INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN HEALTH SCIENCES (IRIHS) ANNUAL REPORT 2017

IRIHS is a research unit within the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences at the University of Oxford. It is led by Professor Trisha Greenhalgh and Dr Sara Shaw. IRIHS aims to undertake high-quality interdisciplinary research, teaching and applied scholarship. Our work focuses in particular on the interface between clinical care, social sciences, business and management, health informatics and health economics.

Main achievements in 2017

1. EXPANSION OF ACADEMIC STAFF. We have expanded from 11 academic staff to 15 plus 3 associates.
2. RESEARCH: Research income for new research studies included over £1M as principal or joint principal investigators. Around £10M in ongoing research grants.
3. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION: We published over 40 peer-reviewed academic articles. We gave a number of high-profile keynote lectures, conference presentations and policy briefings. One senior researcher is Special Adviser to a House of Commons Select Committee.
4. TEACHING: We contributed to various MSc courses at Oxford. We have begun to develop a new MSc in Social Sciences for Healthcare.
5. DOCTORAL STUDENTS. We have 10 doctoral students at Oxford and one elsewhere. Two DPhil students passed with no corrections; two passed Confirmation of Status; two passed Transfer of Status and one has submitted a ToS report.
6. STAFF DEVELOPMENT. One NIHR In-Practice Fellow gained an NIHR Doctoral award; one researcher gained an Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard Award and another gained an ESRC Knowledge Translation Award. We have two Academic Clinical Fellows and three early career fellows who are applying for personal fellowships.

Staff in post or associated in December 2017 (see also doctoral students below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christine A’Court</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>GP</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Allen</td>
<td>Academic Clinical Fellow</td>
<td>GP/public health</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Barry</td>
<td>NIHR In-Practice Fellow</td>
<td>GP/public health</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Christopher</td>
<td>Research assistant</td>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Collins</td>
<td>Academic Foundation Programme</td>
<td>F2 doctor associate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clare Duddy</td>
<td>Systematic Reviews Fellow</td>
<td>Informatics</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Fahy</td>
<td>Senior Researcher</td>
<td>Health policy</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jillian Fardon</td>
<td>BRC manager / PA to Trish G</td>
<td>Admin / management</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Finlay</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Nursing / social sciences</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Finlayson</td>
<td>Doll Fellow at Green Templeton</td>
<td>GP</td>
<td>associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trisha Greenhalgh</td>
<td>Professor / Co-director of Unit</td>
<td>GP / sociology</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Hinder</td>
<td>Research consultant</td>
<td>Sociology / evaluation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linnemore Jantjes</td>
<td>BRC administration</td>
<td>Admin (maternity leave)</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polly Kerr</td>
<td>BRC PPI/management</td>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavel Ovseiko</td>
<td>Senior Research Fellow</td>
<td>Health policy/ management</td>
<td>associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysanthi Papoutsi</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Rushforth</td>
<td>Researcher</td>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Higher degree students


Research activity

New research grants secured in 2017:


3. **Facilitating the co-creation of virtual media for remote consultations.** ESRC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship, £25K (SS, JW – joint PIs).

4. **Co-development of virtual consultation services within the NHS.** ESRC Impact Acceleration Award, Apr 17 – Mar 18, £40K (SS, TG – joint PIs).

5. **Springboard Health of the Public 2040 Award** Academy of Medical Sciences / Wellcome Trust, £50K (CP, personal fellowship for research support).


Ongoing research studies on which we are Principal Investigators:

1. **Partnerships for Health, Wealth and Innovation** (Biomedical Research Centre theme). NIHR, £6.5M. April 2017 – March 2022 with set-up period from Oct 2016. (TG, with NF).


Ongoing research studies on which we are named co-investigators:


7. **Can group clinics offer a better way to meet the complex health and social care needs of young adults with diabetes in an ethnically diverse, socioeconomically deprived population? (TOGETHER study)** NIHR HS&DR. £420k, Dec 2016 – Nov 2019. (TG, Co-I to S Finer at QMUL, CP qualitative lead).

8. **Optimising pharmacist-based treatment for smoking cessation (STOP)**. NIHR Programme Grant, £1.35M, July 2011 – June 2017 (TG, Co-I to R Walton at QMUL).

9. **Developing a framework for a novel multi-disciplinary, multi-agency intervention(s), to improve medication management in older people on complex medication regimens resident in the community**. NIHR HS&DR. £196K. May 2017 – Dec 2018 (GW, co-I to Ian Maidment, Aston University)

10. **Optimising hearing-Related Communication for care Home Residents with Dementia (ORCHARD)**: a realist synthesis. NIHR RfPB. £149K. Apr 2017 – June 2018 (GW, co-I to Tom Denning, U of Nottingham).


### Main teaching achievements

1. **Oxford MSc courses.** We have taught on the MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care (TG, GW, CP, SS), MSc in International Health (Nuffield Department of Medicine, TG), MSc in Policy Evaluation (Blavatnik, SS). TG is co-lead on the Knowledge to Action Module in MSc in EBHC. GW has developed and leads the new MSc module in Realist Evaluation and Review with CP, who also teaches on the Qualitative Research module. We are in developing several new MSc modules including Digital Health (CP, JW), Health Policy and Systems (SS, NF) and Patients, Publics and the Politics of Evidence (TF, SS). All these modules will be offered as part of the MSc in EBHC but it is also planned to develop an MSs in Social Sciences for Healthcare with a similar modular structure and linked to the Department for Continuing Education (see Strategy).

2. **Undergraduate teaching.** AF is a Doll Fellow at Green Templeton College. TG and AF have taught on the undergraduate medicine course at Oxford and, along with SS, have mentees at Green Templeton.
Staff and student development

Allen: Started as Academic Clinical Fellow in Primary Care, and continues as Expert Consultant to World Health Organisation.

Barry: Successful in application for NIHR Doctoral Fellowship.

Finlayson: Continues as Doll Fellow at Green Templeton, established as Director and Co-Founder of The Hill (Digital Health Lab and Incubator)

Papoutsi: Gained Academy of Medical Sciences / Wellcome Trust Springboard Health of the Public 2040 Award. Elected research Associate at Green Templeton College.

Shaw: Accepted on NIHR Senior Leaders Programme.


Wherton: Gained ESRC Knowledge Translation Fellowship.

Supporting new DPhil applications:

- J Treadwell: An online tool for supporting quantitative estimation of benefits and harms of treatments for supporting GP-patient conversations. Application submitted to NIHR.
- J Walumbe: Supporting successful self-management strategies for people living with chronic pain. NIHR/HEE Clinical Doctoral Fellowship (pending outcome from interview in Nov 17).

Academic publications in 2017

Publications considered possible returns to REF2021 are highlighted. Associates’ publications not included.


32. Allen L, Dunlop C. Our role in addressing inequalities. *Br J Gen Pract*. 2017 Mar 1;67(656):108-


36. Wong G. Getting to grips with context and complexity – the case for realist approaches. *Gaceta Sanitaria* 2017 doi.org/10.1016/j.gaceta.2017.05.010


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**Major keynote lectures, workshops and conference presentations 2016**


2. Papoutsi C, Greenhalgh T, Shaw S. *We Need to Talk About Complexity*. 2-day international workshop at Green Templeton College, June 2017.


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**External appointments / policy engagement / public engagement**

Fahy

- Specialist adviser to House of Commons Health Committee for their inquiry into Brexit and health and social care;
- Policy adviser within an EU-funded research project “Transfer of Organisational innovations for Resilient, Effective, equitable, Accessible, sustainable and Comprehensive Health Services and Systems”, a 29-partner consortium bringing together ministries, research institutes and universities and aiming to set a Europe-wide agenda for research into health services and systems;
- Chair of WHO/EURO Expert Advisory Group to enhance monitoring and reporting for the Health 2020 policy strategy.
Greenhalgh:
- Selected for University of Oxford ‘Diversifying Portraiture’ initiative
- Founding Fellow, Faculty of Clinical Informatics
- Chair, NHS England Committee on Communication in Patient Safety
- WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- Visiting Professor, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands
- European Public Health Association, International Advisory Group on Public Health Research Impact
- Oxfordshire Health Inequalities Commission
- Executive Committee, Future of Health & Care Initiative, Green Templeton College

Shaw
- Delivering Primary Health Care to Homeless People, NIHR Advisory Committee
- Executive Committee, Future of Health & Care Initiative, Green Templeton College

Wherton
- Supporting programme for implementation and roll-out of remote consultations at Barts Health NHS, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Foundation Trust (as part of Impact Acceleration Award with TG and SS).
- Member, Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) Informatics Oversight Group

Wong
- Member, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, Guidelines Manual Virtual Reference Group
- Panel Member, NIHR, Health Technology Assessment Programme – Primary Care Panel

Strategy for 2018

1. RESEARCH: Consolidate and progress our current funded programmes of work – especially BRC, SCALS, TOGETHER and the newly-funded RFPB extension of VOCAL. New grant income is not a priority except to maintain staff posts. Horizon-scan for longer-term opportunities as SCALS will end in 2020.

2. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION: All research staff to publish one REF-returnable empirical paper or systematic review. Continue and extend public engagement work in SCALS-related research, and continue local and national implementation of VOCAL findings with a view to a REF impact case study in implementation of digital technologies.

3. TEACHING: Continue to deliver existing MSc modules (Knowledge into Action, Realist Evaluation and Review); and to progress in-pipeline modules for MSc in EBHC. Submit outline for MSc in Social Sciences for Healthcare. Keep doctoral students on track. Ensure postdocs gain supervision experience.

4. STAFF AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT. Support new DPhil applications related to our existing research programmes; ensure that all early career researchers have clear career plans and opportunities for progression. Where appropriate, submit applications for pre-doctoral, doctoral, post-doctoral and senior research fellowships.

Trisha Greenhalgh and Sara Shaw
December 2017