Research Endeavours and Dissemination.

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Dr Nora Ahmad, first DMedSci graduate at the University of Sheffield
I would like to add my welcome to this issue of READ, the contents of which demonstrate continuing and dynamic research activity in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and increasing international links. Leverhulme visiting professorships are not easily won and the School is to be congratulated on this significant and prestigious achievement. The University looks forward to welcoming Professor Lin to Sheffield and to hosting the public Leverhulme lectures that will be part of the visit.

Another recent success for the School is the first conferment of a University of Sheffield Doctorate (DMedSci) in Professional Healthcare Practice awarded to Nora Ahmad from Malaysia. For the research element of this professional doctorate, Nora conducted a comparative study about the relationships between nurses’ empowerment, job satisfaction and organisational commitment.

I would also like to congratulate Professor Roger Watson on being the first UK nurse to be awarded a Fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing. The University encourages international collaboration and we hope that our overseas readers will see this newsletter as a point of contact with both the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the University as a whole.

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Welcome to another issue of READ. I have just returned from Hong Kong where I attended an international conference on nursing education hosted by Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The conference, attended by over 200 people from 20 countries including the USA, Canada, China, Taiwan, UK and Thailand, was reported in the South China Morning Post. Once again I was struck by the importance of international activity and, even in this age of advanced electronic communications - with email, skype, webcams and mobile telephones - how essential it is to take time to visit other parts of the world and to share experiences. In sharing experiences you learn a great deal.

I was privileged to be asked to give a keynote address to the conference on the role of the professoriate in nursing. While my views on the issue were very clear – if not somewhat conservative – they were challenged by people from other countries as my view of a professor of nursing and, indeed, of nursing was very 'UK-centric'. I heard from people who work in universities with ‘flat’ structures – in other words, no academic hierarchy and no professors. Others were professors from colleges whose mission was to teach and, thereby, they had very limited time to teach. I tend to abhor the concept of the student as 'customer' but others challenged me on the basis that their institutions were run purely on business lines with only student income available to finance their activities. In sharing these experiences, I learned a great deal!

This issue of READ demonstrates the importance we place in the School of Nursing and Midwifery and in the Centre for Health and Social Care Studies and Service Development on international activity and, indeed, the pride we take in our international links. Alongside reports of our research activities you will find reports on our growing links with Taiwan through Visiting Research Students and a Leverhulme Visiting Professor in 2008. We have had a visitor from mainland China and colleagues have continued to visit South East Asia and other parts of the world.

As usual, I hope you find this issue of READ a useful spotlight on our work and a stimulus to collaborating with us or visiting us in 2008 and beyond. We welcome your views and invite comment and correspondence with members of the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Centre for Health and Social Care Studies and Service Development.

At this time of year I wish those of you who celebrate it, a Happy Christmas and, to everyone, a Happy New Year.

Professor Roger Watson FAAN
Director of Research
School of Nursing and Midwifery

Shu-Fen Lo,
Visiting Research Student from Taiwan
During the summer of 2007 whilst on holiday in Colombia, I had the opportunity to visit Hospital San Ignacio in Bogotá (the capital city) where ‘canguro’ (‘kangaroo’) care is a taken-for-granted aspect of neonatal practice. I was warmly welcomed by Dr Zita Figueroa Sanchez who introduced me to her colleagues and showed me around the outpatient clinic which parents visit with their babies for on-going treatment and support. In addition to comprehensive medical care, parents are able to borrow medical equipment and have access to psycho-social support, all of which is especially appreciated by poorer families and adolescent mothers.

The development of Kangaroo Care

Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) care was first proposed in the late 1970s by two Colombian neonatologists, Drs Edgar Rey and Hector Martinez, in response to persistent hospital-based infections and the continuing shortage of incubators for low weight and/or premature babies. The negative impact on survival rates for these extremely fragile and vulnerable babies was immediate and positive, with a drop in mortality rates from around 70% to 30% reported. Although KMC appears to reduce infant morbidity and mortality without any serious deleterious effects, some doubts remain regarding the evidence base for its routine implementation for all low birth weight infants. Economic and social benefits are, however, widely reported and include positive benefits on breastfeeding, reduced length of hospitalisation, and a humanizing influence on the neonatal environment. Kangaroo care has been adopted internationally, including in our local neonatal unit within the Jessops hospital, Sheffield.

What is KMC?

The essential feature is continuous skin-to-skin contact between a mother (or father) and their newborn with all the benefits associated with ease of access to breastfeeding and bonding between parents and baby. Skin-to-skin contact is maximised by placing only a small nappy, and perhaps a hat, on the baby who is supported in an upright position on the parent’s bare chest. Parents are generally encouraged to position the baby’s head such that the ear is above the parent’s heart. Neonatal units vary considerably with respect to admission criteria to KMC although many accept infants weighting less than 1500gms providing they are breathing unassisted (albeit supplemented by oxygen and/or continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP).

Warmest thanks to my friend Beatriz Quintero for introducing me to Dr Nathalie Charpak, Pediatrician and Director of Fundación Canguro, Bogotá, who made arrangements for my visit in her absence. Thanks also to Dr Zita Figueroa Sanchez, clinic staff and the parents who patiently and good-humouredly encouraged my rudimentary Spanish. My request to take a few photos was met with great enthusiasm – I hope you enjoy the results!

Older people and end of life care

Sweden goes from strength to strength

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has long established links with colleagues in Sweden that go back over a decade, and these links are being maintained by Mike Nolan’s Visiting Chair at the University College of Health Sciences, Borås, and Dr Liz Hanson’s Visiting Readership at the University of Sheffield. The last few months have seen some notable successes with the receipt of two major grants, one to further the work of the ACTION project, and one to establish a National Family Carers Competence Centre for Sweden (below). Liz Hanson and Lennart Magnusson briefly describe these developments.

National competence centre for family care issues in Sweden

In April this year the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden invited applications from throughout the country to establish a competence centre on family care issues. Lennart and I, together with representatives from several partner organisations*, submitted an application for the 15 August deadline. There were 10 submissions in total. We were short listed with two other finalists to present our application to the National Board and to members of an external review panel.

On 16 October it was formally announced that we were successful in our application to the Vinnvård VINNVÅRD project: ACTION - working in partnership for improved health and social care

We were also successful in our application to the Vinnvård initiative earlier this year for a three year project starting from 1 January 2008. Vinnvård, a joint initiative between the Vårdal Foundation for Health Care Sciences and Allergy Research, Vinnova the Swedish Government Agency for Innovation Systems and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, has the goal of ensuring knowledge transformation within health care practice.

Our specific project aims are to:

- make direct use of research results together with older people, family carers, practitioners, care managers and decision makers;
- research new ways of learning via Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
- based on the results of the project create a model for knowledge exchange, knowledge transformation and the application of empirical knowledge within elder care and family care support.

The impetus for the project arose from practitioners working in several municipalities across Sweden with the ACTION* service who felt isolated in their role and wished to develop a way of learning from each other and sharing examples of best practice.

Inspired by the work of Professor Debbie Tolson and colleagues at Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, who established a virtual community college (based on the work of Etienne Wenger and Communities of Practice) we adopted this approach as a way of developing a more systematic and dynamic learning network. In the project we will develop learning groups within each participating municipality that will form a local ACTION Community of Practice. Groups will include older people, family carers, practitioners and politicians. Initially meetings will take place ‘face to face’ and later on electronically. The first learning project will focus on the role of user centred technology as a support for frail older people and family carers.

Mike and Debbie provided expert advice with regards to the application and we look forward to working with them further as the project gets underway.

Project partners include:

*Health Institute, Department of Human Sciences, University College Kalmar

ACTION Caring University College of Borås

Chalmers University of Technology

University of Gothenburg IT University & Department for Education

TeliaSonera

The municipalities of Borås, Järfalla, Huddinge, Härrönsand and Varberg.

*ACTION is an acronym for Assisting Carers using Telematics Interventions to meet Older People’s Needs. It is a user-friendly technology-based support service for frail older people and their family carers living at home which began as an EU-funded pan-European R&D project in 1997 and continues both as a research and service development project in nine municipalities across Sweden.

Elizabeth Hanson (Scientific project leader), Lennart Magnusson (Project Manager).

Further developments have also been taking place with COAT (The Carers Outcome Agreement Tool). The on-going evaluation of this new approach to working with family carers in Sweden is progressing well and work is about to start in Canada, in conjunction with Professor Francine Ducharme and colleagues at the University of Montreal. COAT has been translated into French and a cross-cultural validation study to explore the usefulness in Quebec is planned. Discussions about the project took place during the recent FICCDAT Conference in Toronto (see section on conferences).

Mike Nolan
Professor of Gerontological Nursing

Mike was part of the application and will act as Chair of the International Advisory Board for the centre.

*National Partners:

• ÄldreVäst Sjuhärad Research Centre, University College of Borås

• Fokus, Research Centre Kalmar, (the centre will be physically located here)

• The Swedish Handicap Institute

• Regional Co-ordinators for Family Care Support in Norrland (North of Sweden)

• University College of Kalmar Human Sciences Department & eHealth Institute

• Kalmar Regional County Council

Elizabeth Hanson, Lennart Magnusson, Mike Nolan.

VINNVÅRD project: ACTION - working in partnership for improved health and social care

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Read
Workforce and practice development
Evaluation of Chest Pain Units in the NHS

Mac Macintosh has recently completed a project with colleagues from ScHARR and the Institute of Work Psychology led by Professor Steve Goodacre evaluating the role of Chest Pain Units (CPU) in the NHS (the ESCAPE trial). The CPU provides nurse-led, protocol driven care for patients with acute chest pain and has been shown to be effective and cost effective in single centre evaluations. The ESCAPE trial was a multi-centre mixed methods study including a cluster randomised control trial, qualitative study of patient experience, and economic and organisational evaluation. The study looked at the effectiveness and acceptability of Chest Pain Unit care in the NHS and the final report is available on the NHS Service Delivery & Organisation website. The trial found no evidence that CPU care was any more effective than routine care. Mac led on the organisational evaluation which identified a range of organisational factors impacting on the development of chest pain services and on the outcomes of the trial. Some key messages from Mac’s study are that

- Complex interventions such as the CPU are prone to the effects of local organisational issues and that findings from single centre studies should be treated with caution before a decision is taken to implement in a new setting.
- Recruitment of staff to roles like the chest pain nurse specialist roles should take into account such qualities as the ability to engage in proactive behaviours as well as specialist knowledge.
- Crossing professional and organisational boundaries continues to lead to conflict between staff. The recommendations from studies such as the ENRIP project should be considered when establishing new roles in practice and adequate preparation made to prepare and support new working relationships.

Mac presented this part of the study at the recent College of Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Conference which this year was held in Sheffield.


Michael Macintosh
Nursing Lecturer
Centre for Health & Social Care Studies and Service Development

New Externally Funded Projects

Recent Research Funding

Watson, Leverhulme Trust, Visiting Professorship, £17,300
Penhale, European Commission, Literature review on high quality care for the elderly and the prevention of elder abuse, £37,109
Penhale, Comic Relief, UK Study on Elder Abuse, £6,000

School-linked sexual health services for young people

Drs Helen Stapleton and Mark Hayter are members of a team of researchers from the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University investigating School-linked sexual health services for young people (SSHYP). The team, lead by Dr Jenny Owen [ScHARR, University of Sheffield] were recently awarded £185,000 by the UK Department of Health's National Health Technology Assessment programme (HTA), to carry out a survey and a systematic review of evidence concerning ‘school-linked’ sexual health services for young people. Whilst the Department of Health is particularly interested in research about sexual health services for young people in the UK that are either based in schools or sixth form colleges, or linked to these in some way, the researchers will also consider relevant studies from other countries.

The study will run from November 2007 to April 2009. The first phase involves a mapping exercise of current service types and provision, and relevant UK policy developments at national and local levels. This will be followed by a national survey of school nurses, using a postal questionnaire. The results of the mapping exercise and the questionnaire survey will inform the second phase of work in which published research findings, from the UK and from other countries, will be identified and analysed.

Leverhulme Visiting Professor

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has been awarded a prestigious Visiting Professor grant of £17,300 from the Leverhulme Trust to host a visit for six months in 2008 by Professor Li-Chan Lin from National Yang Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan. Professor Lin, who already holds an Honorary Professorship at the University of Sheffield, is head of the Institute of Clinical Nursing at Yang Ming and a member of the board of the Journal of Clinical Nursing. Professor Lin's research includes the eating problems of older people with dementia and she also conducts research into aspects of Traditional Chinese Medicine such as acupuncture.

This award demonstrates the further consolidation of several links that the School of Nursing and Midwifery has with nursing schools in Taiwan. These include our Visiting Research Student scheme, reported elsewhere in this issue of READ, and a five year visiting research consultancy held by Professor Roger Watson at Tzu-Chi Technical College Department of Nursing, Hualein with which the School of Nursing has a Memorandum of Understanding.

Working with Professor Roger Watson, Professor Lin will pursue further work on the use of a scale to assess eating difficulty in older people with dementia. The scale, developed by Professor Watson, has been translated into Chinese and is already being used in Taiwan. In addition, Professor Lin will establish links locally and nationally with people working in complementary and alternative medicines and will deliver a public lecture at the University of Sheffield. Future editions of READ will report on Professor Lin's activities during her visiting professorship.
Finding your feet – a research student’s experience

Studying abroad was one of the most significant steps that I had to take in my life. Looking back I recall the hurdles that I had to get over. The last year was filled with enthusiasm, hopes, frustrations, moments of uncertainty and doubts. During my first days in Sheffield I was a stranger in a strange city and I felt so homesick. I was filled with mixed feelings - so excited to begin my new life and at the same time so nervous and not knowing what to expect.

Things got worse when I became more involved in my study! I was spending most of my time either in the library or working in my office on my own. It was said to us if you are a PhD student you will probably spend most of your time on your own. Well, I thought this is could not be totally the case. I realised that if I continued doing so I wouldn’t enjoy the whole experience of studying abroad, especially as the university offers many social activities and events to get the students involved in the university life. There are also opportunities to get involved in different committees such as the international student committee. There are also academic support and counselling services provided to students who need support and guidance. I have met research students from different departments and soon realised that I was not alone because students share so much in common.

As I became more involved in my work, I developed more self-confidence and was able to see myself better. My supervisors are friendly, open, supportive and always available when I need them. The university is located in the heart of the city centre and there are many interesting places where I can have fun and talk to other people. There are restaurants and shops where I can buy Halal food and Middle Eastern grocery, so I can cook and enjoy my meals. I have also been to the magnificent country side near Sheffield and enjoyed every single moment of being there.

Zainab Zahran

Welcome to our new postgraduate students: Wafaa Al Johani, Margaret Dunham and Sue Fleming.

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully completed their higher research degree:

- Jeanette Allotey (PhD)
- Michelle Garner (MPhil)
- Josie Tetley (PhD)

Congratulations to Ahlam Al-Zahrani who has successfully upgraded from MPhil to PhD

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully upgraded to the research element of the DMedSci:

- lain Armstrong
- Carol Cooper
- Janet James
- Amanda Jones
- Lynn Paterson

Visiting Research Student Scheme

Earlier this year the School of Nursing and Midwifery had the pleasure of hosting a visiting research student from Taiwan. Shu-Fen Lo is a lecturer in nursing from the Tzu Chi Technical College, Department of Nursing in Haulien, eastern Taiwan. She is currently reading for her PhD at the National Taiwan University, exploring the management of malignant wounds in cancer care. Shu-Fen spent six months in Sheffield working with Dr Mark Hayter on a variety of research papers and also undertaking 90 credits worth of taught modules. Pictured is Shu-Fen receiving her certificate of attendance from the Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Mrs Anne Peat.

During her time in Sheffield Shu-Fen and Dr Mark Hayter worked on three journal papers and a conference abstract. One paper has been accepted by the Journal of Clinical Nursing and two more are under review. More work on a grounded theory of malignant wound experience is going to be submitted to the Fourth Pan Pacific Nursing conference on ‘Managing Chronic Illness’ in November 2008. Shu-Fen is one excellent example of our programme for visiting research students at Sheffield. We have an established 3-6 month programmes that can be flexible in responding to individual needs. We particularly welcome visiting students to work with staff on one of our three research themes:

- Older People and end of life care
- Workforce Development
- Children, Young People and Families.

For more information on the visiting research student programme please contact Dr Helen Stapleton – h.stapleton@sheffield.ac.uk
The last few months have been an exceptionally busy period for conferences with there being several presentations, including a number of keynotes, in a wide range of countries spanning North America, Europe and Australia.

Mike Nolan, together with colleagues from the UK (Janet Nolan, Gordon Grant, Julie Repper and Monica Curran) and Sweden (Elizabeth Hanson and Lennart Magnusson) gave several presentations at the Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology (FICCDAT) in Toronto in June, with Mike and Liz contributing to an International Invited Symposium exploring the assessment of family carers, with contributions from the US, UK, Canada, Sweden and Australia.

From Left to right: Mike Nolan, UK, Lynn Feinberg, US, Joan Hughes, Australia and Elizabeth Hanson, Sweden, following the International Symposium on Caregiver Assessment

In July Mike Nolan presented the keynote address to the Psychological Society Special Interest Group for Older People (PSIGE) on the evolution of Relationship-Centred Care and the Senses Framework.

This was also the theme of an invited symposium at this years British Society of Gerontology Conference co-chaired by Mike Nolan and Professor Dawn Brooker of the Bradford Dementia Group. Here Mike and Dawn, together with colleagues, had the opportunity to explore the potential synergies between person-centred and relationship-centred care.

There was little let up in the autumn, with Mike presenting keynote addresses in Melbourne, Sweden and Perth. In Melbourne Mike addressed the ACEBAC (Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care) Conference on the subject of evidence based care, whilst in Perth he reflected on achieving an enriched care environment for older people using the Senses Framework. However, possibly the most exciting event took place in Sweden where Mike was the keynote speaker for the Research Conference of the ÄldreVäst Sjúhárad Research Centre. This aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, older people and their family carers and politicians to debate areas of interest. It was attended by over 500 delegates, some 200 of which were older people/family carers. The fact that such a diverse audience attended attests to the success of the centre and the hard work that is put into ensuring that access is available for all.

Invited seminar

Dr Julia Keenan – Research Assistant to the Leverhulme-funded research project ‘Changing Habits? Food, family and transitions to motherhood’ - was recently honoured with a personal invitation to present a paper at the Maternal Geographies Forum hosted by the Department of Geography, Durham University. The event was arranged to coincide with a visit by Professor Robyn Longhurst (University of Waikato, Aotearoa/New Zealand), an internationally recognised academic authority on research into the links between bodies, spaces and culture. The title of Julia’s paper: ‘Checks and balances? Body metabolisms and weightiness through pregnancy’ drew on interim findings from the Changing Habits research. The paper focused on the embodied changes that accompany pregnancy which often present challenges to the more taken-for-granted practices of everyday life. In particular, Julia discussed the social meaning of pregnancy in the context of changing circumstances and the effect on choice and decision-making, especially those concerned with food and eating particularly for women (with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome or diabetes) whose metabolisms have been medicalised prior to pregnancy. The paper was very well received and stimulated an interesting discussion.

Two other UK-based social geographers were also invited to contribute to the forum. Dr Maria Fannin, from the University of Bristol, presented a paper titled ‘Biocapital and Becoming’ which drew attention to the increasing capital investment in the generative capacities of reproductive bodies in biomedical and genetic research. Dr Rebekah Fox, based at the University of London, contributed a paper titled: ‘Feeding the foetus: maternal bodies, surveillance and food’ in which she discussed intergenerational understandings of pregnancy-related food practices.
American Academy of Nursing Fellowship

Professor Roger Watson, School of Nursing and Midwifery, has been inducted as one of the first three nurse leaders from outside of the USA with a Fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing this November in Washington DC. The other international recipients include a mainland Chinese and a Canadian nursing scholar. Fifty one USA nurses also received this honour.

Professor Watson is a biology graduate of the University of Edinburgh, UK. Following a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Sheffield, UK he entered nursing and qualified in 1984 after studying at St George’s Hospital, London, UK. He worked in Scotland with older people and then entered academic nursing at the University of Edinburgh in 1989. His first chair was in Ireland in 1998 where he became the first Professor of Nursing in Ireland at Dublin City University. He returned to the UK in 1999 to the Chair in Nursing at the University of Hull and, in 2005, the Chair in Nursing at the University of Sheffield. Since 2003 he has been Editor of the Journal of Clinical Nursing, currently rated top in the UK and sixth in the world of nursing journals.

Professor Watson is best known for the development of the Edinburgh Feeding Evaluation in Dementia scale which is now used in several countries, including the USA and Taiwan. His research interests are wide and he has also researched the areas of caring in nursing and work and study related stress in nurses and nursing students. He is well published in refereed journals and has several textbooks on science in nursing, accountability and research methods.

Professor Watson is a frequent visitor to China and Taiwan where he has a visiting chair in Hong Kong and has established several consultancies based on helping Chinese nursing scholars to publish in English in nursing journals.

The American Academy of Nursing was established in 1973 by the American Nurses Association to ‘provide visionary leadership to the nursing profession and to the public in shaping future health care policy and practice (www.aannet.org).

We’re moving!!

From 17 December 2007 the School of Nursing and Midwifery Centre for Health & Social Care Studies and Service Development will be located at

Samuel Fox House  
Northern General Hospital  
Herries Road  
Sheffield S5 7AU  
UK

Our email addresses are the same but our phone numbers have changed. For all enquiries please ring +44 (0) 114 222 9720

Research seminar series

12th February 2008
Parental stress and concerns for children after cardiac surgery

Professor Linda Franck  
Professor and Chair of Children’s Nursing Research, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children

Venue:
Humanities Research Institute  
34 Gell Street Sheffield  
(opposite the old Jessops antenatal clinic)

Time: 12:30 to 2pm  
Please contact Jane Flint (j.flint@sheffield.ac.uk) for more information

Welcome to new staff

The Centre for Health & Social Care Studies and Service Development is delighted to welcome two new members of academic staff: Dr Christine Ingleton, Reader in Palliative Care, and Dr Sharron Hinchliff, Lecturer, whose research interests are ageing, gender and sexual and reproductive health.
The School of Nursing & Midwifery hosted a visiting scholar from mainland China in September. Dr Amy Zang, assistant Dean at the School of Nursing, Shandong University spent two weeks in September in the school. Dr Zang recently completed her PhD at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and her research interests include gender issues in nursing, information technology in nursing and cardiac rehabilitation in older people.

During her visit Dr Zang was able to work on the publication of papers from her PhD and to meet with colleagues from other UK universities to establish collaboration, including The University of Sheffield, in research projects and academic exchange visits.

Dr Zang is a member of the editorial board of the prestigious Journal of Clinical Nursing and during her visit she attended the annual Editorial Board meeting of this journal in London.

Professor Roger Watson, from The School of Nursing & Midwifery visited The School of Nursing in Shandong in 2005. Following Dr Zang’s visit he said ‘I am glad that we have been able to maintain this contact with Shandong and we look forward to further collaboration with Shandong and we are looking for funding opportunities to exchange staff and establish projects’. Shandong University is located in Jinan in Shandong province in mainland China. This is a very beautiful and historic area of China and further details of Shandong School of Nursing can be found at: http://www.nurse.sdu.edu.cn/en/.

Recent publications and conference presentations


Kirkman S, Thompson DR, Watson R and Stewart S (2007) Are all doctorates equal or are some "more equal than others"? An examination of which ones should be offered by schools of nursing Nursing Education in Practice 7 61-66


Watson R (2007) Over 50, over here Health Service Journal 26 April 26


Sargeant A, Seymour J, Payne S, Ingleton C and Ward S. How to the levels of physician contact differ between cancer and heart failure patients in Scotland during the last four weeks of life. Presented at EAPC 2007, Budapest, Hungary

Sargeant A, Seymour J, Payne S, Ingleton C and Ward S. What are the key issues identified by Heart Failure Nurses in the UK working with patients at the end of life. Presented at EAPC 2007, Budapest, Hungary

NEW online masters courses for 2008

Following the success of our innovative Master of Midwifery course, running since 2004, a new suite of online masters courses goes live in September 2008, adding courses in nursing and occupational health nursing to that in midwifery. Professionals across a range of disciplines, who might otherwise be excluded by work, family or residential circumstances, need only an internet connection at home or work to allow them to connect with a vibrant online learning community. Suitably qualified and experienced practitioners can now look forward to expanding their capabilities by studying at postgraduate level, part time over the Internet.

Our new suite of online masters programmes comprises:

- Master of Medical Science (MMedSci) in Nursing
- Master of Medical Science (MMedSci) in Occupational Health Nursing
- Master of Midwifery (MMid)

Full information, including application details, will be available from March 2008. If you wish to receive further information, please contact Mrs Tracey Pacan, Programme Secretary by email: t.m.pacan@sheffield.ac.uk

STOP PRESS!!!

International Postgraduate Summer School
28 July - 8 August 2008

We are running a new two week programme for nurses and midwives, including workshops on:

- qualitative and quantitative research methods
- writing for publication
- the UK National Health Service
- nurse education in the UK
- ethics and governance
- studying in the UK.

For more information, please contact Mrs Paula Hancock
(email: p.k.hancock@sheffield.ac.uk)
Acknowledgements and contact details

The editorial team would like to thank all those who contributed to this issue of READ.

If you would like more information about any of the articles or news features, please contact Jane Flint, Research Administrator, Centre for Health & Social Care Studies and Service Development, School of Nursing and Midwifery, the University of Sheffield, S10 2TN.

Email: j.flint@sheffield.ac.uk

www.shef.ac.uk/snm