

BRUNEL PARTNERS ACADEMIC CENTRE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES Q1 2022 PROGRESS REPORT

Paper Title:	BPACHS Quarterly Report – Q1 2022
Paper Summary:	Directors report on progress for Jan-Mar 2022

Progress over last period

This status report updates on activities across the partnership with the following progress made:

Strategy and Governance

I. Governance

- a. MoU refresh in progress.
- b. Discussions underway with North West London ICS. Brunel already aligned and engaged with Workforce Academy. Closer links in research and innovation to be developed.
- c. Discussions underway around how partners can use comms more effectively to promote partner activities.

II. Finance

- a. Circa £41,000 of funding secured for Trust level projects (details in workstreams below)

III. Recruitment

- a. JD developed for Innovation post. 2 days per week to start. Interviews scheduled for 10th May
- b. Development of JD for workforce replacement being developed. Post will be part time.

IV. Membership Update

- a. Productive discussions with Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust undertaken. Further discussions to take place after commencement of their new Director of Nursing in January. JR seeking meeting to follow up on discussions
- b. Initial discussions with London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust undertaken. Discussion underway around potential research projects. BPACHS presented at a research grand round in March 2022 which has led to interest in Design for Health and a joint research opportunity.

Workstream - Workforce

I. Workforce Development

- a. Apprenticeships – 18 students on the current cohort including staff from THH and Frimley. Recruitment underway for September 2022.

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- b. Widening participation – Ongoing programme of developing Harrow and Uxbridge College students for employment in NHS organisations. Functional skills training being offered to THH and Chelsea and Westminster staff. Digital and IT skills training taken up by HHCP staff.
- c. Positive meeting held with Sahan Cares to discuss potential routes for staff to upskill via NA Apprenticeship. THH exploring how to support via Levy share.
- d. JR engaged with the West London HE/FE Steering Group on health and care skills in developing the education provider co-ordinated offer / input to the NWL ICS Academy. This will seek to ensure that the education providers across NWL are able to provide a comprehensive package to meet the needs and aspirations of the Academy, at all educational levels.
- e. JR is part of the NWL ICS Academy Steering group, helping to shape the direction of the Academy and ensure that partners are able to benefit from the academy developments.
- f. Cardiac Physiology – BUL have begun the process of development of a course for Cardiac Physiology. Initial thinking is that this will be a post-graduate course, as an arm of the existing ACP programme, and available to students both as apprenticeship and direct entry.
- g. Discussions underway about hosting a Recruitment Fair for NHS staff on campus in partnership with the Hillingdon Workforce Steering Group #teamhillington
- h. Supported THH to find accommodation and training facilities for International Nurses at BUL.
- i. Provided access to space for THH staff to deliver workforce training. Ongoing with a further session booked for May 2022.
- j. Assisting THH to deliver the next Stroke forum at Brunel.
- k. Working with CNWL to organise the 2022 annual Therapies Conference. Providing space, equipment, organisational support. CK invited as keynote speaker to celebrate joint working across the partnership.

Workstream – Research

- i. Provide NHS staff with access to university-based people who can support research, development and change in practice**
 - a. CNWL Mental Health VR project - £15k allocated to FRED to carry out work on this in collaboration with Brunel.
 - b. Second VR project with CNWL/FRED/BUL in development called WOW. This will run alongside the Mental Health project with another £15k funding secured.
 - c. CK met with Prof Chris Nester last week about being Chair of a grant panel (Great Foundations - funds all matters related to Foot Health) hosted by CNWL. To be further discussed with a decision June/July as to the best way forward.

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- d. CK has been asked to speak at the wider (i.e. not just AHP) CNWL research seminar series in mid-May
- e. CNWL have asked CK do a keynote at the CNWL therapies day to be hosted at Brunel in July
- f. CNWL staff member mentored by BPACHS Research Director was successful in securing a Starter Grant for the project 'Improving outcomes for patients with neurological conditions through increasing access to physical activity and exercise at the point of discharge. A mixed methods evaluation of a novel exercise intervention'.
- g. CNWL research network continuing successfully – 1st meeting with over 30 people in attendance
- h. BPACHS Research Director supported THH to address research priorities in their revised clinical strategy
- i. New joint research project with CNWL, this time with staff well-being and the occupational health department awarded 15k in funding.
- j. 1st CNWL AHP Research Network (CARN) held at the end of March, over 30 people attended and has generated a lot of interest. Aim to have monthly, still online for now to help attendance. Likely to have spin out working groups to address different needs of the workforce. Next meeting mid-March. One member of staff already linking in for a lab visit at St Pancras.
- k. Continuing with journal club with Neuro team at THH
- l. Initiated collaborative MSc student projects in conjunction with MSK services in CNWL (this will mirror this activity already going on with RBHH and THH)
- m. CK met with Claire Nolan (new PT lecturer joined from RBHH), really keen to work across the patch to build links within pulmonary services.
- n. CK also to meet with Sam Irving from Harefield next week to discuss clinical academic pathways and explore any openings for collaborative work within Life Sciences (likely applicable to THH too)
- o. Continuing with data sharing and data protection workstream, very helpful meeting had with RBHH with an action plan. Will then aim to disseminate for comment from other partners.
- p. Have met with NWL ARC to scope their resources to prevent duplication but to also look for areas of collaboration that we can deliver more locally.
- q. A productive discussion has been had with the research director and R&D department at THH looking at the feasibility of undertaking some scoping work to provide a baseline of research interest/activity before revamping the research and innovation strategy.

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- r. Preliminary report published for VR-SWELL project. Academic paper to follow. The project has been a very successful collaboration between Brunel/CNWL and a SME called FRED. Learning from the project being applied/adapted for another project in mental health (CK and JR have been advising /inputting into this study. Team meeting for VR-SWELL II (occ health) March 30th. Note - FRED were one of the successful applicants to the Brunel REIM (SME support and development programme run by Brunel) which was a successful spin off from the connections made via BPACHS and in turn CNWL will benefit through future collaborations with FRED.
- s. 2nd CARN meeting held (CNWL Allied Health Professions Research Network), and successful journal club continues with THH. Met with Sam Irving from RBH who are doing some exciting charity funded research capacity building work and exploring if this is a potential area of collaboration and mutual support. Also linked Sam with Brunel's Life Sciences research lead.
- t. Submitted an application with colleagues from THH and NWL for project seed funding Brunel
- u. CK is a supervisor for a PhD student in the Psychotherapy faculty. Project is focusing on stroke survivors and preliminary discussions have started with THH on the feasibility of doing some of the clinical work with them (will also be extending this request to CNWL stroke early support discharge team)

II. Enable staff to access to training and development opportunities

- a. £5k allocated to THH and BUL to extend the research secondment with the specific aim of undertaking a baseline research capacity and capability staff survey (in conjunction with the Dr Sam Kon Research Director, Geraldine Landers R& D and Carole McCarthy Therapy Manager (Staff member on secondment will also be funded for a day a week until autumn with Brunel seed funding and will help to undertake a systematic review (and therefore learn new skills to take back to the Trust) Follow on Research Workshop on Upper Limb Rehabilitation being planned for May 2022.
- b. £6000 funding secured to extend Victoria Stewart secondment from THH to help with evaluation of THH research survey. Very productive meeting with R&D, the R&D director for THH and Carole McCarthy.
- c. Research Internship Pilot commissioned by two London trusts to run from September for 6 months - pre MSc level. Plan to then roll this out to partners.
- d. Follow on Research Workshop on Upper Limb Rehabilitation being planned for May 2022. Delayed due to staff member leaving.
- e. CNWL and THH staff provided teaching on a Brunel Falls and Frailty study day on 4th Feb 2022.
- f. Application for CAHPR conference funding circulated to partners with support offered by BPACHS Research Director for staff who wish to apply.

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- g. NIHR Fellowship events promoted to partners: 1. Pre-doctoral & Doctoral Fellowships (March 9), 2. Advanced & Development and Skills Enhancement Award Fellowships (March 10)
- h. Opportunity circulated for staff who support patients with painful conditions of the elbow, forearm, wrist or hand to help shape research via the D-MAPP (Digital -My Arm Pain Programme) project.
- i. Research trial opportunity shared for “ANTI-FREAZE-F”, the aim of which is to assess the feasibility of conducting a large randomised controlled trial to assess whether an intra-articular injection of anti-TNF (Adalimumab) can reduce pain and improve function in people with pain predominant early-stage frozen shoulder trial.
- j. Links with Life Sciences – Developing further links with researchers in the Department of Life Sciences who are seeking to increase their partnership working with the NHS.

Workstream – Digital and Innovation

I. Design4Health

- a. The Pharmacy Trolley project for RBHT is in the final stages with a working product due to be delivered on 23/05 to the pharmacy.
- b. Further project within Harefield Hospital - Seed corn funds secured from the Institute of Health Environment and Medicine to do a swabbing study to compare different types of curtains (disposable vs washable, and traditional vs curtains with closing panels) to ascertain over a number of 12 weeks how the curtains perform in terms of infection control.
- c. Hillingdon Hospital & GSTT will be partners in a design ecosystem fellowship proposal that will be submitted on 30/05. There is an opportunity for other Trusts to join as stakeholders if the proposal is successful

II. Innovation links

- a. BPACHS represented on Digital Innovation Group at CNWL.
- b. Successful bid awarded to Brunel for Simulation funding. Thanks for support from NHS partners.
- c. Successful bid awarded to Brunel for HEIF funding for innovation – relating to post COVID capacity strengthening and partnership building. Funding has been agreed for 2 projects at CNWL in relation to Virtual Reality and to further one secondment to continue research.
- d. Two academics continue to engage with the Digital Development group for the new hospital at THH.