr Tim Suchomel (Carroll University).

Doctoral students, MSc Strength and Conditioning students and undergraduate Sport Science students are gaining valuable experience while helping with some of the data collection and with the training of the Team Salford athletes. Team Salford athletes are currently progressing beyond the expectations of the research team and this will hopefully result in improved performances of the Rowing, Volleyball, Squash and Football players that are taking advantage of the training sessions.

Dr Comfort and Dr Suchomel will present the preliminary findings at the NSCA National Conference in America in July 2017, with a series of manuscripts to be submitted at a later date.

In addition, based on their extensive research profiles Dr Paul Comfort, Dr Paul Jones and Dr John McMahon have been commissioned by Routledge to edit a new text book, ‘Performance Assessment in Strength and Conditioning’ which is due for publication in September 2018. The editors have already secured some World leading experts and practitioners as authors for each chapter, with additional input from University of Salford staff including Dr Allan Munro, Dr Lee Herrington and Dr Steve Atkins.
A number of the directorate staff presented research papers and posters at this year’s College of Occupational Therapists 40th Annual Conference which took place in Harrogate 28-30 June. Furthermore, we have been busy winning grants: Rachel Martin, along with Yeliz Prior and Chris Parker, has been awarded £9,960 from COT and Public Health England to evaluate the Health and Work Champions Programme. Details of our conference attendances and publications are detailed below.

Presentations:


Publications:


Happy news

Last but not least, Lucy Walton’s daughter, Zara Mirzaie-Walton was born on 31st August weighing 6lb 7oz. She is doing well and they have been enjoying lots of smiles from her. Our congratulations to the happy family, what a little star!!!