

MRC Population Health Sciences Research Network: 2005-15

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Chair, MRC PHSRN

Early Career Researchers Workshop, Southampton; 24/5 Feb 2011

www.populationhealthsciences.org

Original aims of PHSRN



Established in 2005 with strategic grant of £2.5 million over five years to

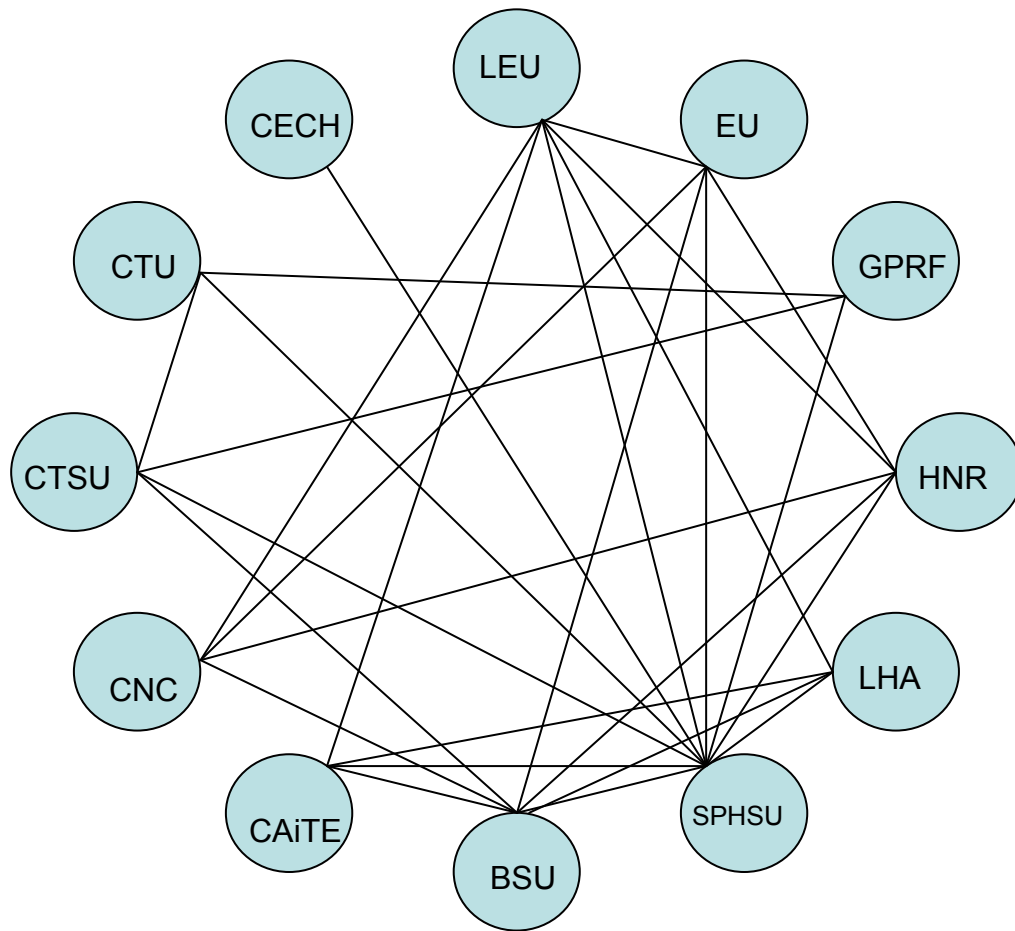
- Add value to the MRC's existing core investment in population health sciences
- Provide a co-ordinated voice on research and policy issues relating to population health

Five themes structuring network activities



- Changing health-related behaviour
- Improving measurement
- Overcoming barriers to research
- Synthesising evidence
- Translating evidence into policy and practice

Collaboration between MRC Units and Centres



- Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit
- Epidemiology Unit
- GP Research Framework
- Human Nutrition Research
- Lifelong Health and Ageing
- Social/Public Health Sciences
- Biostatistics Unit
- Translational Epidemiology
- Nutrition/cancer Centre
- Clinical Trial Support Unit
- Clinical Trials Unit
- Epidemiology Child Health
- Cognitive Ageing/Epidemiology

UK CRC Centres of Excellence in Public Health



- Belfast
- Cambridge
- Cardiff
- Newcastle upon Tyne
- Nottingham

PHSRN 2010-15



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- More externally directed portfolio
 - Convene two frontiers workshops to plan research agenda, with a focus on methodological development, translation and behaviour change (31 March 2010)
 - Sponsor 'methodological knowledge transfer' sessions at major UK conferences (SSM 2010; IEA 2011)
 - Convene, in collaboration with the UKCRC Centres of Excellence, a national population health sciences conference (April 2012)
 - Support workshops to disseminate findings from PHSRN research, and on new/emerging themes (Process evaluation 2010)
 - Engage with other groups working in the population health sciences to develop joint activities, such as co-funded workshops, responses to calls

Achievements 1.

- New research addressing key problems in the population health sciences, e.g.
 - Developing a web-based toolkit of diet and physical activity measures
 - Identifying 'what works' in translating population health evidence
 - Using theory to develop more effective behaviour change interventions
 - Identifying best practice for reducing attrition in cohort studies, and dealing with missing data
 - Developing bias adjustment methods for synthesising evidence in behavioural research



Exposure Measurement (EM) Toolkit

Diet and physical activity measurement

Welcome to the Exposure Measurement Toolkit, funded by the UK Medical Research Council. The aim of this toolkit is to assist researchers who want to measure diet or physical activity in their research.

Search

Physical Activity	Diet Assessment	Choosing a Method	Forum
			<p>Put first item post here</p> <p>Put second item post here</p> <p>Put third item post here</p>
<p>An outline of physical activity methods, guidance about their use and links to relevant resources.</p>	<p>An overview of dietary assessment methods, indications for use, and links to relevant resources.</p>	<p>Interactive models to aid researchers in making the most appropriate choice of method to measure diet or physical activity.</p>	<p>A discussion board for researchers to share experience and troubleshoot problems.</p>

www.populationhealthsciences.org

Achievements – 2.



- Identifying, formulating and engaging with strategic issues in the population health sciences, e.g.
 - Revising MRC guidance on the evaluation of complex interventions
 - Developing a translational framework for public health research
 - Workshops on a wide range of methodological and translational issues eg. natural experiments
 - Contributing to consultations, e.g. on data sharing, public health ethics and research methodology
 - Cross-membership between PHSRN and MRC Council, Boards and Overview Groups

Craig P, Dieppe P, Macintyre S, Michie S, Nazareth I, Petticrew M. Developing and evaluating complex interventions: the new Medical Research Council guidance. *British Medical Journal* 2008, 337:a1655



Developing and evaluating complex interventions:

new guidance

Prepared on behalf of the Medical Research Council by:

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www.mrc.ac.uk/complexinterventionsguidance

Achievements – 3.



- Building capacity
 - Network awaydays, involving researchers at all levels in member units/centres
 - Annual epidemiology course for clinicians
 - Recruiting post-doctoral researchers to work on cross-unit projects

PHSRN Forum



Population Health Sciences Research Network - Index - Mozilla Firefox

http://www.populationhealthsciences.org/forum/

Population Health Sciences Research Network

Search: Search

Home Applying Activities Themes MRC Strategic Priorities Members Board Forum

Population Health Sciences Research Network

February 15, 2011, 01:04:54 PM

Welcome, **Guest**. Please [login](#) or [register](#).

Forever Login with username, password and session length

News: New Population Health Sciences Research Network Forum has gone live. Search

HOME HELP SEARCH LOGIN REGISTER

Population Health Sciences Research Network

General

General Discussion
Feel free to talk about anything and everything of interest to population health researchers in this board - jobs, careers, training, etc.

1 Posts
1 Topics

Last post by admin
In Welcome to the new Popul...
on January 12, 2011, 11:37:27 AM

Research

Research Discussion
Please discuss research related topics in this board - methods queries, interesting new publications, etc.

0 Posts
0 Topics

Population Health Sciences Research Network - Info Center

Forum Stats

1 Posts in 1 Topics by 3 Members, Latest Member: PeterCraig
Latest Post: "Welcome to the new Popul..." (January 12, 2011, 11:37:27 AM)
View the most recent posts on the forum.
[More Stats]

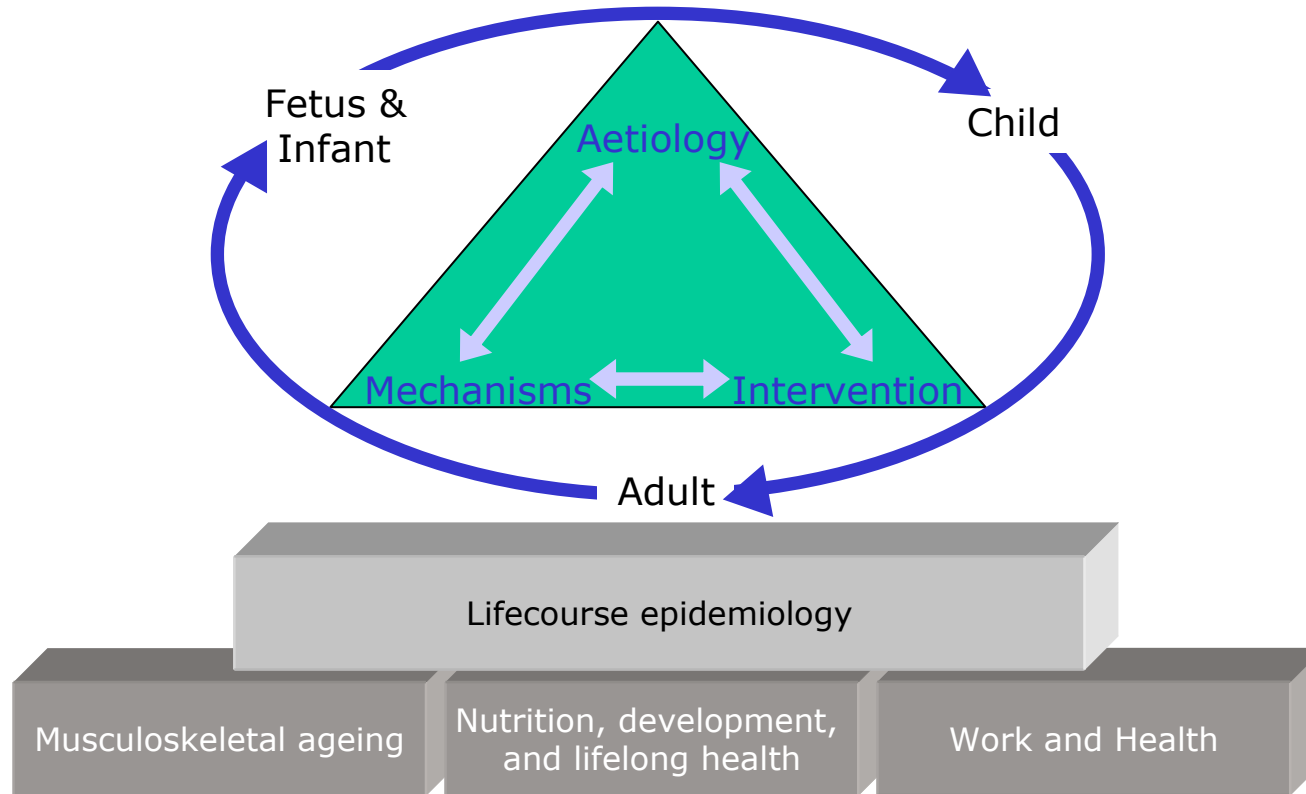
Users Online

MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit 2010-2015

MRC

Lifecourse
Epidemiology
Unit

Mission Programmes Research focus



Research focus Programmes Mission

Scientific Mission

To delineate:

- The environmental causes throughout the lifecourse of
 - chronic musculoskeletal disorders
 - obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease
- Population-based and high-risk preventive strategies against these disorders

Early Career Researchers in Population Health Sciences; 24/5 Feb 2011



Aims

To develop networks between researchers based in different units, centres and research groups;

To provide an opportunity to learn about and discuss essential skills for building a career in the population health sciences.

Early Career Researchers in Population Health Sciences; 24/5 Feb 2011



- Research strategy and capacity development [Prof Anne Johnson]
- Applying for grants and fellowships [Dr Peter Craig]
- Using research findings to influence policy and practice [Prof Laurence Moore]
- Working in multidisciplinary teams [Prof Hazel Inskip]
- Getting published [Dr Bill Summerskill]
- Communicating with lay audiences [Ms Pauline Mullin]
- Research Fellow presentations (x8)

PHSRN Portfolio (1) Workshops



Workshops	Theme	Date	Units involved
Evaluating community based sexual health interventions	Changing behaviour	03/06	SPHSU, MRC Uganda
Diet at the extremes of life	Measurement	12/07	HNR, ERC, EU, SPHSU
Evaluating complex interventions	Overcoming barriers	05/06	HSRC, SPHSU, CTU
Maximising return from cohort studies	Overcoming barriers	06/06	SPHSU, BSU
Instrumental variables in population science	Overcoming barriers	04/08	CAiTE, BSU
Maximising the value of individual patient data	Evidence synthesis	05/07	CTSU, BSU
Consistency and model checking in complex evidence networks	Evidence synthesis	09/06	BSU, HSRC
Clustering effects in individually randomised trials	Evidence synthesis	11/07	BSU, GPRF
Perceptions and presentations of MMR	Translation	09/06	SPHSU, HNR, HSRC
Scientists as advocates for public health	Translation	02/07	HNR, SPHSU
Scientists as advocates for public health II	Translation	09/07	HNR, SPHSU
Epidemiology for clinicians 2007	Other	01/07	ERC, EU
Epidemiology for clinicians 2008	Other	01/08	ERC, EU
Epidemiology for clinicians 2009	Other	01/09	ERC, EU
Epidemiology for clinicians 2010	Other	01/10	EU, ERC
Epidemiology for clinicians 2011	Other	01/11	LEU, EU
Natural experiments	Translation	01/10	SPHSU, ERC, CTU, BSU

PHSRN Portfolio (2) Projects



Projects	Theme	Completion date	Units involved
Changing behaviour: towards best practice	Changing behaviour	09/10	HSRC, ERC, EU, HNR, SPHSU
Help-seeking behaviour	Changing behaviour	05/08	HSRC, GPRF, SPHSU
Help-seeking behaviour, part II	Changing behaviour	07/10	GPRF, ERC, SPHSU
Social-psychological theory and behaviour change	Changing behaviour	12/09	HSRC, SPHSU
Exposure measures toolkit	Measurement	09/10	HNR, EU
Functional trajectories across the lifecourse	Measurement	09/11; 03/12	LHA, BSU, CAiTE, ERC, SPHSU
Prevention of attrition and efficient analysis	Overcoming barriers	11/09; 05/14	SPHSU, BSU
Recruitment and retention in RCTs	Overcoming barriers	12/10	GPRF, CTU, SPHSU, CTSU
Making best use of randomised trial evidence	Evidence synthesis	09/10	BSU, HSRC, CTSU
Methods of bias assessment and meta-analysis for behavioural research	Evidence synthesis	08/10	HNR, BSU, EU
Databases for pooling exposure measures	Evidence synthesis	12/10	CNC, HNR, EU, BSU
Knowledge translation	Translation	12/10	SPHSU, CTU, GPRF, HSRC
Communicating certainty and uncertainty in public health messages	Translation	11/09	SPHSU, HSRC, CECH

Translational route-map for public health

