1. UPDATE

PCRC Team scoops the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Research Excellence!

We are proud to announce that the PCRC team has been awarded the AUT University 2012 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence (Established Team). This prestigious award recognises excellence in the field of research and is always strongly contested. We are encouraged and pleased to receive this award given the tough competition. A great achievement resulting from the efforts of the whole team.

- **Grants and funding**: Faculty Researcher Development Funding has been awarded to PCRC to support training in Rasch Analysis, Structural Equation Modelling, Motivational interviewing, and Interviewing Skills for Researchers. The Motivational Interviewing workshop ran on 11th December with 19 participants and was very successful. The other workshops are due to run early in 2013 (contact Christine Slade for more information).

- **Outputs**: There is a round up of the group’s publications over 2012 in the following pages, and we are exploring more creative ways of getting our findings out to where it matters, including building in plans at the start of projects—sounds simple but it is a part of research that all too often gets neglected. At a recent PCRC Open Meeting we were treated to a very powerful and moving presentation about both the findings and process of a recent research project lead by the Disability, Diversity and Gender Cluster (see Focus on page 2). Watch this space for news on where to access the final findings.

- **Policy / advocacy**: PCRC recently sponsored a screening of ‘Munted’ by Welby Ings. ‘Munted’ is a short film about many things including art, reality, friendship, isolation, brain injury, truth, lies and the good, and bad, of human nature. Welby presented his film after an interesting talk on the making of the film and the messages therein. A gold coin donation was made with proceeds going to the Brain Injury Association Auckland Inc.

Left: Kath pictured with Prof Richard Bedford (Pro Vice Chancellor Research) and John Maasland (Chancellor)
Purpose
The cluster is led by Deborah Payne and Shoba Nayar. PCRC’s purpose is to produce and promote high quality research enhancing knowledge in disability, rehabilitation and diversity. The Disability, Diversity and Gender Cluster’s major focus is on research that recognises that the disability community is comprised of multiple and diverse groups, who have equal rights to health care in New Zealand society.

Aims
The Disability, Diversity and Gender cluster aims to:
- Improve the health, wellbeing and social outcomes of disabled people and their families.
- Improve disabled people’s access to and participation in health services.
- Enhance equity, access and participation within the community for disabled people.
- Consolidate existing and develop new (inter)national research.

Current Research Projects
Disability & sexuality for women with a physical disability. Do you think I’m sexy? A qualitative pilot study.
The project trials the use of PhotoVoice to explore the issues in relation to sexuality & disability for young women who have physical impairment. PhotoVoice is a novel participatory research method that uses photographs taken by participants to convey their perspective in relation to the topic.
The project is almost complete and a Powerpoint presentation has been given by pilot group representatives at a recent PCRC open forum which was met with great enthusiasm.
Research leaders: Deborah Payne and Huhana Hickey.

Related Current student projects
Diane Doerhing, MHSC. Topic. A discursive analysis of the New Zealand prenatal screening policy. The purpose of this study is to explore the discourses (knowledge and language) that influenced the changes to prenatal screening for Down syndrome implemented in New Zealand in 2010. This study will use Foucauldian discourse analysis to analyse a selection of texts from the consultation, policy and submission documents produced by the National Screening Unit from 2006 to 2010.
Amanda Smith DHSc. Topic. Constructing the lives of ‘care recipients’ under the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003: A discourse analysis. The study explores the Intellectual Disability Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation Act (2003). It focuses on the implementation of the Act and data will be analysed to identify discourses at play within the legislative framework.

Completed projects
Improving health interventions for mothers experiencing disability
The overall aim of this HRC funded study was to identify key recommendations, and strategies that might help operationalise these recommendations, so as to minimize avoidable disabling consequences and to promote wellbeing for the woman with impairment, her child and her family. It is hoped that findings will directly improve well-being for New Zealand women with impairments and their families, and inform future intervention research, professional education, and policy. The recommendations can be downloaded from: http://www.aut.ac.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/300784/Improving-health-interventions-and-support-for-mothers-experiencing-disability.21.08.2011docx.pdf
Research team: Prof Kath McPherson, Dr Deborah Payne Prof Cindy Farquhar, Dr Dianne Roy, A/Prof Lynne Giddings, Dr Matire Harwood & Ruth DeSouza.
**RECENT REFEREED PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DISABILITY, DIVERSITY & GENDER CLUSTER**


**Recent conferences**


**3. CURRENT PCRC PROJECTS - OPEN TO RECRUITMENT**

**STUDIES OPEN TO RECRUITMENT………**

**We are actively looking for participants to help us with these projects. If you would like to find out more don’t hesitate to get in touch.**

**Living well with cancer**

Applicants: Julie Reeve, Nicola Kayes, Kath McPherson, Dr Rod MacLeod, Greta Smith, Jill Bennett, Sarah Bonham Lloyd
Funding: NZPA Research Assistant: Christine Cummins

There is evidence to show that physical activity and exercise is beneficial for people following a diagnosis of cancer. However, people report a reduction in physical activity following diagnosis and treatment as well as difficulty taking up activities again thereafter. We would like to understand from the perspectives of people living with cancer what helps or hinders their participation so that we can better support their involvement in physical activity and exercise following their diagnosis. We are interviewing people who have been diagnosed with cancer in the last 5 years (who are receiving, have had, or have recently completed curative treatment) in the Greater Auckland, Northland or Waikato regions. **RECRUITING…….**

**Exploring engagement in rehabilitation in people with stroke**

Applicants: Nicola Kayes, Felicity Bright, Kath McPherson, Linda Worrel
Funding: AUT Contestable Research Assistant: Christine Cummins

Engagement in rehabilitation appears to be important for maximising outcomes. However, little is currently understood about what it means to be engaged (actively involved and participating) in rehabilitation from the perspective of people with stroke or rehabilitation providers. This study seeks to explore the meaning and process of engagement in detail, along with what helps or hinders it, by interviewing 18-24 people with stroke, their family/whānau and rehabilitation providers in interviews and focus groups. We hope that this study will help rehabilitation providers improve patient participation and involvement in services. **RECRUITING…**

**Supporting our children through early assessment**

Applicants: Paula Kersten (Principal Investigator) Kathryn McPherson, Hinemoa ElGér, Dr Shoba Nayar, Alain Vandal, Melody Oliver, Margaret Dudley.
Funding: Ministry of Health Research Assistant: Robyn Tauroa

This is a validation study of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire used as part of the Before School Check in New Zealand (B4SC). We have completed interviews and focus groups with families/whānau, teachers and before school check providers. We are now assessing children in the home setting who have completed the B4SC and will compare the nurses findings with those from one of the B4SC screening tools. We would like to say thank you to Heather Robertson for all her work on the study, as well as all those people who have contributed by taking part in the focus groups and interviews.

**CURRENT PROJECTS — SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS**

**Physiotherapy Alignment with Stroke Guidelines**

Student: Jessica Johnston. Supervisors: Suzie Mudge, Paula Kersten
Funding: Waitemata District Health Board

Jessica is investigating if the physiotherapy management of stroke rehabilitation at North Shore Hospital is in alignment with the New Zealand Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management 2010. The main focus will be the specific recommendations addressing sensorimotor impairments, physical activity, ADLs and managing secondary complications.

**Community integration outcomes of older people following traumatic brain injury.**

Student: James Kent. Supervisors: Valerie Wright St-Clair & Paula Kersten
Funded by: Waitemata District Health Board

The project involves conducting a systematic literature review of evidence for the validity, reliability and responsiveness of the Community Integration Questionnaire (CIQ) and the Community Integration Measure (CIM). The project will also explore the community integration experiences of older people who have sustained a traumatic brain injury and the appropriateness of the CIQ and the CIM in measuring important aspects of community integration.
4. ROUND-UP OF 2012 PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS


Fadyl, J. K., & Nicholls, D. A. Foucault, the subject, and the research interview: A critique of methods. Nursing Inquiry. DOI number: 10.1111/nin.12011


STUDIES IN FOLLOW UP …….

Thank you to all the participants for hanging on in there with us!

Goals and self regulation skills in brain injury rehabilitation: a RCT


Funding: Health Research Council

Project Manager: Nicola Kayes. Data Manager: Greta Riley

This clinical trial explores two novel interventions around goal planning for people with TBI. The research is being carried out in three locations—Auckland, Wellington, and Hamilton. Recruitment is complete, and follow-up assessments will continue until the end of December.

Auckland Regional Community Stroke Study (ARCOS IV), measuring and reducing stroke burden in New Zealand: Part 3 qualitative study

Applicants: Professor Kathryn McPherson (principal Investigator), Professor Valery Feigin, Dr. Alice Theadom, Ms Suzanne Barker-Collo, Ms Varsha Parag, Professor Max Abbott, Professor Alan Barber, Professor Ruth Bonita, Dr. Paul Brown, Associate Professor Bruce Arroll.

Funding: HRC Research Officer: Sandy Rutherford

Previous studies have provided information about the measurement of Stroke. Our new study (ARCOS: Part 3) also looks at the meaning for people and their family/whanau. We are planning to talk to a large number of people who have been affected by Stroke over a 3 year period. We would like to know:

- How Stroke affects people and how this may change over time
- What is helpful or unhelpful in managing difficulties after Stroke
- How people and their family/whanau have adjusted to living with Stroke
- We hope to use the findings to improve the health care and support that people receive after Stroke in the future.

Experiences of recovery and adaption after disabling traumatic brain injury

Applicants: Kathryn McPherson (Principal Investigator); Alice Theadom, William Levack, Joanna Fadyl, Matire Harwood, Nicola Kayes, Nicola Starkey, Grant Christy, Valery Feigin

Funding: Health Research Council

Project Alexes Channon

This is a longitudinal qualitative study exploring the experiences of recovery and adaption after a traumatic brain injury for both the individual injured and their family/whanau. 50 people who have experienced a TBI and are experiencing persistent difficulties and their family/whanau will be interviewed for the study. The findings will be used to gain a better understanding of the impact of TBI. The interviews are currently underway.

STUDIES IN FINAL ANALYSIS …….

Bridging the intention-action gap in rehabilitation: a pilot study of an implementation intention intervention

Applicants: Paula Kersten (Principal Investigator), Nicola Kayes, Alice Theadom, Kathryn McPherson. Funding: AUT Contestable Grant

The Breathe Easy Study

Applicants: Kathryn McPherson (Principal Investigator), Marion Gray, David Nicholls, Ahmed Al-Jumaily, Olaf Diegel, Anthony Leicht, Justin Travers. Funding: Health Research Council

Experience of brain injury research participation.

Applicants: Kathryn McPherson, Alice Theadom, Allison Foster, Nicola Kayes . Summer Student, Tania Hollands. Funding: AUT Summer Studentship


Levack, WMM, Siegert, RJ, Dean SG., McPherson, K., Hay-Smith, EJC., Weatherall, MM. Goal setting and activities to enhance goal pursuit for adults with acquired disabilities participating in rehabilitation (Protocol). The Cochrane Collaboration, The Cochrane Library 2012, Issue 4


BOOKS, MEDIA & BOOK CHAPTERS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS


McPherson K.M. Person centered care New Zealand Hospice Conference (Keynote) Auckland November 14-16, 2012

McPherson K.M. Goal Attainment Scaling: A measure or intervention? American Congress of Rehabilitation Vancouver October 2012

McPherson K.M. Person centered care New Zealand Hospice Conference (Keynote) Auckland November 14-16, 2012

McPherson K.M. Goal Attainment Scaling: A measure or intervention? American Congress of Rehabilitation Vancouver October 2012

Papers presented at the meeting of the Rethinking Rehabilitation International Collaborative, Toronto, Canada (7-9 July 2012)

Bright, F. Rethinking engagement in rehabilitation: A critical review of the concept.

Fadyl, J. K. Subject, knowledge and power in the connection between work and health.

Kays NM, Mudge S, Bright FAS, McPherson KM. Re-visioning the role of the rehabilitation practitioner. THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL RASCH MEASUREMENT CONFERENCE, PERTH, AUSTRALIA.


McPherson K, Kersten P. Review of the


NZ STROKE & APPLIED NEUROSCIENCES CONFERENCE (NZSANC), AUCKLAND, NOVEMBER 16-18, 2012.


McPherson K.M. Person centred care and rehabilitation - all talk or worth action?

NEW ZEALAND CONTINUANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WELLINGTON, NZ, NOVEMBER 2012

Siegert RJ. Subject, knowledge and power in the connection between work and health...

INTERNATIONAL APHASIA REHABILITATION CONFERENCE: MELBOURNE. 7-10 OCTOBER, 2012.


PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF THE RETHINKING REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE, TORONTO, CANADA (7-9 JULY 2012)

Bright, F. Rethinking engagement in rehabilitation: A critical review of the concept.

Fadyl, J. K. Subject, knowledge and power in the connection between work and health.

Kays NM, Mudge S, Bright FAS, McPherson KM. Re-visioning the role of the rehabilitation practitioner.

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL RASCH MEASUREMENT CONFERENCE, PERTH, AUSTRALIA.


Congratulations all round...
As well as being awarded AUT University 2012 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence (Established Team), there have been a number of other notable achievements since the last newsletter:

Suzie Mudge was awarded the Waitemata DHB Postdoctoral Fellowship and is developing PCRC’s portfolio on self-management in complex and long term conditions 2012; Felicity Bright (PCRC) was awarded the Research Excellence Award from the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists’ Association in recognition of her research into hope in people with aphasia 2012, and has been asked to be keynote speaker at the 2013 New Zealand Speech-language Therapists’ Association conference.

Kath McPherson was appointed a member of the Ministry of Social Development Work and Income Board 2012, and Associate Editor of Postgraduate Medical Journal (PMJ). Paula Kersten has been appointed to an HRC Assessing Committee; Richard Siegert has been appointed as a Visiting Professor, Kings College London and as an Honorary University Fellow of the University of Exeter; Christine Cummins and Greta Smith have completed requirements for the Post Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences and Post Graduate Certificate in Health Economics respectively, and graduated in absentia earlier this year.

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! .................
Congratulations to Christine Cummins and Alexis Channon for their award winning, fabulously creative presentation “A behind the scenes look at the role of the person centred research assistant in a Randomised Control Trial (RCT)” at the Faculty Research Day this week.