

Summary of Research in the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing, Sheffield Hallam University

a, UNIVERSITY LEVEL DEVELOPMENTS

New Pro-VC Research: Professor Paul Harrison recently joined as our new Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation. He was previously Dean of Postgraduate Research Studies at Leeds University with a portfolio including the development of research funding, marketing and recruitment and improving the student experience across campus. Paul's career at the University of Leeds has included positions as Head of the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, ranked top of its unit assessment in the 2008 RAE, and Professor of Quantum Electronics. It is felt he will bring excellent research credentials having co-authored nearly 300 journal articles, written two books, and successfully supervised 16 students to PhD, as well as establishing an international reputation in theoretical semiconductor physics. Paul is the latest of seven new appointments to the University Executive Group alongside the appointment of Professor Liz Barnes as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the appointment of four Pro Vice-Chancellor Deans in the past two years and the appointment of Tracey Lancaster as Director of Corporate Affairs.

b, OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH IN HEALTH & WELLBEING

There are five research centres in the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing: the Centre for Sports Engineering Research (CSER), the Centre for Sports and Exercise Science (CSES), the Sports Industry Research Centre (SIRC), the Biomedical Research Centre (BMRC) and the Centre for Health and Social Care Research (CHSCR). There are a number of features in the health and related research portfolio at the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at Sheffield Hallam University which differentiate us from many similar centres in the UK.

Firstly, although the vast majority of our senior researchers have moved to SHU from research intensive universities, nearly all of them have a career pathway in which they worked as senior clinicians, practitioners or professionals before moving into education and ultimately research later in their careers. As a result there is a very practical, pragmatic, applied flavour to their research interests. This real world approach, not just to research but to research and development, is the major attraction to people who might otherwise find it easier to operate in a research intensive environment.

Secondly, there is a common view among our researchers that health and wellbeing is the result of many factors in a person's life over and above the provision of healthcare. We therefore have a very broad multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach to developing research questions and research based solutions to health related problems.

Thirdly, there is a growing integration of our research across Sport, Health, Bioscience and beyond. For example, a number of our recent research proposals apply something akin to the "Formula 1 racing" principle in automotive industry. Developments for extreme performance can often be adapted for universal application i.e. ABS braking systems in cars. Many of our researchers in our Sports Research Centres work with Olympic athletes. The techniques they use to help someone to run 100 metres a fraction of a second more quickly, can be used to help someone walk more effectively after a stroke.

A recent example was research we were doing to help mountaineers walk in a rarefied atmosphere using ski poles to expand their chest capacity and using their arms to assist breathing. This was applied to patients with intermittent claudication. As a result people who could normally only walk a few yards without stopping, were able to extend their range considerably. Other examples include techniques to increase resilience and mental toughness in athletes being adapted for patients with cancer.

Examples of our recent research can be viewed at: <http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/hsc/reports>

c. RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF) 2014

Preparations for the REF are complete all HWB Units of Assessment have met the HEFCE submission deadline on 29 November 2013. The REF 2014 is a smaller, higher quality submission than the RAE 2008 in line with the HEFCE policy of funding only 3* and 4* research activity. Researchers were submitted if their outputs were deemed to be classified at least 2.5 star. HWB has submitted in all three areas of its research.

These are:

- UOA 3, Nursing, AHP, Midwifery and Dentistry
- UOA 5, Biological Sciences
- UOA 26 Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism

The three impact case studies submitted to the REF from UoA 3 demonstrate the diversity of our research in Health.

Case Study 1 (Advanced Practice Roles in Nursing) showcases our work regionally and nationally and demonstrates our influence on clinical practice by exploring the clinical and cost effectiveness impact of emerging professional roles.

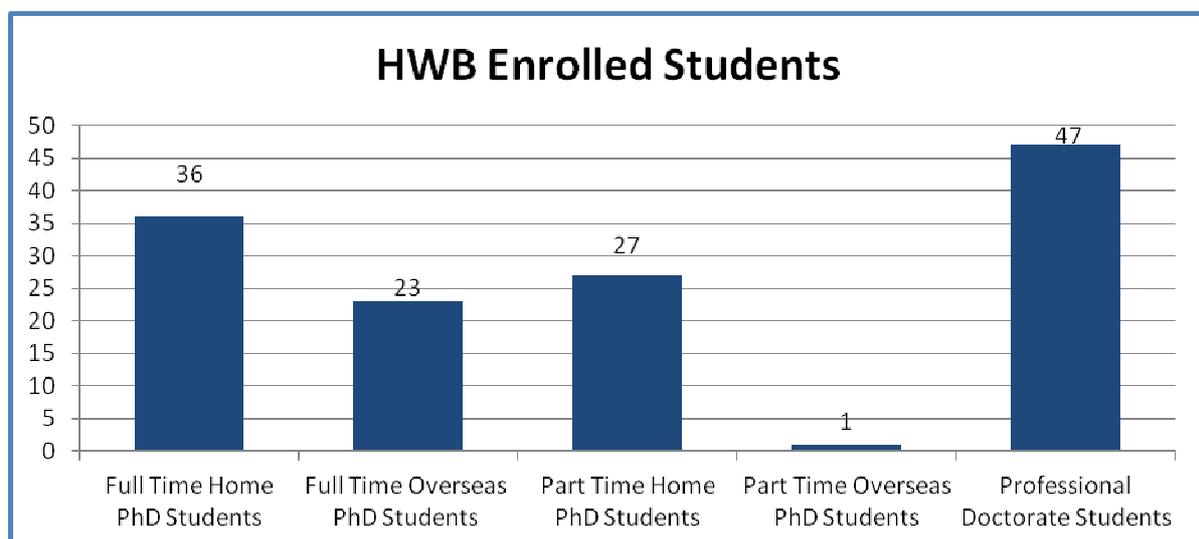
Case Study 2 (The Kwilt project) is an example of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency research to explore the impact of cold weather on the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people and the way in which energy policy, benefits policy and health policy need to be aligned to prevent excess winter deaths and morbidity.

Case Study 3 (Maternity case study) is a multi-country approach to addressing the effect of maternal obesity on the health of mothers and babies globally and the need for a refinement of policy from the World Health Organisation down.

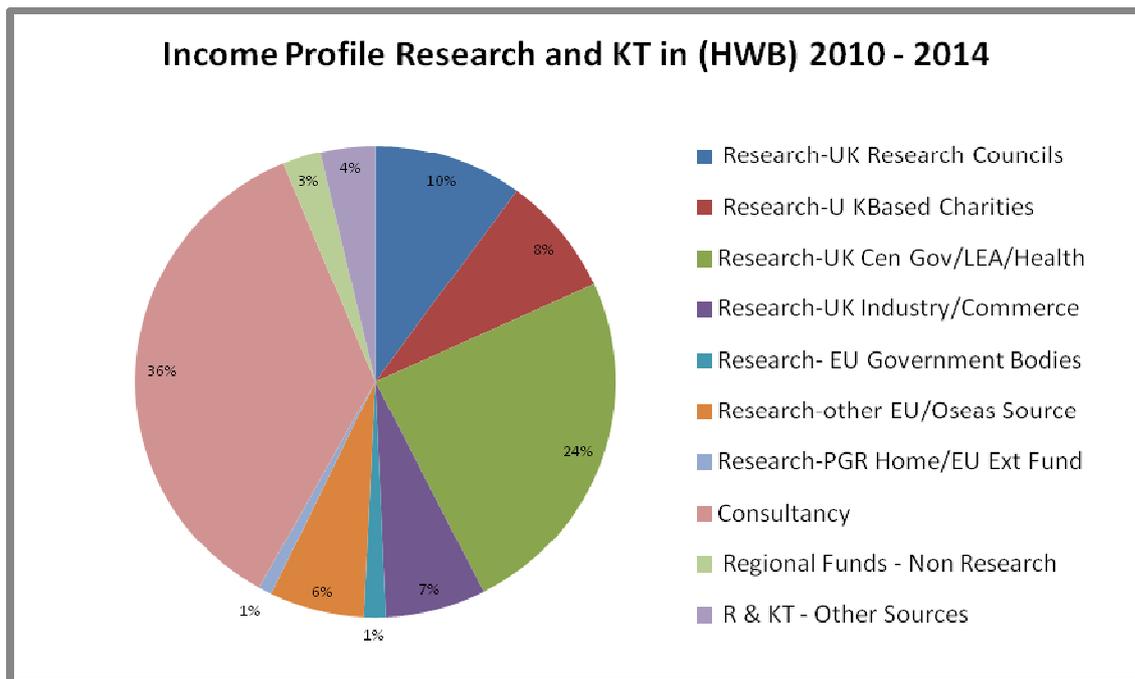
d. POST GRADUATE RESEARCH

The Faculty has a vibrant postgraduate research portfolio. We currently have around 120 PhD students and 50 professional doctorate students studying at any one time covering a vast range of topics and applying a comprehensive range of methodological approaches.

The annual review of research degrees activity reported on key findings and highlighted developments and issues which have impacted on performance. The total population of research students in HWB was 161 for 2012-13, currently we have a majority of PhD students studying on a full-time basis. The Professional Doctorate is a part-time Programme.



e. RESEARCH PROFILE HEALTH & WELLBEING



The faculty overall shows a split in income with Research activity accounting for 57% of income and KT activity 42%/ Post Graduate Research Student income is around 1%.

In Health and Bioscience the profile is similar with research activity accounting for about 82% of income and Knowledge Transfer 15%. Sport has a higher proportion of income from Knowledge Transfer Activity (56%) than Research (43%).

e. EXAMPLES OF CURRENT PROJECTS WITH SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS

1. National Centre for Sports and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM) Research: The UoS and SHU have agreed to fund a part-time NCSEM Research Director post for two years initially with a review after one year; the post is currently out for advert.

The Yorkshire and Humber CLAHRC have funded two bid writer posts (Dr Helen Crank in SHU and Dr Emma Everson Hock in UoS) to stimulate the research income process. Nearly £500k of research income has already been secured in the past 6 months with further major research bids under consideration including a £2m bid from HEFCE.

Funding has also been secured from the AHSN for a workforce wellbeing programme at STH and with two other NHS Trusts across Yorkshire and Humber. A number of funded research programmes have also been identified that will use the NCSEM facility at Concord from July. These include:

- Survive and Thrive cancer and exercise programme
- Exploring the feasibility of implementing a supervised exercise training and compression hosiery intervention in patients with venous ulceration (FISCU)
- SEDRIC study - education and exercise programme for people with peripheral arterial disease (claudication).

2. Promoting Research Activity at Sheffield NHS Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust in the Directorate of Professional Services: The Faculty of Health and Wellbeing have joined the consortia to part fund a Clinical Researcher and Clinical Research Development Officer in the Directorate of Professional Services. The aim of the post is to increase and accelerate the achievement of academic directorate status based on the involvement the Allied Health Professional workforce, Psychologists and Chaplains engaging in clinical research; bids, grant capture and publications.

The role is in part to enhance the collaboration across Universities and the Sheffield NHS Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust through the design and development of specific research proposals. The project will also assist with organizational and leadership development, aligned to the Directorate research strategy. The investment from the Faculty has allowed the secondment of Dr Sally Fowler Davis from the Centre for Health and Social Care Research for one year (Dec 2013- 2014)

The project is also engaging closely with the allied health professional (AHP) Department and the Sports Department at Sheffield Hallam, along with research centers and the national Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine as that initiative progresses.

Several examples of joint working have already developed including:

- STH participation in seminars related to a bid to ESRC to do with workplace physical activity
- a collaboration on a NESTA bid between academic and clinical practitioners in neurological brain injury
- a mentor/ research buddying scheme to engage experienced researchers in the Directorate and AHP Department and match them with less experienced colleagues across organization.
- The links with NCSEM (Helen Crank) have also prompted an Acute Settings- Dementia Forum, to help all discipline who participate to consider potential bids and partner with others who have ideas for proposals related to dementia care.
- The developing relationship with the CLRN, via Dr Caroline Pickstone, have been an important opportunity to connect the Faculty activity – workforce development, potential commercial ventures and research and knowledge exchange, with the wider regional networks. Examples include:the AHP Specialty Group, with participation of clinical and academic AHPs and the Clinical Research Faculty (the regional infrastructure supporting portfolio studies).
- A research nursing events are being designed and facilitated by CHSCR on behalf of the CLRN and further developments are anticipated based on the CRF need for AHPs to join the research workforce and to undertake research co-ordination roles.