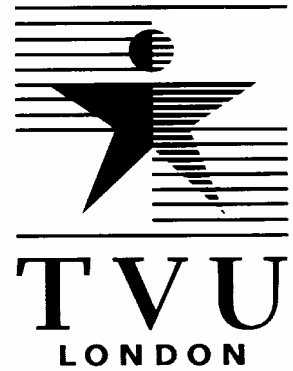


Thames Valley University
Wolfson Institute of Health & Human Sciences
School of Research & Postgraduate Studies



Research Centre Annual Report

Academic Year 2000/2001

Centre: **Richard Wells Research Centre**

Centre Director: **Professor Robert J. Pratt** FRCN

01 November 2001

Introduction

The Centre was established in 1995 as the 'Centre for Sexual Health & HIV Studies' and successfully engaged in a wide variety of HIV-related research, educational and international consultancy initiatives, ultimately designed to make life better for persons living with HIV disease. However, as the UK epidemic stabilised at relatively low prevalence, and the care of persons with HIV disease in Europe and North America became integrated into mainstream medical and nursing services, HIV infection as an issue has assumed a lower priority on the agenda of purchasers and contractors of research and education.

Following a lengthy process of reflection, discussion and consultation with Centre Advisers and University Managers the mission and focus of our Centre was redirected to a broader professional arena. This is allowing us to legitimately pursue a related but expanded agenda of business opportunities in nursing and health science education, research and professional consultancy work. This transformation involved developing a new mission and brand name for our Centre and Academic Board approved these in October 2000.

Centre Mission Statement

We value and strive towards excellence in higher education and research as tools to enhance public health and facilitate the continuing development of evidence-based health care. This is reflected in our commitment to pursue new knowledge and develop creative educational initiatives in any issue that may impact on the attainment of health or the provision of quality health care for everyone.

In pursuit of our vision, mutually supportive local, national and international multi-professional collaborative research and teaching networks have been established with a variety of agencies, institutions and health care providers.

We will foster and sustain a productive, high energy, team-oriented work environment that provides opportunities for all members of our Centre to make significant academic and professional contributions and to achieve personal satisfaction, growth and fulfilment.

Through our academics endeavours, we will make a positive and significant impact on our university, community and professions.

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Summary of year's activities, progress and key issues

Our schedule of activities during this academic year, as indeed during last year, has been dominated by our long-term Department of Health (DH) contract to produce evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections - the **epic** project. The phase 1 guidelines on preventing hospital-acquired infections were completed this year, approved by the DH and subsequently published in *The Journal of Hospital Infections* in January 2001.

In March 2000, our contract with the DH was extended for two years to develop new evidence-based guidelines focused on preventing infections associated with healthcare interventions in primary and community care (**epic** – phase 2a) and to

conduct a formal review of the infection control/communicable disease control nursing function in the community and make recommendations for the future development of this service (**epic** – phase 2b). These two projects generate significant revenues for the University and they have occupied most of our time during the latter half of the academic year. Like phase 1 activity, complex and labour intensive multiple systematic reviews and critical appraisal of evidence underpins the phase 2a activities. Both phases are due for completion towards the end of the next academic year.

During the later part of the year, we were awarded a new commission from the DH for an additional phase of this contract (**epic** – phase 1a). This work is focused on developing an action research initiative designed to support NHS Trusts to implement national guidelines and this programme will commence in the 2001/02 academic year. Additionally, we are under contract to update the phase 1 evidence database (**epic** – phase 1b) and this work will be carried out during the next academic year.

Engaging AIDS

During this academic year we developed, in collaboration with the National Institute for African Studies in Slough, the a one year, part-time evening course for African Community Leaders in Berkshire, focused on developing focused on developing their knowledge and skills in order to support Africans resident in the UK who are affected by HIV/AIDS. This course was well evaluated and is continuing in the next academic year where it will generate revenues for the University.

The British Council – Overseas

Finally, our long-term association with the British Council overseas has ended during this academic year with the completion of the **Kaleidoscope** project in Lagos, Nigeria. This seven-year action research project, which started in India and the Arabian Gulf, was designed to increase the confidence and competence of nurses and doctors to effectively care for patients with HIV disease and to initiate and manage associated sustainable changes in clinical practice. It attracted considerable media attention during the course of the project, won a prestigious international award from the Royal College of Nursing and our seminal work was accepted for publication in the *International Nursing Review*, the official journal of the International Council of Nurses in Geneva.

Staff and Structure

The following comprise the **permanent staff** of our centre during this academic year:

Robert Pratt	Professor of Nursing	Centre Director
Carol Pellowe	Principal Lecturer	Deputy Centre Director
Dr. Nicky Robinson*	Reader	Part-time
Heather Loveday	Principal Lecturer	Full-time
Peter Harper	Senior Lecturer	Full-time
Meg Morse	Senior Administrator	Centre Administrator

The following were assigned to the Centre for a fixed period:

Penny Reid*	Senior Lecturer	Part-time
Eilidh MacRae ⁺	Research Assistant	Full-time
Simon Payne ⁺	Data Manager	Full-time

⁺ Fixed term contracts expire at the end of the 2001-02 academic year.

*During this year, Dr. Nicky Robinson was appointed Head of the Centre for Complementary Therapy on a part-time basis (0.5 wte). Penny Reid, from the Community Practice Subject Group, joined the Centre part-time (2 days/week) to gain research experience. This arrangement will continue until the end of the next academic year, when it will be reviewed.

Research Students

The Centre did not supervise research students during this academic year.

Advisers

Our Board of Advisers continues to support and advise on research opportunities and initiatives. Our current advisers are:

Professor Christine Beasley, National Health Service Executive, Department of Health London Regional Office*

Professor William L. Holzemer, Professor of Nursing, University of California at San Francisco ¶

Professor Clive Loveday, The Royal Free Hospital & University College Medical School ¶

Professor Ann Keen, Member of Parliament *

Professor Gerry Stimson, Centre for Research on Drugs & Health Behaviour, Imperial College ¶

Professor Susan Kippax, The University of New South Wales, Australia¶

Mr. Nick Partridge, (Chief Executive) The Terrence Higgins Trust

* Honorary Professor of Thames Valley University

¶ Visiting Professor to Thames Valley University

Research and Scholarly Activity

Ongoing Research 1999-2000

epic – Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Infections associated with Health Care Interventions [commissioned by the Department of Health]

Phase 1 – Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Hospital-acquired Infections: Standard Principles for Preventing Hospital-acquired Infections; Preventing infections associated with the use of indwelling urethral catheters; Preventing infections associated with the

insertion and maintenance of central venous catheters. (completing October 2000). (Principal Investigator: Robert Pratt)

Phase 2a – Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Infections associated with Health Care Interventions in Primary and Community Care. (commenced April 2000; completing in July 2002). (Principal Investigator: Carol Pellowe)

Phase 2b – Review of Community Infection Control Nursing. (commenced April 2000; completing in March 2002). (Principal Investigator: Heather Loveday)

Kaleidoscope – An ongoing action research project in Nigeria to develop nursing confidence in caring for patients with HIV disease. (Completed February 2001). (Principal Investigators: Prof. Robert Pratt and Carol Pellowe).

Collaborations

In realising our Mission, we have established formal research collaborations with a variety of external agencies and NHS Trusts.

❑ Department of Health

The *epic* project is the basis of our most important collaboration to date. This long-term, high profile project to develop a variety of national evidence-based infection prevention guidelines has generated significant income during this academic year and will continue to do so during the next year.

❑ The International HIV/AIDS Nursing Research Network

Having been a founding member of this group, we have continued our joint investigations in factors associated with adherence to antiretroviral therapy in persons with HIV disease (*Impact* studies).

❑ The National Institute for African Studies, Slough

We have a close relationship with this Institute and collaborate in developing and implementing TVU-based educational programmes for leaders of the African Community in Berkshire.

❑ The Terrence Higgins Lighthouse Trust

We formed an academic partnership with the Terrence Higgins Lighthouse Trust, the principal community-based organisation focused on prevention and support for people with HIV disease. Within this partnership, we collaborate on developing research proposals and anticipate conducting joint research programmes in the next academic year.

Educational and Staff Development Activity

Course/Programme Involvement

Centre staff participate in curriculum development/renewal activities and teach in variety of pre- and post-registration courses, including:

ENB Courses 934, 870, 962, RO2, R23, 276,205,A27

BSc Nursing

BSc Health Studies

MA Teaching and Learning

Pre-Registration Nursing Programmes

Pre-Registration Midwifery Programmes

Midwifery Epidemiology Course

Midwifery Screening Course

Various In-service Education and Staff Development Programmes

Key areas of continuing professional development for Centre Staff

All staff agree their individual staff development programmes at their annual performance review. Conference attendance remains an important staff development mechanism and this year staff have attended conferences relevant to our research programmes, e.g., clinical governance and guideline development, infection control and prevention, sexual health and HIV/AIDS. Two members of staff (Carol Pellowe & Peter Harper) are continuing their doctoral studies in education. Additionally, staff participate in Institute and University staff development activities, e.g., supervision of graduate students, research methodology.

Conference Activity

The following papers were presented at National and Regional Conferences during this academic year.

Conferences

Infection Control Nurses Association. Regional Conference of Infection Prevention. Warwickshire, October 2000. *The epic Guidelines*. **Prof. Robert Pratt**

Public Health Laboratory Service. Conference on Surveillance of hospital-acquired bacteraemia. London, December 2000. *Developing the evidence-base for infections associated with the use of central venous catheters*. **Carol Pellowe**

Royal College of Nursing Triennial International Nursing research Conference. Glasgow, April 2001. *Systematic Reviews: Issues for Guideline Developers*. (Poster). **Heather Loveday, Carol Pellowe**

Harrogate Management Centre. Conference on Preventing Infectious Diseases and Hospital-acquired infections. London, June 2001. *The epic Guidelines*. **Prof. Robert Pratt, Carol Pellowe**

National HIV Nurse's Association Annual Conference. Cardiff, June 2001. *Opening Address*. **Prof. Robert Pratt**

Conference attendances

In addition to the above conferences, Centre Staff a variety of Conferences throughout the academic year.

Publications 2000-2001

Pratt RJ, Pellowe C, Loveday HP, Robinson N, Smith GW, and the **epic** guideline development team; Barrett S, Davey P, Harper P, Loveday C, McDougall C, Mulhall A, Privett S, Smales C, Taylor L, Weller B, and Wilcox M. (2001). The **epic** Project: Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections. Phase 1: Guidelines for Preventing Hospital-acquired Infections. *Journal of Hospital Infection* 47(Supplement):S1-S82.

Pratt R, Pellowe C, Loveday HP, Harper P, Robinson N (2001). The **epic** Project: Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections. *International Federation of Infection Control* v13;30-32.

Pratt RJ (2000). Antenatal screening for HIV infection: Removing tomorrow's children from harms' way. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing* 6(6): 179-184.

Pratt RJ, Pellowe C, Juvekar SK, Potdar NS, Weston AJ, Joykuty A, Robinson N, Loveday H (2001). Kaleidoscope – a five year action research project to develop nursing confidence in caring for patients with HIV disease in west India. *International Nursing Review*. **[In Press]**.

Pratt RJ, Robinson N, Loveday HP, Pellowe CM, Franks, PJ, Hankins M, Loveday C (2001). Adherence to antiretroviral therapy – appropriate use of self-reporting in clinical practice. *HIV Clinical Trials* 2(2): 146-159.

Pratt R, Pellowe C, Loveday HP, Harper P, Robinson N (2001). The **epic** Project: Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections. Preventing infections associated with the use of central venous catheters. *Nursing Times* April 12-18th;36-39.

Pellowe C, Loveday HP, Harper P, Robinson N, Pratt R (2001). The **epic** Project: Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections. Preventing infections associated with the use of short-term indwelling urethral catheters in acute care. *Nursing Times* April 5-11th: 34-35.

Loveday HP, Pellowe C, Harper P, Robinson N, Pratt R (2001). The **epic** Project: Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare

Associated Infections. Guidelines for standard principles for the prevention of hospital-acquired infection. *Nursing Times* March 29 – April 4th: 36-37

Loveday HP, Pellowe C (2001). Systematic Reviews: Issues for Guideline Developers. (Poster). In: *Programme and abstracts of the Royal College of Nursing Research Conference* April, Glasgow, Scotland.

Harper P, Pellowe C, Loveday HP, Robinson N, Pratt R (2001). The **epic** Project: Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections. Guidelines for preventing hospital-acquired infections. *Nursing Times* March 29 – April 4th: 34-35.

Harper P (2001). What's in the new National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Hospital-Acquired Infections? *Infection UK* 1(2): 8-11.

Robinson N, Caraher M, Price D, Burley D, Mears S, Croke L, Lang T, Pratt R (2001). The Public health implications for nursing education. *Public Health Medicine* 3(2);56-61.

Consultancy

Centre staff formally advise or support the following institutions or organisations:

Department of Health, Chief Medical Officer's Expert Advisory Group on AIDS (EAGA) **Prof. Robert Pratt**

Department of Health, Chief Medical Officer's Communicable Diseases Strategy Committee. **Prof. Robert Pratt**

National HIV Nurses Association: **Prof. Robert Pratt (Patron); Carol Pellowe (Executive Board Member); Heather Loveday (Research Awards Adviser)**

Leeds University: **Carol Pellowe (External Examiner)**

Manchester University/Mildmay International: **Prof. Robert Pratt (External Examiner)**

British Acupuncture Research Committee: **Dr. Nicky Robinson**

Oriental Medical Research Trust: **Dr. Nicky Robinson**

Acupuncture Research Resource Centre Management Committee: **Dr Nicky Robinson**

Infection Control Nurses Association: **Prof. Robert Pratt (President)**

Income Generation

A separate report with a restricted distribution details the exact income generated during this academic year and is available from Derek Fargher. However, in illustrating our success in generating income, it should be noted that the total **epic** contracts alone are worth in excess of £840,000.

Future Plans

As we'll complete our major funded projects during the next academic year, it will be important for us to secure new contracts for work commencing from June 2002 onwards and this will be our greatest challenge.

ROBERT J PRATT
Professor of Nursing
Centre Director

RJP:me
01/11/01