

Introduction



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to be able to introduce new colleagues in the Faculty in this Health Briefing and two of our Professorial Joint Appointments. Please contact them if their area of expertise is of interest or relevance to you.

On behalf of staff in the Faculty we send you our warmest seasons greeting.

Hilary Jones
Dean – Faculty of Health

New Faculty Director - Recruitment and Partnerships



Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to everyone in the Faculty for making me feel so welcome. In the New Year I hope to be out and about more and to have the opportunity to visit many of the organisations we work with on a regular basis and I look forward to meeting many of you from those organisations in due course.

As Faculty Director for Recruitment and Partnerships, working with colleagues across the health, social services and sport sectors will be an important part of my role. In terms of the partnership side of the role communication will be key and I look forward to building on the relationships that are already in place and looking at new opportunities for us to work together. The geography of the area that the University covers presents many unique issues regarding effective communication with stakeholders and I look forward to working with you and colleagues in the Faculty to see

how we can best overcome some of the constraints.

I am a Podiatrist by background but have worked with a range of professions throughout my career. Following clinical practice I undertook a number of Project Management Roles which included 18 months at St. George's Hospital in London on a project looking at the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of clinical professional staff and linking this with appraisals. The second was at the NHS National Patient Safety Agency where I was leading on raising awareness of the patient safety agenda with the Allied Health Professions and Health Care Science Professions; and internally within the agency raising the profile of these professions.

I spent the last four years at Birmingham City University, firstly as Director of the CPD Unit and for the last 15 months as Associate Dean for Business and External Affairs, during which time I was particularly interested in building relationships with stakeholders, knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP's) and developing international business.

Other than my career not much to know other than I love chocolate, don't drink tea or coffee, like dangerous sports and fast cars and am a massive Strictly Come Dancing fan!

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Professor Wilf McSherry



I took up post on 18th August as Professor in Dignity of Care for Older People, this is a joint appointment between Staffordshire University Faculty of Health and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust. My base is Blackheath Lane (Room 155B) in the Centre for Practice and Service Improvement.

Prior to taking up this new and exciting post I worked as a Senior Lecturer in Nursing and was Director of the Centre for Spirituality Studies at The University of Hull and The Faculty of Health and Social Care Scholarship theme lead for Professional Practice. I graduated from the University of Hull as a Registered General Nurse in 1992 which seems many moons ago and spent several years in practice within the medical speciality. My last post in practice before embarking on a career in Nurse Education was as a Senior Nurse in Care of the Older Person. I have now worked in Higher Education for over 12 years undertaking many different roles teaching on programmes across the entire educational spectrum, pre-registration to PhD supervision.

My interests are varied, I am a firm believer that scholarship applies to everyone working in both practice and educational sectors, and that high quality education and practice should be underpinned by research and scholarship. My areas of academic interest have focused upon the spiritual dimension of care and latterly the issue of dignity in care. My interest stems from a realisation that the spiritual aspect of care was neglected by some health care professionals and more recently I feel that there has been erosion and devaluing of care and caring within the health and social care sectors.

An incident that occurred to me in practice not long after qualifying led me to register for a Master of Philosophy research degree titled – A descriptive survey of nurses' perceptions of spirituality and spiritual care.

I have published books and articles addressing diverse aspects of the spiritual dimension. I am author of *'Making Sense of Spirituality in Nursing and Health Care Practice'* published by Jessica Kingsley. I would describe myself as glutton for punishment. Not being content with an MPhil. I completed my doctoral studies (6 ½ year part-time) at Leeds Metropolitan University in May 2005 researching 'The Meaning of Spirituality and Spiritual Care: An investigation of health care professionals, patients and public's perceptions.

I feel that I bring a good level of expertise to the role and am privileged and very excited about taking up this joint appointment. I look forward to meeting and working with colleagues in both organisations during the coming months. w.mcsherry@staffs.ac.uk

Professor Christine Kettle



My current appointment as Professor of Women's Health is a joint appointment with the University Hospital of North Staffordshire (UHNS) and Staffordshire University. Prior to this I worked at the UHNS as a specialist clinical midwife and completed a PhD in 2002 at Keele University. I have a well-proven record of academic and research achievements, considerable clinical expertise, experience in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and a significant number of quality publications. My specialised area of interest and research is related to the management of perineal trauma associated with childbirth including third and fourth degree tears. I also carry out medico-legal work and assist the UHNS legal department with in-house complaints and litigation cases relating to perineal trauma.

Main Research Activities

I am currently one of the lead investigators conducting a national quality improvement

project relating to the assessment and management of perineal trauma (PEARLS), which is funded by the Health Foundation and involves 22 maternity units throughout the UK. I am also co-investigator of a randomised controlled trial (REPAIR) investigating 'overlap' versus 'end-to-end' for repair of obstetric anal sphincter tears. I have presented my work at local, national and international conferences hence sharing good practice with other professionals. I also actively network with other lead researchers both nationally and internationally and act in an advisory capacity on many projects relating to my specialised area.

Clinical Expertise

This joint post enables me to continue with my clinical work, which involves running a weekly 'Perineal Care Clinic' for women that have problems associated with childbirth. My skills and expertise are utilised and shared with other health care professionals within the clinical and academic setting and I work in collaboration with other health care disciplines, NHS Trusts, professional organisations and universities.

Teaching

I play a pivotal role in the inter-professional education of under and postgraduate

midwifery and medical learners. I have established a local and regional teaching strategy for the management of perineal trauma following childbirth and I also have formal teaching sessions with midwives, students and medical staff relating to this specialised area of work. Currently, I am supervising three PhD students that are undertaking research projects relating to my area of interest.

Awards

Over the past eight years I have received several prestigious awards, including two competitive fellowships from the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust and Smith & Nephew, which enabled me to design and lead the Methods or Materials Study (published in the Lancet 2002) and to complete my PhD thesis. I was also presented with the Ann Stewart Award for my work, which had the potential to make great impact on midwifery practice. In 2004, I received the 'Perineal Care Multi-Disciplinary Team Research and Development Staff Award' for the work undertaken in relation to the midwife-led 'Perineal Care Clinic' that I run.

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AREA TO BE DETACHED AND RETURNED TO

Nicola Smith, Partnerships and Communications Administrator, Staffordshire University, Faculty of Health, Blackheath Lane, Stafford, ST18 0AD

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LINKS

Earlier this year Staffordshire University, Faculty of Health made history by being the only educational institution to be awarded contracts to host two Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) - one for Staffordshire and another for Telford & Wrekin. Established in all local authorities across England as the mechanism that enables service users to influence the way that publicly funded health and social care provision is planned, commissioned and delivered, LINKs have been set up to help improve services by identifying poor – and good - practice.

LINKs will focus on addressing systemic failure and promoting cultural change using evidence gleaned from visits to hospitals, residential care homes and hospices to inform policy and professional practice. They will also contribute to the Healthcare Commission Annual Health check and use other methods to scrutinise service planning and provision in primary, acute and mental health trusts, ambulance trusts and care homes. In addition to being the eyes, ears and voice of patients, service users and their carers, LINKs members are also the heart, mind and soul - and conscience – of the health and social care system.

Staff from the Faculty of Health, other departments and external stakeholders will undoubtedly have expertise and/or resources that could support the LINK achieve its aims so please get in touch and let us know how you may be able to contribute to the success of the LINK.

Linda Seru l.seru@staffs.ac.uk

Director of Staffordshire LINK and Telford & Wrekin LINK

Points for action

HEalth Factor 09

The Faculty will be hosting its annual HEalth Factor event, week commencing 27th April 2009. The week will host an array of events, conferences and seminars, showcasing and highlighting the work which is offered by the University, focusing on '*People Matter*'. Please put the date in your diary and further details about events and booking will be circulated nearer the time.

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