

# HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH CENTRE



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER



THE CENTRE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

**WINTER 2019**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ✓ **News from our research groups**
- ✓ **Grant updates**
- ✓ **New publications**
- ✓ **Introducing your new PGR student reps**

## WELCOME

The Centre for Health Sciences Research (HSRC) is a thriving, multidisciplinary group, focused on improving health outcomes for a wide range of people and communities, through innovation and research. Based in the School of Health and Society, our research spans a wide range of areas, from foot and knee biomechanics and assistive device design, through to clinical rehabilitation, public health, psychology and diagnostic imaging. Working

closely with our colleagues in the Centre for Applied Research in Health, Welfare and Policy (CARE), we are a strong community who work collegiately to build strength and capacity for research and who continue to be recognised as national and international leaders in health and social care research.

Following unification, both HSRC and CARE will produce separate newsletters twice per year. Watch out for the next CARE newsletter in 3 months' time.

## UPDATE FROM THE RESEARCH CENTRE DIRECTOR

I want to begin thanking Yeliz Prior for her hard work as PGR director over the last 12 months, during unification and 2+ years for her work within Health Sciences. Paula Ormandy has taken over from Yeliz as PGR director as Yeliz now has another role within the Centre for Doctoral Training. Yeliz has worked tirelessly and it's testament to her (and Michelle Howarth and Mariyana Schoultz) that PGR satisfaction is incredibly high and that were on track to achieve our PGR numbers during this academic year. Given Paula's previous experience of this role, I'm confident she will do excellent job and continue to maintain the high standards of PGR supervision and performance that are characteristic of our school.

As I'm sure you're all aware, the REF is drawing ever closer. We've recently had great news from the central team that the University's REF code of practice has been approved by Research England and this will allow to plan strategically for our UoA3 return (Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy). Can I take this opportunity to encourage anyone who has a potential 3\* or 4\* paper to write it up now and get it published as the deadline for this is 31-7-2020? As well as looking at outputs and impact case studies, research environment

is also assessed as part of REF. To enable us to create a strong research environment statement, we need to collect information from academic staff across Health and Society and the Biology Research centre by questionnaire and possibly interviews in order to clarify details of specific initiatives which have supported and encourage a strong research environment within the University. We will also be collating information on individual esteem in research, such as keynote lectures, journal editorships and conference organisation.

As part of the University's research strategy there are very ambitious targets for grant income. To help us achieve these targets, I have been leading a working group on grant bidding across the school. We have now developed a grant bidding strategy which we plan to implement over the coming months. As part of this strategy, we are keen that everyone with SRR is involved in horizon scanning for grants and can draw on support from experienced researchers across the school when putting together new applications. Please contact myself or Alison Brettell if you have an idea for a grant and would like some input from senior academic colleagues. It's best to get this input this as soon as possible, ideally before you start

to put together your grant application.

Can I again congratulate Malcolm Granat, Chris Nester, Jane McAdam and Joanne Caldwell for the rapid setup of the Centre for Doctoral Training. The first group of students have now been enrolled onto the MSc in Prosthetic and Orthotics science which is a precursor to the PhD. The student started in October this year and are all having a great experience so far.

Can I also remind all the research theme leads to think about research seminars over the coming academic year: We are really keen to put together a strong seminar series in HSRC which will involve at least 1-3 seminars from each group. We anticipate that these seminars be delivered by external academics with a strong profile. Please contact me if you need any more details or support organising these seminars.

**REF 2021** Research  
Excellence  
Framework

## APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY Theme Lead: Sharon Coen



Figure 1 Cognitive Development's stall at Research in the Park

### Staff in Psychology has had a very busy and productive summer!

The Visual Cognition group ran a workshop as part of the University's Festival of Research. Thanks to Simon Cassidy's artistic connections, the team produced a fantastic video showcasing their work and equipment – check it out here: [<https://youtu.be/rO-BAMNps9E>]. Catherine Thompson, Adam Galpin, and Maria Panagiotidi also delivered a talk entitled 'The Power of Vision at the Industry 4.0 event as part of the Festival. Robert Bendall, Simon Cassidy, Adam Galpin, and Catherine Thompson have also been awarded a BPS Psychobiology Networking Event award to employ a student champion for the topic area and to host a large-scale networking event and research workshop. Maria Panagiotidi was awarded a BPS undergraduate research assistantship to support Michelle Wain and her project 'Exploring the effect of a brief interaction with a companion robot on human psychophysiology and mood.'

The Cognitive Development group was also been present at the University's Festival of Research. Amy Bidgood says: "The Cognitive Development Lab team recently took part in the Research in the Park event as part of the University's annual Festival of Research. We talked to lots of members of the public, as well as colleagues and students, about the exciting research we're doing on children's cognitive development. Younger visitors enjoyed playing with iPad apps we use for our studies into children's engagements with digital media, and we gave out lots of leaflets and posters about our research. As well as being a useful recruitment event, we made connections with other researchers who were hearing about our work for the first time, and with whom we hope to work in the future." Meanwhile, Gemma Taylor's ESRC grant "Investigating the educational potential of touchscreen apps for children's early vocabulary acquisition" is making progress: after an impressive data collection phase, analysis, write up and dissemination are in full swing with the next phase of data collection beginning early next year.

Mental Health and Wellbeing is another busy area, with several strands of research being pursued: Ailsa Parsons and Linda Dubrow Marshall are working on their Arts for the Blues project, while Mike Lomas is focussing on psychological wellbeing in the neighbourhood. On Friday April 4th, David Tate joined Mike Sweeney Live on the mid-morning show at BBC Radio Manchester to discuss Autism Spectrum Disorder for World Autism Awareness Week. For a full week, the BBC were exploring autism by sharing amazing stories from people whose lives are affected by the condition. David shared his expertise with Mike as they discussed how people can begin to understand autism, why it affects some people and not others and ASD research here at the University of Salford. The interview was an excellent opportunity to share with the the public the importance of World Autism Awareness Week and to encourage people to contact the University so they can get involved in the fantastic research being carried out across campus.

Linda and Rod Dubrow-Marshall co-organised a summer conference with the International Cultic Studies Association with involvement of some of the MSc Psychology of Coercive Control students as both speakers and helping with the conference administration. There were 250 attendees.

The Politics Policy and Practice Group has also achieved a lot throughout the summer: after the successful launch of the Political Psychology Section of the BPS, Ashley Weinberg is leading the Section and coordinating its activities. The section was involved in several conferences , including the Psychology of Democracy biannual event which saw the Rebecca Long Bailey, Salford MP pop by for a visit. Meanwhile, the group is working together on a study on Brexit and wellbeing, under the leadership of Ashley Weinberg and with the help of our newest member Fatemeh Sani Pour. A big good luck to Janine Crosbie who is starting her PhD on Social Capital and learning and congratulations to Mike Lomas who is bringing to completion his PhD revisions. Sharon Coen has been awarded an eight months sabbatical in which she is planning to work on her book on the Psychology of journalism as well as develop bidding, including a project in collaboration with Sara Vestergren and Mike Lomas on Environmental Movements and Collective action. Sara Vestergren has been invited as an expert to deliver a training workshop for the United Arab Nation Olympic Committee on the Psychology of Crowd behaviour. We are also proud to communicate that Lorna Paterson has been appointed Trustee for the Beth Johnson Foundation, specialised on Ageing – we are sure she will help bring positive change in this area.

The busy summer ended with a Research Away Day organised at the University of Salford's fantastic ThinkLab Facility, where we celebrated our achievements and identified important future moves. Onwards and upwards!



## NEWSLETTER

**DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING** Theme Leads Dr Andrew England & Dr Lucy Walton

A lot has happened in our Research Programme since the last newsletter. A further international student has completed her PhD - congratulations to Dr Kholoud Alzyoud. Over the coming months we hope to welcome several new PhD students who will be undertaking mammography and dose optimisation research. Since June 2019, we have first / co-authored a number of papers and posters at international conferences and journals; several more journal papers are under review. Our collaborative relationships with Mid Yorks Hospital Trust, Rothband (a radiation protection company [www.rothband.com](http://www.rothband.com)), University of Southampton and The Christie Radiotherapy Centre continue to develop. One of our past alumni Shaun Dorey is completing data collection for a Society and College of Radiographers Student CoRIPs grant. This project will look at smart glasses and how they can be used in live X-ray examinations which involve directing treatments. Hopefully we will be in a position to report Shaun's work in the next newsletter. We have also welcomed a visiting lecturer from Oslo Metropolitan University (Dr Safora Johansen). The purpose of Dr Johansen's visit to Salford was develop a number of research collaborations with us.

We have also held a successful research summer school (OPTIMAX). OPTIMAX is a multi-professional multi-cultural 3-week residential summer school which enables staff and BSc, MSc and PhD students to learn about medical imaging research. Each year OPTIMAX runs over consecutive 20 days throughout August. This year was the 7th rendition of OPTIMAX and the 3rd time that it has been held at the University of Salford (48 people attending from 13 countries).

With the new academic year, we continue our research efforts and preparations for REF 2020/2021. We continue to develop our impact case study on breast cancer diagnosis research using mammography. This will involve gathering evidence, developing the narrative (including video testimonials) and also the launch of a breast imaging research 'impact' website (hopefully over the next few weeks). More time will be invested into grant bidding and planning for future impact. Impact now attracts more income through REF and our close links with clinical partners positions has put us in a good position for planning and developing impact from our research.

**EQUITY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING** Theme Lead: Penny Cook

We are delighted to announce that two members of Equity, Health and Wellbeing successfully defended their PhD theses over the summer. Alex Clarke-Cornwell's thesis was on sedentary behaviour, work and health-related outcomes. Alongside her role as a lecturer, Alex continues her sedentary behaviour research on the NIHR-funded randomised controlled trial of the 'SMaRT Work & Life' intervention for reducing sitting time in office workers. Alan Price's thesis was on the impact of traumatic childhood experiences on cognitive and behavioural functioning in children with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). Alan continues to work as a research fellow on Salford's programme of FASD research, developing an intervention for families affected by FASD (funded by the MRC). Congratulations to both!

Work on the evaluation of the use of e-cigarettes as a tool to help people quit smoking tobacco, carried out for Salford City Council, has attracted national attention as a case study in the [Green Paper on Prevention](#). As part of comprehensive local action on smoking, Salford City Council worked with a local housing association, stop smoking service, pharmacies and a registered vape shop on the Salford 'Swap to Stop' project, aimed at social housing and privately rented tenants in some of the most deprived areas in the city. A free e-cigarette starter-pack was given as well as behavioural support to quit smoking. Demand was high: over 1,000 smokers were recruited in 10 weeks. Our evaluation showed that 20% quit smoking tobacco. The team (Margaret Coffey, Penny Cook and Anna Cooper-Ryan) is currently carrying out a 12month follow-up, and are also working with Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council to evaluate a similar scheme.

Christine Parker and Rachel Martin have been working on a Public Health England funded project with the University of Huddersfield on 'Work Conversations in Healthcare: How, where, when and by whom?' The project involved an evidence review and stakeholder engagement and found that despite the launch of numerous, initiatives over the last decade, few have been directed specifically at stimulating conversations about work during routine clinical encounters. The review describes various barriers to these conversations taking place. While most health care practitioners accept that work is generally good for health and wellbeing, most do not engage their patients in conversations about work. However, more optimistically, the evidence points to some short and long-term initiatives that will better equip HCPs to have supportive conversations about work, and to further advance the 'work as a health outcome' agenda within routine healthcare.

Margaret Coffey, Cathy Ure and Tamara Brown are currently evaluating outcomes of The Bureau's activities in Glossopdale. The Bureau works with local communities to identify and respond to local needs. They do this by developing services and solutions delivered through effective voluntary action and partnership, working with community groups, voluntary agencies and the statutory sector. Their services aim to link local needs and resources to enable people to live independently and improve their quality of life. The evaluation explores the social impact of volunteer-led services together with the health and wellbeing benefits of engaging with the Bureau from volunteer and service user perspectives.

# HUMAN MOVEMENT TECHNOLOGIES AND REHABILITATION

🐦 @uosrehabtech

**Theme Leads: Professor Laurence Kenney, Professor Alison Hammond, Professor David Howard, Professor Malcolm Granat**

Professor Dave Howard gave an invited talk on his work on functional electrical stimulation at the Biomedical Engineering Conference 2019, hosted by Imperial College.

Dr Yeliz Prior has been appointed to the post of Vice President-Elect and Chair of the BHPR Section of the British Society for Rheumatology.

Dr Alix Chadwell was awarded the runner up prize for the NIHR MIC award at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers Healthcare Technologies Awards. This prestigious award is for the Best Medical Engineering recent PhD.

Partners from Schlegel Research Institute for Ageing and Consetoga College in Canada have visited to deliver, for the first time internationally, "Excellence in Resident Centred Care" training for care staff of our GMHSC Teaching Care Homes partnership.

Dr Yeliz Prior is an invited speaker at the BSPAR (British Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology) which will be held in Birmingham on 8&9th October 2019. Yeliz will present a talk titled "Health Professionals in Research: the dark side of the force?". Yeliz is also invited to the ISR (Irish Society for Rheumatology) conference in Kildare, Ireland on 26&27th September 2019 as a guest speaker to promote engagement and collaboration with the BSR.

A group of prosthetics and orthotics students from Salford spent 4 weeks over the summer in Uganda, part-funded through the Fit-for-purpose prosthetics project, and supported by Knowledge for Change. Further details on their visit can be found [here](#).

Professor Malcolm Granat, President of the International Society for the Measurement of Physical Behaviour (ISMBP) attended the society's 6th International Conference on Ambulatory Monitoring of Physical Activity and Movement (ICAMPAM) in Maastricht, Netherlands from JUNE 26 – 28, 2019. Salford was well represented at the meeting, with over 10 posters or presentations.

Yeliz has been invited to take part in 'NHS Wonder Women' filming series by the North West NHS R&D, which will be published before the end of the year.

The official launch of the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Prosthetics and Orthotics took place at Media City in June. The event was combined with interviews for the first cohort of PhD students, who will be starting their training in Salford this month. Exciting times!

Dr Sibylle Thies gave an invited talk at the ENRICH – Enabling Research In Care Homes event, on her work "Smart Walkers – improving our understanding of how older people use walking aids".

Prof Alison Hammond was an invited speaker at this year's British Pain Society Conference in September, speaking on "Chronic pain and employment"

In August, Professors Laurence Kenney and Chris Nester presented at the Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT) Consultation meeting at the World Health Organisation. The purpose of the two day meeting was to inform the development of a global report on effective access to assistive technology (AT). Laurence presented on the Fit-for-purpose prosthetics project and Chris presented on the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Prosthetics and Orthotics.



Figure 1: Delegates at the World Health Organisation meeting in Geneva.

## WELCOME

Anna-Marie Kiely undertaking her PhD part-time while still practicing as a social worker for older adults in SRFT. Her thesis is "Care 2 Move" which is an evaluation of training provided to all providers of care to residents of care homes to support increasing physical activity within daily care routines.

Dr Jen Parker who joins the Rehabilitation Theme as our Research Administrator.

Jasmine Sarwar who starts her iCase PhD, sponsored by Bet R Medical, a Chinese neurotechnology and rehabilitation company, supervised by Professors Howard and Kenney.

Kevin Vogelzang who joins Dr Sibylle Thies and colleagues for his internship from the University of Twente.

Welcome also to Gabriel Moisan visiting PhD researcher from Quebec, Canada. A podiatrist by background Gabriel is visiting until Dec 2019 to carry out a study examining the relationship between sensory deficits in the feet following stroke and impairments in reactive balance responses.

Oct 8th-12th we will welcome Dr. Kathryn Sibley a Canada Research Chair in Knowledge translation for Rehabilitation who will contribute to our ACPIN study day on translating evidence into physiotherapy practice. We will also be organising a seminar on translating your results into practice on Oct 10th for all staff and PGRs.....stay tuned!

## NEWSLETTER

## RECENT GRANTS

1. Head J, Kenney L, Howard D, Davys D, Jiang L. An adjustable electrode housing to accommodate growing residual limbs. NIHR Starworks 2 £36,454
2. Ackers L, Birckbeck C, Kenney L. The impact of international development research pre-2014/5. UKRI £29,884
3. Granat M. PhD scholarship for Sisary Kheng. Coles Medlock Foundation £140,000
4. Versus Arthritis/ MRC National Centre of Excellence for Musculoskeletal Health & Work (£2.2 million): Prof Alison Hammond & Dr Yeliz Prior are members and £60K awarded to Salford.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- ✓ Buckingham G, Parr J, Wood G, Day S, Chadwell A, Head J, Galpin A, Kenney L, Kyberd P, Gowen E, Poliakoff E. Upper- and lower-limb amputees show reduced levels of eeriness for images of prosthetic hands. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* (in press)
- ✓ Chadwell A, Kenney L, Granat MH, Thies S, Galpin A, Head J. Upper limb activity of twenty myoelectric prosthesis users and twenty healthy anatomically intact adults. *Scientific Data* (Nature) (in press)
- ✓ Davys, D. Collins, T. (2019) Supportive strategies for men who have a care role: an occupational perspective. *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation*. (Ref: Ms. No. ijtr.2018.0133R2)
- ✓ Edelaar LM, Nikiphorou E, Fragoulis GE, Iagnocco A, Haines C, Bakkers M, Barbosa L, Cikes N, Ndosi M, Primdahl J, Prior Y, Pchelnikova P, Ritschl V, Schäfer VS, Smucrova H, Storrønning I, Testa M, Wiek D, Vliet Vlieland TPM. EULAR recommendations for the generic core competences of Health Professionals in Rheumatology – *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*. Published online first 09 Aug 2019. DOI: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2019-215803
- ✓ Najm A, Nikiphorou E, Kostine M, Richez C, Pauling JD, Finckh A, Ritschl V, Prior Y, Balazova P, Stones S R, Szekanez Z, Iagnocco A, Ramiro S, Sivera F, Dougados M, Carmona L, Burmeister G, Gossec L and Berenbaum F. EULAR Points to consider for the development, evaluation and implementation of mobile health applications aiding self-management in people living with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. *RMD Open* 2019;5:e001014. doi: 10.1136/rmdopen-2019-001014 <https://rmdopen.bmj.com/content/5/2/e001014>
- ✓ Sun M, Amor J, James C, Costamagna E, Thies S, Lindemann U, Klenk J, Kenney L. Methods to characterize the real-world use of rollators using inertial sensors – a feasibility study. *IEEE Access* (in press)
- ✓ Luckie H, Williamson T, Nester C, Hollands K, Williams A. Comfortably Numb? Experiences of people with stroke and lower limb sensation deficits - impact and solutions. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology* (in press)

- ✓ Alrehily F, Hogg P, Twiste M, Johansen S, Tootell A. Scoliosis imaging: An analysis of radiation risk in the CT scan projection radiograph and a comparison with projection radiography and EOS. *Radiography* (Lond). 2019 Aug;25(3):e68-e74.
- ✓ Mitchell N, Coleman E, Watson J, Bell K, McDaid C, Barnett C, Twiste M, Jepson F, Salawu A, Harrison D, Vanicek N. Self-aligning prosthetic device for older patients with vascular-related amputations: protocol for a randomised feasibility study (the STEPFORWARD study). *BMJ Open*. 2019 Sep 20;9(9):e032924. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2019-032924.

## PhD AND MSc (BY RESEARCH) SUCCESS

Awatif Alrashedaay, supervised by Dr Yeliz Prior and Dr Mariyana Schoultz passed her PhD viva with minor amendments at the end of July. Her thesis is titled "Interpreting and Exploring the experiences of newly graduate nurses in Saudi Arabia in the context of Arabic culture and social change during their first destination posts in a government hospital".

Andrew Hodrein, supervised by Dr Adam Galpin, Professor Dave Roberts and Laurence Kenney, passed his PhD with major amendments in July. His thesis is titled 'Exploring Factors Associated With Upper-Limb Prosthesis Embodiment: A Mixed-Methods Approach'

Sultan Alharabi, supervised by Kris Hollands and Rich Jones has had his amendments approved and is now Dr. Alharabi. His thesis is titled "Gait Asymmetry and the Risk of Knee Osteoarthritis in Post-Stroke Individuals"

Brownyn Jones, supervised by Dr John Head and Professor Laurence Kenney, passed her MSc by research with amendments in September. Her thesis is titled 'An investigation into the validity of 3D printing as a method to produce upper limb sports prosthesis for specialised sports'

# KNEE ANKLE & FOOT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

 @kneeanklefoot Theme Leads: Prof Richard Jones and Prof Chris Nester

## FUNDING NEWS

Professor Jones and Dr Starbuck have been awarded £30,000 as part of the WeLove Manchester Enhanced Rehabilitation programme project. This project was enabling rehabilitation services for the injured individuals following the Manchester terrorist attack. The project will utilise gait analysis research to help inform rehabilitation practice and as an outcome measure.

Professor Jones, Dr Herrington and Dr Starbuck have also recently been awarded at £50,000 grant to investigate the role of a hybrid device for reconstruction of anterior cruciate ligament injuries. This project which will also involve a MPhil student as part of the team in a randomised trial comparing typical practice versus the new hybrid device.

## CONFERENCE TIME....

Dr Anmin Liu and Prof Jones gave keynote presentations at the 2019 Shanghai International Conference on Biomechanics in Human Movement and Clinical Translation.

The Footwear Biomechanics Symposium was held in Kananaskis, Canada in July where the Foot, Knee Ankle and Foot programme was in good attendance. There were presentations from Vanessa Walters, Jenny Anderson, Joanna Reeves, Michael Haley and Chelsea Starbuck whilst also enjoying the countryside with the black bears.

Dr Herrington and Dr Starbuck were involved in the Ankle Symposium in Amsterdam in September with a workshop on recovering from ankle sprains in elite individual and the risk of knee injuries following an ankle sprain. Dr Niamh Gill was also in Amsterdam presenting work from the Army funded research on step length differences.

Dr Steve Preece and Chris Bramah attended the world Congress on Sports Physical Therapy (WCSPT) which was held in Vancouver, presenting research on the biomechanics of running. Chris' gave a talk on the mechanisms underlying iliotibial band friction syndrome, a common injury afflicting runners and was awarded third prize competition for best abstract presentation, with a prize of \$500! Although only being employed two days per week, Chris operates two running services for the University, one of which is based at the MIHP (Manchester Institute of Health and Performance). It's really encouraging to see that the data that Chris collects as a result of delivering these services is now being used to generate world leading research.



## RECENT PHD COMPLETIONS

There were successful PhD completions for the following students: Dr Sultan Alharbi, Dr Joanna Reeves, Dr Ihab Elzein, Dr Omar Althomali, Dr Wael Alghamdi, Dr Walaa Elsais.

Well done to all.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Over the last 18 months, Steve Preece has been leading a project, funded by the NIHR, focused on the development of a new biofeedback treatment people with knee osteoarthritis. Working alongside Chelsea Starbuck and Nathan Brooks, a physiotherapist from Salford Royal, Steve has developed a set of new physiotherapy techniques, include EMG software to provide patients with feedback on their knee muscle patterns and animated instructional videos to allow patients to understand key anatomical concepts. Preliminary testing of this new treatment suggests that it might lead to dramatic reductions in pain associated with knee osteoarthritis. Steve is now leading a follow-on application to the NIHR to run a larger trial to evaluate the effectiveness of this new treatment.

Professor Richard Jones has also been appointed to a member of the Versus Arthritis Musculoskeletal Disorders Research Advisory Group and will have this position for the next two years.

## CELEBRATIONS!

An early congratulation to Dr Carina Price and Steven who is now on maternity leave for the impending birth of her new addition to the family.

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Theme lead: Jo-anne Webb



The inaugural student led Occupational Therapy Conference in April 2020 allowed dissemination of the team's research projects to an audience of over 250 local clinicians and industry partners. Dr Heather Baglee presented "Leader or Imposter", Sarah Bodell posed the question: "#whatyoudo affects how you feel" (Occubuzz), whilst Dr Rachel Russell applied her Home Modification Tool developed through

her PhD and Jo Webb demonstrated the patent protected Klip2Lift and shared the benefits of a major change in pedagogy to increase skills and safety in moving and handling training with our undergraduates using a competency approach with the Salford "Passport to Competency" (ISBN 978-1-912337-26-2).

The student led conference is planned again for April 2020 – watch this space!

## FUNDING NEWS! Dr Jenny Ceolta-Smith

Recent success through an award from the GMHSCP Transformation Fund and Work & Health Unit Innovation Fund (£350K) - three year mixed methods evaluation of a project which is being led by Sheffield Hallam University. This evaluation project concerns a contracted service that is supporting working age people to return to work or move into work due to disability or a health condition.

## SPORT AND EXERCISE

Theme lead: Paul Comfort

Dr Mellissa Harden, a teaching and learning fellow teaching on the BSc (Hons) Sports Science and MSc Strength and Conditioning programmes has been awarded her PhD through Northumbria University, which was funded by Great Britain Cycling.

PhD student Nick Ripley was awarded a doctoral research grant (~\$10,000) from the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), to conduct a training intervention investigating the effects of different training methods on hamstring strain injury risk factors and athletic performance. This builds on numerous successful bids to the NSCA in recent years, including 3 prior doctoral grants and an international collaboration grant.

Matt Cuthbert, a PhD student funded through an i-Case PhD with the Football Association, has had a structured review and met-analysis published open access in Sports Medicine, within the first year of his doctoral studies:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40279-019-01178-7>

PhD student Tom Dos'Santos has submitted his PhD thesis, and during his studies at the University of Salford has published 18 peer reviewed articles as first author and co-authored more than 20 additional publications.

Dr Paul Comfort was awarded the Strength and Conditioning Journal 2019 Editorial Excellence Award by the National Strength and Conditioning Association at this years International Conference in Washington.

Dr John McMahon and Charlie Owen (PhD student and Manchester United FC Strength and Conditioning Coach) will be presenting alongside Paul Downes (Head of Athletic Development at Auckland Rugby) at a Regional Workshop for the United Kingdom Strength and Conditioning Association hosted at the University of Salford on 27th November 2019.



## ECR GROUP

- / Dr Amy Bidgood and David Tate have been awarded a grant by the Waterloo Foundation. The project is an exercise intervention to improve sleep and word-learning in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- / Building on 8 years of research, Dr Jeannette Roddy and colleagues have launched a counselling and psychotherapy service for victims of domestic violence. The story has been followed up by a Media student at Salford, and this represents a fantastic example of research into teaching and practice.

[Read now](#)

# INTRODUCING YOUR STUDENT REPS



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When I first started my PhD I did a lot of research around what to expect and people's experiences. 'Lonely' was a word that was often used, and as PGR's based in various locations across campus we rarely get the opportunity to mix as a whole group. The PGR training programmes cover a wide range of subjects and are timed in line with the academic year and progress points, and there are supervision meetings for the things more specific to our own studies. But sometimes there are ideas we'd like to discuss while we're still forming ideas, and we will all at some point have tips and experiences that will be useful to others either related directly to research or general things like how to claim expenses for University based activities. We recently set up a private Facebook group called 'UoS Health and Society PGR's' that is only for PGR's. The idea is to share ideas, knowledge and experience to make our research stronger, and get to know other researchers in the School at the same time. It would be great to see more people join and take part so that it can be something that everyone can benefit from.

For anyone signing up could you introduce yourself (maybe with a short piece about your research) or answer one of these questions:

- / New PGR's: 'What I'd really like to know is....'
- / More experienced PGRs: 'If I have one tip it would be to...'

If anyone has any trouble finding the group, or has suggestions to make then feel free to email either myself or Kabir.

## EVENTS UPDATE / OTHER NEWS

Dr Katy Szczepura has been invited to do a seminar at the Medical Imaging Convention being held at the NEC in March 2020.

The Medical Imaging Convention is the UK's dedicated event that offers a comprehensive program on the latest innovations in imaging diagnosis and treatment, to UK-based medical imaging professionals and their senior management teams. The event provides the most up-to-date research, data and developments that can enable better patient outcomes, efficiency and cost-effectiveness in UK medical imaging.

<http://www.imagingconvention.com/speakers/dr-katy-szczepura/>