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Welcome to the Autumn 2018 edition of our Research Centre newsletter. As always, the Centre continues to be vibrant with plenty of activities going on. In this editorial, we should like to highlight a few things that might interest you.

There are many web-based forums to promote research and one we adopted for widespread use by Centre members is ResearchGate. ResearchGate is a social networking site for researchers. It is used to share information about journal publications and conference papers, on the assumption that copyright law is adhered to. It can also be used for asking questions about research and it is a place to find collaborators for future research. In this editorial, we thought it relevant to put a spotlight on Dr Paul Comfort, our Reader in Strength and Conditioning. Paul is a world-leading expert in strength and conditioning and this is reflected in his ResearchGate account – it has achieved a whopping 115,000 article reads. Paul explained that the majority of the research from the Sport and Exercise Research Programme is very applied, so the findings and practical applications can easily be implemented by practitioners and researchers and this probably explains the very high number of reads and downloads via ResearchGate. Most of the access to these articles tends to be by individuals in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, where there are very well established provisions for strength and conditioning, sports science support and applied research within both professional sports teams and the University / Collegiate systems. The popularity of our sport and exercise research in these countries is also helped by regular international collaborations with some world-renowned international players and our own international profiles. Well done to Paul and our Sport and Exercise Research Programme … keep up the fantastic work!

The photograph above was taken during a training intervention as part of a study funded by an International Collaboration Grant from the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Dr Paul Comfort is on the right of the picture. (Read more...)

Please can all Research Centre members remember to keep their ResearchGate accounts up to date? Also, please continue using social media to promote your research to increase the reach and impact of your work.

Our Research Centre uses a range of data to help understand how we are performing; such data includes financial metrics and the number and quality of our journal publications. We are quite prolific and according to SciVal data our Research Centre contains seven of the University of Salford’s top ten most prolific journal authors. However, the accuracy of the sciVal data is dependent on accurate records of where academics are currently employed and which papers they have co-authored. Can I ask everyone to create an account on Scopus and to check their profile is accurate? In addition to research outputs, our grant bidding and awards are excellent, with us now exceeding our key performance indicator set centrally by the university. Last year was a truly bumper grant capture year for us. We have seen an increase in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and iCASE grants. For those who want help in developing grants do remember to attend our Grants Labs; these are organised within our Research Centre. Also, University central support provides excellent help too in developing grants.
In 2017-2018, our Early Career Researcher (ECR) scheme had another fantastic year. Our ECRs held a number of meetings, in which various people presented to them on a range of research-related matters. Also, as part of our Festival of Research, our ECRs held a one-day conference and again this was packed full of interesting talks. During 2017-2018, a new feature was implemented into our ECR support structure - one to one mentorship sessions were provided to our ECRs by senior academic staff. This scheme will continue in the current academic year. We should like to thank our ECRs and the Chairs of their group (Drs Anna Cooper-Ryan and Dan Parker) for their hard work and commitment; of course, we should not forget to thank Professor Malcolm Granat for supporting the ECRs in achieving the outcomes as he continues to play an excellent support role for them from behind the scenes.

It is worth mentioning that we now have access to a medical statistician from Salford Royal Hospital to support our researchers. If you need to seek advice please contact Steve Preece.

As we move into the new academic year we are pleased to announce the Research Centre has made a strategic investment to help us prepare for REF 2021. The research centre is seeking to appoint a full time staff member for 12 months who will support the development of our impact case studies. We anticipate this work will have value beyond REF 2021 as it will no doubt help us think more carefully about planning for impact at the inception of new research projects.

This academic year will present us with fresh opportunities within the new unified school, formed by the merger of Health Sciences and Health & Society. Discussions will soon commence to determine how we configure, resource and manage research within our new school. The Health Sciences Research Centre will play an important role in helping to shape research across our new school and we look forwards to engaging in the debate on how this will be achieved.

Finally, we should like to thank all Research Centre members for their hard work throughout last academic year. In particular, we should like to thank SREC members, our Professional Services Support Team, our two Ethics Panels and their membership, PGR student supervisors, our external and internal research collaborators, our researchers... and of course our PhD students.
A lot has happened in our Research Programme since the last newsletter. Four of our students and one radiography staff member have completed their PhDs - congratulations to Drs Benhalim, Alrowily, Abdullah, O’Regan and Tootell, respectively. Several new PhD students have joined us, welcome to Dominic Maguire, Stamatia Papathanasiou and Muniratu Osmanu who will all be undertaking mammography related research work.

Since January 2018 we first / co-authored 35 posters / papers in 3 international conferences and first / co-authored 9 journal papers; several more journal papers are under review. In February 2018, we published another open access book which arises from the summer school we participated in during 2017. Since January, we also submitted two research grants, but we are still awaiting the outcome.

During last academic year we further developed two collaborative relationships, one with Mid Yoraks Hospital Trust and one with Rothband, a radiation protection company (https://www.rothband.com). With Mid Yoraks we are develop a new imaging technique for imaging the hips, this 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. With Rothband we are co-designing new radiation protection products for use in medical imaging; also we are 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. Two students (Ayesha Syed and Shirley Spence) received ‘highly commended’ awards in a Society & College of Radiographers Student Competition. These students successfully submitted articles based on their final year projects for publication in Imaging & Therapy Practice (ITP). Well done to Ayesha and Shirley!

As we enter the new academic year, we will see a shift in emphasis of our research efforts to prepare for REF 2020/2021. More time will be invested into grant bidding and planning for impact. Impact is not something we have gone into heavily until now but with impact attracting more income through REF and we would like to see our research being used in practice, it is clear our approach needs to change. This will probably mean at the onset of new research work, we will decide whether (or not) it could result in impact and for research that stands a chance of impact then resource will be apportioned accordingly.

In preparation for REF 2020/2021 our efforts are to be placed into determining what impact has occurred from our breast cancer diagnosis research using mammography, this will involve gathering evidence and developing the narrative.

The key impact areas for this will probably include practitioner compression force variability; mammogram image blurring; supporting women to attend their first mammogram screen - WoMMen project.
We have completed the first year of the five year NIHR funded CICA programme led by Professor Penny Cook. This programme aims to combat the growing number of people who drink excessive amounts of alcohol across Greater Manchester by training alcohol health champions (AHCs). AHCs carry out brief interventions with family, friends and colleagues to rethink their drinking habits and are trained to become involved in influencing local licensing decisions. To date, the intervention has rolled out across nine Greater Manchester councils with 98 AHCs trained and in receipt of a Level 2 RSPH qualification.

Our protocol paper has been published in *BMC Public Health* and we have secured funding to develop videos to capture the experiences of AHCs and our process evaluation of the intervention. AHCs are developing new skills, awareness and confidence through their involvement in the programme.

For instance, Sarah Martin (AHC, Wigan commented:
“You think you know what’s what and how much you’re drinking, but you don’t until you write things down and look at .... You don’t know what you’re drinking. You’re not aware and I certainly was not aware of what I was drinking (laughs).”

While Richard Cope (AHC, Rochdale) explained:
“It’s been a great education. A great opportunity to learn and acquire knowledge that in the upbringing I’ve had, it’s knowledge that just wasn’t prevalent. I didn’t know what a unit was. I didn’t know how many units was in a pint. I didn’t realise it was bad for you. I thought it was a good thing to be doing and the same with a lot of other stuff. My primary motivation is to acquire skills and knowledge to transfer to my own children; to create a stronger generation than the one before.”

It has been a fascinating first year that is developing exciting new knowledge relating to implementing asset based community approaches to behaviour change both at a local level and within the devolved setting of Greater Manchester.
Biographic disruption in families of a child with short bowel syndrome

Working with the Paediatric Autologous Bowel Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Unit at Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital Dr Margaret Coffey and Dr Anna Cooper-Ryan conducted a small mixed-methods study which aimed to explore ‘biographic disruption in families living with a child with short bowel syndrome (SBS)’. Specifically: how families cope with their children’s illness; how parents and siblings feel when they are first told about the diagnosis; and families understanding of the condition and its prognosis.

The study used a mixed methods design, which comprised of, diary keeping and interviews with parents and siblings over the age of 11, and for children between the ages of 4-11 it used an electronic tablet, which hosts the ‘Digitising Children’s Data Collection’ application to record children’s answers to questions digitally. Families in this study identified challenges that were: psychological (e.g. shock, worry, anxiety, fear and guilt); social - related to difficulties socialising and going out/playing outdoors/going on holiday/swimming, predominantly due to issues related to the illness (e.g. having a Brovnak line), fear of infection or continence; practical – dominated by accessing prescriptions/medical care and advice, particularly outside the hospital, continence issues, and financial worries as a result of the condition.

A range of coping strategies were discussed, including those that were practical (related to keeping diaries, meeting friends for dinner, going for a run); formal (i.e. support offered from the hospital, educational establishments and by the voluntary and charitable sector); and informal – i.e. the help provided by grandparents, partners etc.

Papers for this study are under review.
Our new group has been formed through the merger of the Rehabilitation Technologies and Biomedical Engineering, and the Measurement and Quantification of Human Movement groups. Our group focuses on research into human movement and the development of technologies to evaluate and assist human movement. The cross-school group is led by Malcolm Granat and Laurence Kenney (Health Sciences) and Dave Howard (Computing, Science and Engineering) and our members’ backgrounds span engineering, physiotherapy, public health, prosthetics and orthotics, and psychology. We have had a lot of success stories to celebrate over the past 6 months. Here are some of the highlights:

- Congratulations to Drs Alix Chadwell, Eleonora Costamagna, Sarah Prenton, Abedalmajeed Shajrawi, and Yasser Althebaity for passing their PhD vivas with flying colours!

- Congratulations to Alix Chadwell, who was awarded the Professor Lindsey Dugdill memorial award for outstanding PhD. This annual award is a £200 prize to the best Health Sciences PhD in the year, and recognises excellence or endeavour across the PhD journey.

- Congratulations to Anna Pace, Abolanle Gbadamosi, Edward Caldow, Bodor bin sheeha and Veena Raigangar for passing milestones in their PhD studies.

- In February, we launched our £1.4 million EPSRC-funded project to develop fit-for-purpose body-powered prostheses. The Salford team of Laurence Kenney, Dave Howard, John Head and Louise Ackers welcomed partners from the UK (UCL, Universities of Southampton and Greenwich), as well as Jordan (University of Jordan) and Uganda (Makerere University) to the meeting. The funding forms part of the UK’s commitment to addressing some of the major global challenges through research. The UK team have already visited Uganda and Jordan to better understand the current issues faced by people living with upper limb loss and the experimental studies are starting over the next few months. You can read more about the project here.

- Two further grants involving members of our team were awarded through the same EPSRC Call. Malcolm Granat is working with colleagues at Imperial College to develop better low cost through-knee prostheses. You can read about this grant here. Malcolm Granat and Laurence Kenney are working with colleagues at the University of Southampton on a grant entitled ‘A Step Change in LMIC Prosthetics Provision through Computer Aided Design, Actimetry and Database Technologies’ – read about it here.
• In March, we started our NIHR funded project “What are effective interventions to reduce sedentary behaviour?” The project which is led by Charlotte Edwardson from Leicester, with Clarke-Cornwell and Granat, aims to determine the long-term effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the multi-component Smart Work & Life intervention (when provided with and without a height-adjustable workstation) for reducing daily sitting time in office workers in Leicester and Manchester.

• Sibylle Thies has been awarded two grants to further develop her work on walking aids. The first study, ‘Smart walking aids - preparing their route to clinical adoption’, working with Dave Howard and Laurence Kenney, is funded through Gtr Manchester Academic Health Sciences Network and the latest study, funded through the Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust is studying the effects of walker height & width on stability.

• John Head has been awarded a grant by the NIHR Starworks organisation to address a problem experienced by children with upper limb absence who use so-called myoelectric prostheses. John is working with Dave Howard, Laurence Kenney, Deborah Davys and a team at the University of Southampton on the project. John is also the Salford lead for another Starworks funded project, being led by a team at the University of Southampton. Other members of the team include Dave Howard, Laurence Kenney and Martin Twiste.

• Martin Twiste is working with colleagues at University of Hull on an NIHR RfPB-funded study entitled ‘Patient acceptability of a novel prosthetic device: A randomised feasibility study in older patients with vascular-related amputations and multimorbidities’.

• Malcolm Granat led a £5.3million EPSRC bid to host a Doctoral Training Centre in prosthetics and orthotics. The bid passed the outline stage and the full proposal was submitted in July – watch this space! Interestingly, during the writing of the grant it became clear that Salford is second only to Imperial College for its research in prosthetics and orthotics!

• In July Sibylle Thies chaired the XV International Symposium on 3D Analysis of Human Movement. It was attended by 135 delegates from across the world and included 41 podium presentations, seven invited keynote lectures from world-leading experts in the field, and over 50 posters on display. Furthermore, it also incorporated a student programme as well as industry workshops & trade exhibitions. Photos from the event can be seen here.

• Planning for next March’s conference on upper limb prosthetics, TIPS 2019 is well-underway. The conference, which will take place at the Lowry Centre is expected to attract around 200 delegates from across the world to discuss the latest research in the area.

• Congratulations to Mingxu Sun, whose newly founded company BeiMing Ltd., offering FES and rehabilitation services is developing well. There are lots of opportunities around the collaboration with BeiMing and the City of Jinan, so we’ll update you next time on how things develop.

• Welcome to new student Mick Prince (who joins us in September, working on upper limb prosthetics).

• Thank you to our intern students, Melissa Pontari from the University of Lorraine and Muhammad Gifari, from the University of Twente, who worked with our group over the last few months.

• Finally, in July we held one of our regular team building events, this time it was a walk in the hills near Hebden Bridge. Unsurprisingly, we had great weather for it and finished off with a pint or two in The Fox and Goose pub.
Funding news

Professor Jones was awarded £228,000 by the UK Army Women in Ground Close Combat programme to investigate gender differences in the biomechanics of load carriage. The team consisting of Dr Kris Hollands, Dr Niamh Gill, Dr Anmin Liu and Mr Dale Walker will investigate the demands of load carriage on the musculoskeletal system with the aim to offer advice to the Army in terms of the risks to female individuals. The first study is underway and we are looking for healthy volunteers to take part in the study. If you are interested please contact Dr Niamh Gill (n.m.gill@salford.ac.uk).

The OANetwork+ consortium based at the University of Cardiff have awarded Prof Jones with £38,000 to develop a scoping review on lifestyle interventions in osteoarthritis. This will start later this autumn whereby a new starter will work on developing this review and also move this to a consensus to determine the technological needs of lifestyle interventions in knee OA.

Dr Chelsea Starbuck, alongside Profs Jones and Nester, have been awarded a New Balance Footwear award based on their current work at the Manchester Institute of Health and Performance (MIHP) on ankle sprains. The new project will investigate innovative approaches to reducing the risk of lateral ankle sprains.

Dr Carina Price and Prof Chris Nester have been successful in kicking off 2 Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP), both focusing on innovative footwear. The first is a second KTP with Weartech, focussing on work place footwear. The second is with renowned footwear brand Clark’s, focussed on science behind footwear principles, hopefully the start of a wider ranging relationship. A third KTP proposal is currently under review! (KTP’s are each worth >£200,000).

Australian researcher Dr Bryant Roberts has been successful in getting to the latter stages of the ARUK Foundation Fellowship programme. This work will investigate the risk of post-traumatic osteoarthritis following anterior cruciate ligament injury. Bryant will be at the University for the next three years on the fellowship alongside Prof Jones and Prof Felson (Manchester University).

Dr Steve Preece and colleagues have recently been awarded £160,000 from the NIHR Research for Patient benefit fund to develop and investigate the effects of a novel biofeedback approach in knee osteoarthritis. The feasibility stage of the project will allow the research team to develop biofeedback approaches and software with the aim to facilitate this into a NHS treatment.

Conference time...

In September, Prof Jones gave the keynote at the 5th Nordic Prosthetics and Orthotics conference in Copenhagen attended by over 500 individuals from the field. The talk was focussed on the current state of play of orthotic management in knee osteoarthritis. This was followed by the hosting of a Knee Prevention and Return to Sport seminar at the prestigious ESMAC conference in Prague.

Dr Carina Price and visiting researcher Jitka Marenčáková presented work at ESMAC in the Czech republic in September. Follow more on Carina’s twitter feed: @carinap_10

Prof Nester spoke at the 49th National Podiatry congress in Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain, with over 700 attendees. Along with Dr’s Jane McAdam and Ana Martinez the team will have a strong presence at the annual College of Podiatry conference in Bournemouth in late November.
**Recent PhD completions**

Dr Hasan Alrayani successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled ‘Prospective investigation of biomechanical risk factors in the initiation of patellofemoral pain (PFP) in military cadets’. Dr Msaad Alzahrani successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled ‘Biomechanical measures of lower limb variability, and prediction of non-contact knee injuries risk factors in male athletes. Dr Ziyad Neamatallah successfully defended his thesis entitled ‘Do the gluteal influence dynamic knee valgus when single leg landing?’ Dr Ali Al-Garni successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled ‘The biomechanical effect of trunk inclination on joint moments and muscle activation in people with knee osteoarthritis’.

**Interesting projects**

As part of the collaborative NHS@MIHP project which is rehabilitating the individuals recovering from the Manchester Arena attack last year, Prof Jones and Dr Starbuck are assisting the team in providing objective data to guide their rehabilitation plans. The project which will be running for the next 6 months will aim to improve the functional independence of the individuals and provide research based evidence to translate back into the Trauma pathway in the NHS.

Dr Andrea Graham has been spear heading the FootHealth priority Setting Partnership and the national survey goes live on November 1st, see: [https://foothealthpsp.org/](https://foothealthpsp.org/). This aims to capture the views of patients and clinicians, of all professions, on future foot health research priorities, and will impact on funding strategies of relevant charities and funding agencies.

Dr Sam Bird has just finished her (too short) ‘secondment’ with the team, to develop an online resource for showcasing patient narratives and lived experiences of losing foot health. This will now be taken forward by new PhD candidate, Sue Skidmore, who is now working with Dr’s Yeliz Prior and Cristina Vascilica. Sam is moving into an academic position in radiography (well done!).

Vanessa Walters is currently recruiting for a new study looking at individuals who have injured their cartilage in their knee and currently are physically active. If you are interested in taking part in the study please contact Vanessa (v.walters@edu.salford.ac.uk) or see the Facebook page for the Knee Ankle and Foot group ([www.facebook.com/UoSKneeAnkleFoot](https://www.facebook.com/UoSKneeAnkleFoot)).

**Recent Research Paper highlights**

Chris Bramah and co-authors recently gained a lot of press in regards to their recent publication in the American Journal of Sports Medicine. The publication identified biomechanical traits in injured individuals which allows further developments of this theme of work for rehabilitation. Chris currently runs the MIHP Running Clinic which is a country-first overground running assessment.

The In-Respond trial which is the largest and first randomised cross-over trial of simple interventions in knee osteoarthritis was presented earlier this year at the prestigious OARSI conference. The study identified that if stratification of individuals to the interventions was achieved, then a successful clinical effect would be seen. This is the first study, to date, that has stratified individuals with knee osteoarthritis to treatments.

**Celebrations**

Well done to Dr Yeliz Prior who was promoted to Senior Research Fellow last month. Also, to Dr Daniel Parker who became a dad to Caleb, and to Dr Carina Price who married Steven Lindsey! Congratulations to all!
The Occupational therapy team took part in the Festival of Research in July to showcase some of our current occupational therapy research which has an emphasis on:

- Improving health and wellbeing in later life, including tackling loneliness and care giving.
- Safe moving, handling and 24-hour positioning of individuals with reduced mobility to increase independence and functional performance in activities of daily living.
- Interface pressure mapping of support surfaces to minimise risk of pressure ulcer injury.
- Housing adaptations to increase independence, safety and dignity.
- Work and vocational rehabilitation, and achieving occupational balance across the life course.
- Professional issues including emotional intelligence, service user engagement and leadership.
- Social prescribing and the role of occupational therapy.

Research lead, Jo Webb presented an outline of the teams’ current research projects entitled “Occupational Therapy at Salford: How we are contributing to the evidence base”, including a range of projects embedded within the teaching of our undergraduate and postgraduate Occupational Therapy programmes. Posters of current research activity by Dr. Deborah Davys, Dr. Rachel Russell, Dr Jenny Ceolta-Smith and Jo Webb were available for discussion.

Success Stories

Carol Bartley and Melanie Stephens (Nursing) were winners in the 2017 EPUAP & Stryker Quality Improvement Projects Award and were also finalists in The Journal Of Woundcare Awards 2018. Both for their project to update the Seating Guidelines for the Tissue Viability Society. Find out more: TVS Seating Guidelines-Free Download!

Carol has been busy engaging local industry to investigate impact of their products on interface pressure redistribution and postural management with a range of service users in local Nursing Homes, identifying links between the importance of seating and postural management and levels of occupational engagement. (Careflex = £10,000 (£5,000 from innovation grant); Simple Stuff Works £21,000 (£5,000 innovation voucher)).

Carol and Melanie have recently registered a Cochrane systematic review for a review of static chairs in the prevention and management of pressure ulcers.

Dr Deborah Davys

A successful grant application related to a Devices for Dignity Healthcare Technology Co-operative Starworks organisation and NHS NIHR (£21890). Deborah is working alongside project lead John Head (P&O). The project title is: An adjustable electrode housing to improve myoelectric signal acquisition in sockets that accommodate growing residual limbs. Occupational therapy input will involve evaluation of the device within children and the functional use of upper limb trans-radial prosthetics...

Watch this space!

Dr Rachel Russell

Ongoing work with the Home Modification Process Protocol following successful dissemination at National and International Conferences and successful publication of Minor Adaptations Without Delay guidance document in collaboration with the Housing Learning and Improvement Network. External negotiations with Southways Housing Association for a piece of commissioned work on evaluation of scooter use.

Jo Webb

Links with local industry continue to blossom as a commissioned piece of research investigating the impact of an innovation in foam mattress to redistribute pressure and increase comfort for people with reduced mobility is completed (£25,000 + £5,000 innovation voucher).
Final report completed for Levitex Foams Limited, with abstracts accepted for presentation at ATTWC in October in London and Wounds UK conference in Harrogate in November. Further work underway on HEIF knowledge exchange application to take the research to the next stage to explore the impact of the same Levitex foam pillows as an intervention following whiplash injury.

Jo has recently completed a three-year longitudinal study to evaluate the impact of embedding an online multimedia moving and handling tool within the undergraduate curriculum, replacing practical training at levels 5 and 6. Jo will present the results of this study to COTED at the Royal College of Occupational Therapists HQ in London later this month to discuss implications for changing the way moving and handling is delivered for occupational therapy undergraduates across the UK and how we educate students about single handed care techniques to promote independence where possible.

Welcome to the Team!
Dr Cormac Lawlor

The Salford Social Prescribing Hub, a new initiative of the OT team, exists to explore the value of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Science for social prescribing. Social prescribing is currently being carried out by a variety of professionals, in a variety of organisational contexts, and according to a variety of models; however it is not very well understood in practice. Funding was secured through the Health Wellbeing & Society ICZ (HEIF funding) for six months, which enabled Dr. Cormac Lawler to join the OT team as Research Fellow in May. Over the last four months, Cormac has been working with Sarah Bodell and Rachel Martin - with input from the rest of the OT team – to develop a model for understanding social prescribing through occupational science, and a tool which could be of use not only to OTs but to a range of practitioners. Of particular interest to the team is ensuring that any prescribed activities are genuinely meaningful for the person at the centre of the process, and furthermore that such services cater for those with deeply complex needs, for whom a ‘social prescription’ may or may not be the right fit. The team has engaged with practitioners across quite different organisations and contexts to develop the model, and has developed some promising partnerships in the process. It is now hoped to secure further funding to pilot and evaluate the tool with partners, to ensure meaningful outcomes for the person at the centre.

Email Cormac: C.Lawler1@salford.ac.uk
Follow the team’s work on Twitter at @SalfordSPx

You can find out more and keep up to date with our research and PGR opportunities via our webpage and twitter, @UoSOT.
Psychology
Theme Lead- Dr Sharon Coen

This year has marked an incredible list of successes from our growing Team. We have seen new and old collaborations leading to publications, funding and engagement activities. We look forward to welcome back our Research Lead Sarah Norgate in November, confident we made her proud!

Conferences and Events

• Continuing to establish the University’s research profile in the area of psychological resilience, Dr Simon Cassidy has accepted an invitation to join the organising committee for the first Symposium on Academic Resilience in Higher Education. The symposium will be organised by The Resilience Consortium, an association hosted by Harvard University, and will take place in late 2018 in North America.
• In an exciting interdisciplinary partnership between academics and clinicians at UoS, Edge Hill University and IAPT Manchester, Ailsa Parsons, Dr Linda Dubrow-Marshall and colleagues have developed a new creative psychological intervention for depression called ‘Arts for the Blues’. This has been well-received in pilot workshops at EHU, and will be piloted in IAPT Manchester over the Winter, which may lead to a full clinical trial.
• The Criminal Justice and Mental Health group was also busy disseminating their research: Dr Linda and Rod Dubrow Marshall lead a research symposium about ‘Terrorism, identity and gangs - lessons from research and practice to aid prevention, extraction and reduce recidivism’ for the Society for Terrorism Research 12th Annual International Conference on 7-8 September held at LJMU. They presented with DCI Samuel Pickering from Greater Manchester Police, and the discussant was Dr Peter Eachus.
• Dr Ashley Weinberg from our Politics, Policy and Practice Group presented a study he conducted in collaboration with Anne Pearson on how organisations are (or are not) using NICE guidance to improve well-being in the workforce at the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology biannual meeting in Lisbon.

The contribution was invited by the BPS Division of Occupational Psychology. The paper was called ‘Who wants to be a millionaire - how we all can be winners’.

Student Success!

• Robert Bendall is delighted to have recently secured charitable funding for two of his students to undertake research assistantships during the summer. The funding has come from the British Psychological Society’s Undergraduate Research Assistantship Scheme and is designed for high calibre students who show promise as a future researcher. The two lucky students are Michael Heenan and Meera Sonara. Michael has just started his third year of undergraduate study and Meera has recently graduated. There are a great many applicants for this award, which is highly prestigious, so it is fantastic that the work of two of our Salford students has been recognised. Both projects took place in the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory within the Directorate of Psychology & Public Health. Michael’s project focussed on the role of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex during emotion regulation, whilst Meera’s project investigated the neurocognitive mechanisms underpinning emotional attention. Both Meera and Michael have been blogging about their experience and these can be found at the Psychology hub webpage - http://hub.salford.ac.uk/salfordpsych/blogs/. Meera has also just returned from Windermere where she presented her research at the British Psychological Society Psychobiology Annual Meeting.
• Building on the success of students graduating the Applied Psychology taught postgraduate programmes, Dr Simon Cassidy and Dr Linda Dubrow-Marshall have collaborated with graduates Emma Paintain and Kelly Birtwell to published two research papers in 2018. Both papers are published in Counselling and Psychotherapy Research, a BACP affiliated journal linking research with practice, and cover the topics of treatment approaches for PTSD and for people with dementia. The publications underline the value of the programmes and demonstrate effective research informed teaching.

• We have seen a series of PhD submissions and completions in the team: Cathy Ure, from our MSc Media Psychology has recently been awarded a PhD. Oni Olawale has passed his viva with a project bringing together Media Communication and Psychology. Our HK student Elsie Ong (based in HK) also passed her viva. Well done Drs!

Grants

Dr Catherine Thompson from the Visual Cognition Lab won a grant sponsored by British Academy/Leverhulme. It is called “Assessing the risk of attentional inertia in automated driving”. Here is how she describes the focus of this fascinating project: ‘With the introduction of semi-autonomous and autonomous cars drivers have greater potential to engage with secondary tasks (watching films, playing games, speaking on the phone) which all require a different spread of search to the driving task. All good, but what happens if automation fails - will the driver be prepared to take control? Will their attention be directed in the most effective manner? This is what the project will investigate.’

Media, Engagement and Enterprise

• Adam Galpin was commissioned by the BBC to write a review of the cognitive science of creativity and neurodiversity. This has led to a BBC-funded iCase studentship on creativity, creative methods and neurodiversity.

• Dr Sharon Coen has worked as a scientific consultant for the Hawk Dance Theatre’s show EYES ON ME exploring the experiences of young people dealing with the online world. The work was sponsored by the Arts Council England and supported by Spin Arts and the University of Salford

• Meanwhile, Dr Gemma Taylor Featured in a special ITV Granada Service on Children and Media talking about the ESRC-funded work she is doing within the Cognitive Development Lab focussing on Children and Media (view).
Dr Paul Comfort recently secured an iCase PhD funded by The Football Association, to answer some of their performance-based research questions to improve the training methods and subsequently the performance of England Women’s National Team. The PhD will be supervised by Dr Comfort, Dr McMahon and Dr Jones, with Martin Evans (England Women’s Lead Performance Coach) as the industrial supervisor. The student will work closely with The Football Association and spend ~80 days per year training one of the national age group teams while on camps at St Georges Park and while at international tournaments, echoing the University ICZ philosophy.

Five additional self/employer funded PhD students have also commenced their studies over the last 12 months. The students are from a variety of sports organisations including Manchester United FC, Manchester City FC and the Sports Institute Northern Ireland. With an increase in the number of PhD students and international collaborations, the small team have published >30 articles in peer reviewed journals over the past 12 months.

Staff achievements

- Dr Paul Comfort, Dr Paul Jones and Dr John McMahon’s new text book, commissioned by Routledge, entitled Performance Assessment in Strength and Conditioning, is due to be published in October 2018. Numerous staff from the Directorate of Sport Exercise and Physiotherapy have 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. This follows a previous text entitled Advanced Strength and Conditioning: An evidence based approach, edited by Dr Anthony Turner (Middlesex University) and Dr Paul Comfort, which was released in October 2017.

- Dr Paul Jones and Dr John McMahon have been invited to guest edit special editions for the journal Sports, covering the topics of ‘Assessment and Development of Change of Direction Speed and Agility’ and ‘Kinetic Assessment of Vertical Jumping’ respectively.

- Dr John McMahon was an invited speaker at The National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) National Conference in Indianapolis in July, where he discussed his research regarding the assessment of force-time characteristics during the countermovement jump.

- Dr Paul Comfort, has been invited to represent the United Kingdom Strength and Conditioning Association (UKSCA) and present at the Australian Strength and Conditioning Association Annual Conference. In addition, he was recently honoured by receiving the UKSCA Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year: Education and Research.

- Dr Paul Jones organised and hosted the British Association of Sports Science Biomechanics Interest Group meeting and conference at the University on the 4th April 2018, which saw delegates from across the UK. This was a resounding success with the highest number of delegates ever recorded at the event.
Student achievements

- Part-time PhD student and Head of Strength and Conditioning at the Hong Kong Sports Institute, David Meechan, has successfully completed the ASCA Elite Coach certification and presented at the ASCA Southeast Asian Conference on Applied Strength and Conditioning.

- PhD student Tom Dos’ Santos, supervised by Dr Paul Jones and Dr Paul Comfort, has been awarded a doctoral grant from The National Strength and Conditioning Association, which he will be using to fund a training intervention to improve change of direction performance in football players, in an attempt to enhance performance and reduce injury risk. Tom will also be working with the sports science staff at Salford City FC during this intervention, both of whom (Rob Williams – Head of Performance; Andrew Badby – Academy Strength and Conditioning Coach) are graduates from the BSc (Hons) Sports Science and MSc Strength and Conditioning programmes, at the University.

- First year PhD student Nick Ripley presented two research abstracts at the NSCA National Conference, while MSc Strength and Conditioning student, Matt Cuthbert, presented two research abstracts with one shortlisted for the top 10 Master’s student research podium presentations.
Early Career Research Group

Group Leads- Dr Anna Cooper & Dr Dan Parker

Introducing the new Co-chairs of the ECR group

After 2 years Dan and Anna are stepping down as co-chairs and passing the baton on. We would like to thank all those who have supported the group and attended events. We look forward to seeing how Mike and Alix take the group into the next stage of its development and continue to grow the group.

Michael Lomas

“I am delighted to introduce myself as the new academic co-chair of the Health & Society ECR group and would like to thank Anna and Dan for all of their hard work and for the support they have given me in handing over the role. I certainly have some large shoes to fill! I am employed at the university as a lecturer in psychology, and my research interests include environmental psychology and mental health. I am also in the final stages of my PhD, currently awaiting my viva. Based at Salford as both a member of staff and as a student, I bridge both of the previously existing schools, which have now merged. I hope that these various responsibilities equip me well to understand the different challenges faced by my fellow ECRs. The merging of the schools marks a significant change for us all, which will raise new challenges. As a community, we can look to address these together, as well as to offer each other support. I also hope that the extension of the group will provide fresh opportunities for us to share our expertise; increasing our confidence and our ability to collaborate.”

Alix Chadwell

“Hi, I’m Alix, a Medical Engineer undertaking research into upper limb prosthetics. I have just completed my PhD here at Salford, which aimed to improve our understanding of the reasons people struggle to use myoelectric prostheses. A myoelectric prosthesis uses electrical signals (EMG) generated by the muscles of the forearm to operate the motors in the prosthetic hand. These devices are rejected 30% of the time, and through my PhD, I demonstrated that a possible reason for this may have been the unpredictability in the response of the prosthesis. During my PhD I presented at a number of conferences and won a variety of awards, including best student paper at one of the largest international upper limb prosthetics conferences.

I have published three journal papers pioneering a new technique for the assessment of upper limb prosthesis use outside of the clinic, and I’m hoping to take this work forward in future. Currently I am working on a Global Challenges funded project to develop fit-for-purpose upper limb prostheses alongside colleagues in the UK, Jordan, and Uganda. I am looking forward to taking on this role with the ECR group, and getting to know more of the ECRs across the school.”

Festival of Research - Challenges for Healthcare Health Sciences ECR Group Event

As part of the Festival of Research the ECR event combined training and talks to support development and showcase ECR research from across the university. ECR group members also had the opportunity to produce posters including short biographies and case studies of current research.

Christopher Veysey provided a brief introduction to Agile Project Management, giving the ECR new ideas about how to manage projects and time. Following this Kris Hollands provided a short workshop on how to improve abstracts for the REF, something which as we get closer to REF is increasingly important.

In the afternoon we welcomed four ECR speakers - Katy Jones discussing the Salford Anti-Poverty Taskforce and work of SHUSU; Alex Fenton talking about the Fan Fit Project, Digital tech for a healthy lifestyle; Alix Chadwell providing insight into the project to improve upper limb prosthesis provision in Uganda and Helen Luckie talking about best practice in PPI for healthcare projects.

As with previous years the event was well received, and we hope that new research connections can be made as a result. We would like to thank the UoS Festival of Research team for their support and we look forward to hosting something next year.
As my second year as a Ph.D. student is about to finish, I would like to highlight the importance of the supporting programs that were offered to the Ph.D. students at the School of Health Sciences in this passing year. I am going to focus, in particular, on two programs which I believe helped me vastly during this year’s journey: namely, the academic writing workshops and SPSS training sessions.

Now, this type of support is provided by the University, as well, through Salford Postgraduate Research Training program (SPoRT). However, these two were different because they were delivered by experienced people with background in health science who know what students needed from these series of workshops. The writing workshops, to begin with, were delivered by Ph.D. supervisors from the school, who know the strengths and weakness of the students’ writing and tried to focus on those points. Speaking from my own experience and as English is not my first language, I felt my writing level was elevated after attending the 6-week workshop. It allowed me to identify my mistakes in writing and how the academic writing should be developed.

Another important training opportunity that was offered to Ph.D. students this year was the SPSS training sessions. These sessions were delivered by a medical statistician and the aim of this supporting program was to enable us, the students, to use the statistical analysis software properly and understanding the differences between many statistical tests.

Having the course delivered by a statistician with a background in health sciences has the advantage of identifying the most used statistical analysis in medical research and how they can be applied to our own research.

The support that I got from these two programs and other SPoRT training sessions has helped me to pass my second-year assessment successfully. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity and thank everyone behind these training programs especially Dr. Yeliz Prior and Dr. Lucy Walton who spend a lot of time in preparing and organising these programs.

A PGR seminar programme has been developed and tailored for Health Science Research Students, this includes a callender of social events. PGR writing workshops will also follow in the New Year!

Don’t forget to join the community on Facebook