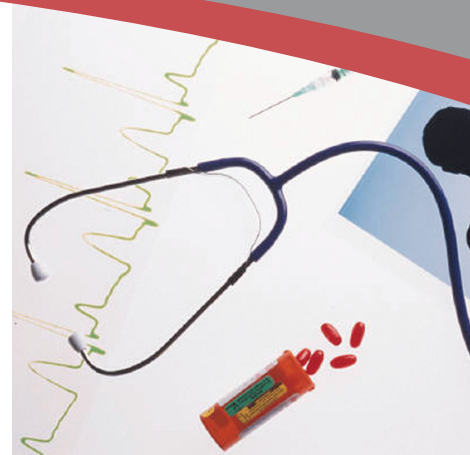


Pilot prioritisation process completed

The first ever round of stakeholder prioritisation to establish PenCLAHRC's work programme has taken place. PenCLAHRC aims to improve health outcomes for patients and the public through the conduct and translation of patient-focused research. The first stage in achieving this aim is identifying research questions from clinicians, managers and users. The pilot round considered over 100 research questions in two stages of prioritisation, which ultimately yielded six to take forward as projects for research.



Question generation

A web-based question tool was designed and launched on June 13th 2009 to capture NHS staff concerns and help turn them into research questions. The web tool was promoted primarily through workshops given by the PenCLAHRC Locality Leads. Over 40 questions were received through the tool between June 13th and the end of August. In addition, a large number of questions were received prior to the launch of the web tool, in response to early engagement with PenCLAHRC.

Prioritisation stage 1

The first stage of prioritisation was undertaken by the PenCLAHRC Executive Group.

Members were tasked with prioritising the topics based on their knowledge of local strategic health priorities and the criteria described by PenCLAHRC. The Executive used a voting system to reduce over 100 questions to a top twelve.

Prioritisation stage 2

The Stakeholder meeting was held on October 9th 2009 in Plymouth with 23 attendees, representing almost all organisations involved in PenCLAHRC, including two patient representatives (supported by the PenCLAHRC research fellow for public and patient involvement). To aid the Stakeholders in prioritising the twelve questions the PenCLAHRC researchers compiled Priority Briefings. Each briefing contained a summary of the question as submitted, a section on the research background and information to aid in prioritisation. The Stakeholders voted to reduce the twelve to a final six.

The six projects, which can be viewed at <http://clahrc-peninsula.nihr.ac.uk/content/projects-0>, cover a range of topics and provide PenCLAHRC with a variety of project types such as a modelling study, systematic review and potential major trial applications. For those topics that were not prioritised some action will be achieved through existing collaborations, further development of project ideas (perhaps leading to resubmission) or by highlighting other approaches for progression outside PenCLAHRC such as submission of questions to the DUETS initiative at the James Lind Library and the NIHR National Health Technology Assessment Programme.

Get involved

To be involved in setting the research agenda submit your question to PenCLAHRC. All questions will be considered and entered into the next round of prioritisation, which closes on the 18th February. Submit your question at: <http://question.penclahrc.com>

.... PenCLAHRC aims to improve health outcomes for patients and the public through the conduct and translation of patient-focused research...

Prioritisation Outcome



PenCLAHRC: Leading Improvement

Peter Aitken describes the prevention of venous thromboembolism and leadership development and improvement projects.

Venous thromboembolism, or VTE, is thought to account for as many as 25,000 preventable deaths annually in hospitals in England and is a collective term for deep venous thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE).

VTE prevention is a priority issue for the NHS and a national programme is being led by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson. The South West Strategic Health Authority region is a nationally recognised exemplar for VTE prevention.

PenCLAHRC is working on behalf of NHS South West to research and evaluate the implementation of preventative screening and treatments. Key people involved include Dr Anita Thomas and Tim Brown from the Chief Medical Officer's National VTE Prevention team, Julie Branter (Associate Director of Clinical Governance and Patient Safety, Strategic Health Authority), Professor Rod Sheaff (Professor in Health Services Research, University of Plymouth), Drs Adrian Copplestone and Tim Nokes (Consultant Haematologists).

The focus of our work begins at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust. Leadership behaviours are part of the key to the successful implementation of new things. PenCLAHRC is working with the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry's Graduate School to provide leadership development opportunities for people involved in bringing about evaluated improvement in the quality of care. Key people involved include Peta Foxall (Director of Graduate Education Programmes) and Mike Williams (Research Fellow).

We have created two websites in support of these projects. The VTE project is summarised at <http://clahrc-peninsula.nihr.ac.uk> with conferences, workshops and other events discussed and summarised at <http://community.clahrc.net>



...PenCLAHRC is working on behalf of NHS South West to research and evaluate the implementation of preventative screening and treatments...

We're moving!

In the last issue, we announced that PenCLAHRC staff in Exeter were planning to move into the refurbished the Veysey building, a large facility off Earl Richards Road previously occupied by the University of Plymouth.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, the building works should have been completed ready for the first staff to move in February 2010. The main research groups moving to Veysey include Child Health, Expanded Concordance, Mental Health, and PenTAG as well as PenCLAHRC.

Our new postal address will be:

Veysey Building, Salmon Pool Lane, EXETER EX2 4SG



WHO OR WHAT WAS VEYSEY?

John Veysey (sometimes Veysy or Vesey) was Bishop of Exeter from 1519–1551 and 1553–1555. *The Lives of the Bishops of Exeter* by the Rev George Oliver, published in 1861, includes his coat of arms shown here.

PenCLAHRC

Staff Interview

Name: Dr Sue Child

Job Title: Research Fellow in Health Services Research

Describe your role within PenCLAHRC:

I joined PenCLAHRC in September 2009 as a Research Fellow and am involved in the falls and VTE projects. The research currently involves interviewing health professionals looking for evidence around implementation of guidelines and the obstacles for implementation.

Who would you most like to have dinner with (past or present)?

I would like to have dinner with an eclectic mix of people for different reasons. These would include: Nelson Mandela (having been to Robben Island), Geoffrey Boycott (as a straight-talking Yorkshireman), Margaret Thatcher (for political discussions) and Jo Brand (enjoy her comedy). I'd also need to include my partner – Dave of course! The seating arrangements may prove tricky.

What is your greatest extravagance?

A round-the-world cruise in 2003 after completing my PhD.

...The research currently involves interviewing health professionals looking for evidence around implementation of guidelines and the obstacles for implementation...

What is your most precious possession?

The people who I love very much in my life.

What do you value most in a friend?

Unconditional support and a sense of humour.

If you had a motto what would it be?

One I heard many years ago: "Second is First Loser."

What is your greatest temptation?

To buy an Audi TT.

What is your favourite meal?

Steak, chips and a nice bottle of red wine.

Where do you like to go on holiday?

Anywhere hot with a good beach where I can relax and chill out. However, in 2010 I have plans to go to New York at Christmas to ice skate in Central Park and shop until I drop!

How do you chill out?

Exercise and a good laugh.

What is your favourite type of music?

Rock – particularly Queen, Rod Stewart and Roxy Music. The louder the better.

What is the most important virtue for a scientist?

Thoroughness and patience.



If you could do any job what would you be?

A hairdresser or a landscape gardener. Anything to either get me away from a 9-5 office routine, or give me an excuse to chat all day. A Research Fellow seems a good mix between the two!

What's your perfect Friday night?

Outside the tourist season, driving to our favourite pub in Falmouth and watching the sun go down over the harbour and knowing my other half is NOT playing golf the next day. I wish!!

PenCLAHRC

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EVENTS DIARY

17th DECEMBER 2009

Creating a Leadership Development Program for PenCLAHRC

Sandy Park, Exeter

This three hour workshop with networking lunch will be hosted by Sir Muir Gray and the Knowledge into Action team.

<http://www.knowledgeintoaction.org/oxfordhealthsystems.html>

12th JANUARY 2010

CLAHRC National Directors' Meeting **Leeds**

18th JANUARY 2010

PENCLAHRC LUNCH

Exeter, Veysey Building

For those who have not attended before, our regular lunchtime meeting is an opportunity to meet other members of staff involved in the collaboration informally over a buffet lunch.

We hope to be able to introduce our newest team members and provide an opportunity to ask any questions you might have of the PenCLAHRC Executive. Please RSVP to stella.taylor@pms.ac.uk by Friday 14th January 2010.

9th – 10th FEBRUARY 2010

CLAHRC National Evaluators' Meeting

16th APRIL 2010

PenCLAHRC Management Board

10th MAY 2010

PenCLAHRC Stakeholder Prioritisation Panel **Plymouth**

PenCLAHRC Recent Appointments

- **Vanessa Edwards**
Research Fellow
(Child Health)
- **Chris Morris**
Senior Research Fellow in Child Health
(Funded by Cerebra)
- **Manasi Sharma**
Research Fellow
(Stepped Care for Depression)
- **Helen Welters**
Lecturer in Obesity
(funded by University of Exeter's Science Strategy)



Veysey Building



Director of PenCLAHRC, Professor Stuart Logan and Professor Nicky Britten, Lead for Evaluation and Public Patient Involvement, photographed with Professor Sir John Savill, Head of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine and Vice Principal of the University of Edinburgh, at the PCMD Annual Academic Event in June 2009.