

## **University of Edinburgh and University of Dundee**

### **SCCIRL**

#### **(Scottish Critical Care Interdisciplinary Research and Liaison)**

SCCIRL is a group of active early career researchers with a background in Nursing, Physiotherapy and Dietetics, all doing PhD or Post Doctoral work in the area of ICU treatment and rehabilitation. The group also includes senior academic staff in the Department of Nursing, University of Dundee, University of Edinburgh School of Health in Social Science and NHS Lothian/ University of Edinburgh Anaesthesia, Pain and Critical Care Medicine

The Group has formed around collaboration between the Edinburgh Critical Care Research Group in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Department of Nursing, University of Dundee, and the Centre for Integrated Healthcare Research (CIHR) in the Nursing Studies and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences in Health, School of Health in Social Science. CIHR is one of three Scottish University/NHS consortia set up to promote research capacity and capability among Scottish NMAHPs (<http://www.cihr.org.uk>) The University of Edinburgh is hosting the CIHR programme “Maximising Recovery from Acute Illness and Trauma”.

SCCIRL is collaborating to promote critical care research among Scottish NMAHP researchers, and is also making links in the UK and internationally. Some main activities and projects:

- An International Network of Early Career Researchers in critical care research, which includes an International Summer School held in Edinburgh in autumn of 2010. This is made possible by the success of a competitive bid led by Susanne Kean, to the ESRC for funding to establish International Networks of Early Career Researchers.
- A Special Edition of Nursing in Critical Care, edited by Dr. Janice Rattray, will draw on the work of several of the group’s members
- Knowledge Transfer work: building networks with Scottish policy makers and senior NHS strategic managers to highlight the need for evidence in the area of rehabilitation from critical care. Improved ICU technology means that more people survive critical illness, but with high level of care and rehabilitation needs. These needs must be addressed to ensure quality of patient experience, and also to reduce pressure on acute NHS resources. This work is supported by the College of Humanities and Social Science Knowledge Transfer funding.
- A pilot study has now been completed investigating the use of a generic rehabilitation assistant to enhance rehabilitation (Physiotherapy and Dietetic) during the ward phase of recovery, immediately after discharge from the intensive care unit. This study demonstrated that the generic rehabilitation assistant was able to work with ward-based staff to increase the amount of rehabilitation delivered to patients.

- This work has formed the basis of a larger successful grant application to the CSO, led by Professor Tim Walsh, NHS Lothian/ University of Edinburgh Anaesthesia, Pain and Critical Care Medicine, with several members of the Group as co-applicants.
- Professor Wendy Chaboyer, Director Research Centre for Clinical Practice Innovation, University of Griffiths, Australia, visited the School of Health in Social Science in October 2009. She also met with colleagues in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Dundee. During Wendy's visit we developed plans for the International Summer School and how to consolidate international networks of early career researchers in ICU. We also discussed research collaborations and possibilities for student and staff exchanges between the University of Edinburgh and Griffiths.

## **Individual interests and areas of work:**

The research of group members reflects their range of interest and practical experience in issues related to Critical Intensive Care. An overarching concern of the group is to integrate research and practice, and to build a research environment which is grounded in practice...

Kathryn Backett-Milburn is Professor of the Sociology of Families and Health and Co-Director of the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (CRFR), University of Edinburgh. She has a cross College appointment between the School of Health in Social Science and Public Health Sciences. Kathryn is a qualitative research specialist currently involved in research into children, families and work life balance using qualitative longitudinal research methods; social class and the adolescent diet; and examining demographic issues in Scotland. She joined the ICU research group after mentoring Susanne Kean on her post Doctoral fellowship and is involved with research grant applications following on from that work.

Kirsty Everingham is a nurse and currently works as a research coordinator in critical care at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. She has worked in critical care since 2002. Following the completion of her MSc in Public Health Research she is now undertaking her PhD at the University of Edinburgh, with Tonks Fawcett, Nursing Studies, as supervisor. The focus of her PhD work is sedation management, technology and related clinical decision making of nurses in the critical care environment.

Guro Huby is CIHR (Centre for Integrated Healthcare Research) Reader in the School of Health in Social Science, University of Edinburgh. CIHR is one of three Scottish Collaborations between NHS organisations and Higher Education Institutions for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professions and works to increase research capacity and capability among nurses, midwives and allied health professionals in Scotland. Before taking up her present post she led the Scotland-wide R&D initiative 'Research-based Development of Scottish Primary Care'. Health service reform and modernisation, service integration and use of evidence in organisational development and change are key interests, together with development of effective models of knowledge transfer.

Susanne Kean is a nurse and a researcher at the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests relate to families' – including children and young people - and patient's experiences of an critical illness event, the recovery from critical illness from a patient's and a family's perspective, nurses' perception of families in intensive care, sociology of families, sociology of childhood and qualitative research methods. Susanne held an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship last year, which was mentored by Prof Kathryn Backett-Milburn and Dr Guro Huby. Susanne has also an interest in leadership issues in health care and has worked as a nursing manager an educator in various hospitals.

Claire Kydonaki is a registered nurse with working experience in Greece and Scotland. She has been working in ICU at the Western General Hospital of Edinburgh since 2005. Claire finished her MSc in Nursing and embarked on a PhD at the University of Edinburgh in 2006, supervised by Dr. Guro Huby, Dr. Jenni Tocher In

SHSS and professor Len Dalglish, University of Stirling. The focus of her PhD study is nurses' clinical decision-making during the weaning from mechanical ventilation of long-term ventilated patients. It is a comparative ethnographic study between Scotland and Greece which explores clinical and cultural aspects of decision-making that have an impact on patient care.

Judith Merriweather is a dietician working in critical care at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. She is currently completing her MSc by Research at the University of Edinburgh and has just been awarded a Doctoral Fellowship from the Chief Scientist Office. Her PhD, at the University of Edinburgh, will draw on contemporary theory of the body and focus on the development of a patient-centred strategy to promote nutritional recovery following critical illness.

*Fiona Paul* has been a lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Dundee since 2005. During her nursing career, Fiona worked in South East England and Scotland within intensive care and critical care liaison.

Teaching interests include acute and critical care nursing and advanced practice.

Areas of research interest include patient information and ICU after care.

Currently, her main area of research interest relates to patient safety issues, e.g. tracheotomy care for patients transferring out of critical care areas into general wards.

Pam Ramsay is Research Manager in Critical Care at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Her background is in critical care nursing, and she has been involved in critical care research since 2000. She is currently completing a mixed methods PhD at the University of Edinburgh on the use of generic "quality of life" measures among survivors of prolonged critical illness. Her interests include patient-centred outcome measures, "the patient experience" in relation to ward-based care and rehabilitation, and patients' self management strategies following discharge home.

*Janice Rattray* is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Nursing & Midwifery at the University of Dundee. Her main research interest is in recovery from critical illness. In particular she is interested in the patient's experience of critical illness, subsequent emotional outcome and quality of life. She has been involved in a number of funded studies assessing outcome from intensive care, and the effectiveness of a post-ICU rehabilitation programme.

Lisa Salisbury is physiotherapist and currently works as a post-doctoral research fellow within the Centre for Integrated Healthcare Research (CIHR) based at Edinburgh University. Her research interests include rehabilitation and the evaluation of physiotherapy interventions. At present the main focus of work is around the evaluation of rehabilitation following a prolonged critical illness. In addition she is involved in some stroke rehabilitation research.