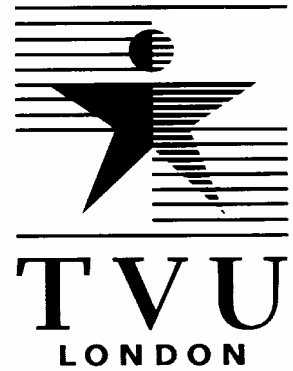


**Thames Valley University**  
Faculty of Health & Human Sciences  
*School of Research & Postgraduate Studies*



## **Research Centre Annual Report**

Academic Year 2001/2002

*Centre:* **Richard Wells Research Centre**

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

31 January 2003

## Introduction

Our Centre was established in 1995 to develop research and educational initiatives within the field of caring for patients with HIV disease. Over time, our remit broadened to incorporate the prevention and care issues associated with infectious diseases in general and healthcare-associated infections in particular. As the only research centre of this type in the Higher Education sector, we collaborate closely with the Department of Health, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), the NHS Modernisation Agency and a variety of relevant organisations and learned societies to establish the evidence-base for preventing and controlling healthcare-associated infections in acute, primary and community care environments.

### 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 healthcare. 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 Centre Activities

### The epic initiative

Our schedule of activities during this academic year has been dominated by our long-term Department of Health (DH) contracts to produce national evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) - the **epic** initiative. This project has so far generated 1.2 million pounds of funding and various phases continue to be developed.

- **epic phase 1** – Developing national evidence-based guidelines for preventing HAIs in hospitals

Following two years of conducting multiple systematic reviews and the critical appraisal of large volumes of evidence, the phase 1 national guidelines for preventing hospital-acquired infections were developed, approved and published in *The Journal of Hospital Infection* in January 2001.

- **epic phase 1a** – Supporting NHS Trusts to implement national guidance for preventing HAIs

Following DH funding approval for our proposal to support NHS Trusts to implement national guidelines, we established a formal partnership with the NHS Clinical Governance Support Team within the NHS Modernisation Agency to deliver these programmes. Development work took place during this academic year and the pilot programme will be implemented in early 2003.

- **epic phase 1b** – Updating the evidence-base for the Phase 1 Guidelines

As part of our contractual obligations to the DH, we were required to refresh the evidence base for the phase 1 guidelines within two years of publication. Updating systematic reviews and evidence appraisals commenced during this academic year.

- **epic phase 2a** - Developing national evidence-based guidelines for preventing HAIs in community and primary care services

The second year of work continued for this major phase of the project. Again, multiple complex systematic reviews resulted in extensive critical appraisal activity as the evidence tables and databases for the new national guidelines for preventing HAIs in community and primary care services were developed. Following initial funding by the DH, this phase of the project was incorporated into the guideline development programme of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) who became the contract managers. The Guidelines will be published in 2003.

- **epic phase 2b** – A National Review of the Role & Responsibilities of Community Infection Control Nurses (CICN) & Communicable Disease Control Nurses (CDCN) in England

This national review involved (1) a comprehensive description of the current roles and responsibilities of CICN and CDCN (2) a review of the current education and practice preparation of CICN and CDCN and (3) an analysis of the changes needed to develop these roles in line with the future pattern of provision of infection prevention and control services. Presentations of this work were extensively featured in regional and national conferences and simultaneously published in two peer reviewed journals.

- **epic phase 3** – Enhancing the Evidence-base for Infection Prevention and Control Practices in the United Kingdom (CHART)

In partnership with the Infection Control Nurses Association we submitted a new proposal to the DH for a two year national clinical trial to ascertain if the incidence of hospital ward-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) colonisation/infection could be reduced by using Statistical Process Control (SPC) feedback and a structured diagnosis of the underlying causes of MRSA acquisition. The proposal was funded in late 2002 and the trial will commence in early 2003.

## **Living Well – Ealing Hammersmith & Hounslow Health Authority & the London Boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham**

The Living Well programme is a multidisciplinary, client-centred treatment, support and health promotion programme or and led by people living with HIV disease. During the first four years of the programme, it was perceived by users, facilitators and commissioners as a successful intervention and was a runner-up in the Health Service Management Awards in 2001. Because of its success, Health Service Commissioners in West London agreed to adapt this programme and implement it in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and the Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Health Authority. As part of the West London programme adaptation, a new evaluation strategy was commissioned. This involved externally reviewing and analysing the East London programme evaluation experience, systematically reviewing and appraising the relevant literature, and developing an appropriate and realistic strategy and associated instruments for the ongoing evaluation of the West London programmes. The new evaluation strategy was completed and successfully piloted during the summer of 2002. Since then, this programme has become incorporated into the DH 'Expert Patient' initiative and we are now being contracted to continue to manage and analyse evaluation data for this programme.

## **National Institute for African Studies**

During this academic year, in partnership with the National Institute for African Studies in Slough, we continued to teach and further develop a part-time evening course for African Community Leaders in Berkshire, focused on developing their knowledge and skills in order to support Africans resident in the UK who are affected by HIV/AIDS. This course ('Engaging AIDS') was well evaluated and is continuing in the next academic year where it will be accredited by our University.

## **Infection Control Nurses Association of the British Isles**

The Centre has established formal collaborative links with the Infection Control Nurses Association (ICNA). Professor Robert Pratt is the Association's President, Heather Loveday is their Educational Adviser, Carol Pellowe is supporting their guideline development group and Peter Harper is supporting their research activities. This collaboration is designed to jointly develop research, education and guideline development projects. CHART (described above) and the below project are early products of this partnership.

- **Preventing Catheter-related Urinary Tract Infections – A Clinical Governance Imperative**

We developed and piloted a one day clinical governance workshop focused on using an evidence-based approach to preventing catheter-related urinary tract infections. Following this pilot, these workshops are now being run in each of the 12 ICNA regions (including Ireland) and are being extremely well evaluated. The workshops are fully sponsored by BARD UK Ltd. and generate income for both ICNA and our Centre.

## 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 intend to collaborate on developing research proposals and anticipate conducting joint research programmes in the next academic year. They are currently supporting and part-funding centre research focused on capturing the experiences of women identified HIV positive through antenatal testing

### 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 <sup>+</sup>	Research Assistant	Full-time
Simon Jones <sup>+⊗</sup>	Data Manager	Full-time

<sup>+</sup> Fixed term contracts expire at the end of the 2001-02 academic year.

\*Dr. Nicky Robinson is also the Head of the Centre for Complementary Therapy and is associated with our Centre on a part-time basis (0.5 wte). Penny Reid, from the Community Practice Subject Group, joined the Centre part-time (2 days/week) last year to gain research experience and this is the final year of her allocation. <sup>⊗</sup> Simon Jones was appointed a Senior Research Assistant when his contract expired.

### Research Students

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

### Our Teaching Contribution to our Faculty

Centre staff participate teach in variety of pre- and post-registration courses, including:

Certificate Programmes in Personal and Professional Development  
 BSc Nursing and Midwifery Programmes  
 BSc Health Studies Courses  
 MA Teaching and Learning

Post-graduate Diploma/MPhil in Applied Research Methods

Pre-Registration Nursing Programmes

Pre-Registration Midwifery Programmes

Midwifery Epidemiology Course

Midwifery Screening Course

Various In-service Education and Staff Development Programmes

We are all very experienced and highly skilled teachers and are committed to increasing our support to the teaching programmes of our Faculty. During the next academic year, all Centre Staff will offer 110 hours of teaching and 110 hours of mentorship to Faculty colleagues.

### **Supporting Our Learning Communities**

All Centre Staff are attached to a Learning Community where they contribute to its strategic development and facilitate collaborative practice-led research and scholarly activity.. Although off to a somewhat slow start, we are now involved in collaborative research with Learning Community colleagues. I anticipate this will become a major area of our future work. Senior Centre Staff are also members of the Steering Group for the evaluation of this initiative. Contribute to the strategic development of the respective learning community and facilitate collaborative research and scholarship activity. You and I are both members of the steering group for the evaluation of this initiative.

### **Key areas of continuing professional development for Centre Staff**

All Centre colleagues agree their individual staff development programmes at their annual performance review. Conference attendance remains an important staff development mechanism and this year colleagues have attended conferences relevant to our research programmes, e.g., clinical governance and guideline development, infection control and prevention, and infectious diseases. Two members of staff (Carol Pellowe & Peter Harper) are continuing their doctoral studies in education.

### **Our Conference Activities**

The following papers/posters were presented at Regional, National and International Conferences during this academic year.

#### **Conferences**

- Pratt RJ. *Clinical Governance – the UK Experience*. Keynote address. 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Australian Infection Control Association conference, Brisbane, Australia. 2002.
- Harper P. Question: "Do you teach research?" Answer: "If I have to!" 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Qualitative Health Care Research Conference programme; Banff, Canada. 2002
- Pratt RJ. *The World of AIDS*. Opening address. National HIV Nurses Association Annual Conference. Glasgow; 2002.

- Pratt RJ. **epic** – *the development of National Evidence-based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-associated Infections in England*. Keynote address. International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society, Edinburgh. 2002.
- Pratt RJ. *Preventing Bloodborne Infections in Perioperative Nursing Practice*. Sibohan Rankin Memorial Lecture. National Association of Theatre Nurses Annual Conference. Harrogate, 2002.
- Pratt RJ. *The Future of Infection Prevention and Control in the UK – Closing Address*. Infection Control Nurses Association Annual Conference, Blackpool, September 2001.
- Loveday HP *Informing the Future – educating for health protection roles*. ICNA Annual Infection Control Conference; 2002 November 18-22; Torquay, England.
- Pratt RJ. *Managing and Control; Healthcare-associated Infections under Clinical Governance*. Oral Presentation: Royal College of Physicians Conference on Healthcare-associated Infections. London; October 2001.
- Pratt RJ. *Using Evidence-based Infection Prevention Guidelines to reduce the incidence of Healthcare-associated Infections in NHS Trusts*. Oral Presentation. Surgery 2002 Conference. London Commonwealth Centre; 2002.
- Pratt R, Pellowe C, Loveday H, Harper P. **epic** Workshop - Developing National Evidence-based Guidelines. ICNA Annual Infection Control Conference; 2002 November 18-22; Torquay, England.
- Harper P, MacRae E, Loveday H. A content analysis: current educational provision for community infection control nurses. 4<sup>th</sup> RCN Joint Education Forums' Conference programme; 2002 February 14-16; Blackpool, England
- Robinson N, Franks P, Loveday HP, Pellowe CM, Loveday C, Pratt RJ. Acupuncture is associated with greater self-reported adherence to antiretroviral therapy. Abstract number. XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002.
- Pellowe C. *Developing Guidelines for Preventing Urinary Catheter-related Infections*. Infection Control Nurses Association Local Conference, Cornwall, 2002.
- Ojwang T, Tan H, Mitchell S, Pratt RJ, Loveday HP, Robinson N, MacRae E, Clydesdale-Cotter S. *Living Well – a community based initiative in Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow (West London) to support persons living with HIV/Aids to improve their health and develop effective treatment adherence strategies*. In programme and abstracts of the XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002.
- Robinson N, Pedro L, Sumeray D. Does complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) improve quality of life in people with HIV/AIDS. XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002.
- Hattingh C, Brown, R, Duggan C, Groom P, Hooi YS, Kavanagh J, Laut S, Melville R, Miller J, O'Keefe T, Pratt R, Probram V, Sakupanya M, Tan H, Robinson N *Challenges in evaluating Living Well, a community-based adherence*

support intervention in East London, UK. In programme and abstracts of the XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abstract ThPeF8197.

### **Conference attendances**

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

### **Our Publications 2001-2002 (and in press)**

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*. **13**;30-32.

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*.**48**(3):164-173.

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*; **97**(15):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*; **97**(14):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*: **97**(13):36-37

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*; **97**(13):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, Crooke L, Lang T, Pratt R (2001). The Public health implications for nursing education. *Public Health Medicine* **3**(2);56-61.

Pellowe CM, MacRae ED, Loveday HP, Reid P, Harper P, Robinson N and Pratt RJ. (2002) The scope of guidelines to prevent healthcare-associated infection in primary and community care. *British Journal of Community Nursing* **7**(7):374-378.

Loveday HP, Harper PJ, Mulhall A, Pellowe C, Howard J, MacRae E, Pratt RJ. (2002) Informing the Future Part 1– a review of nursing roles and responsibilities in community infection control. Jointly published in: *British Journal of Infection Control*. **3**(6):20-24 and *Professional Nurse* **18**(4):202-6.

Pratt RJ.(2002). In Harm's Way: Protecting ourselves against bloodborne pathogens. *Nurse2Nurse*; **2**(12):33-6.

Pratt RJ. (2002). Healthcare governance and the modernisation of the NHS: Infection Prevention and Control. *British Journal of Infection Control*; **3**(5):16-22.

### ***In Press 2002-2003***

Loveday HP, Harper PJ, Mulhall A, Pellowe C, Howard J, MacRae E, Pratt RJ. (2002) Informing the Future Part 2– a review of nursing roles and responsibilities in community infection control. Being jointly published in: *British Journal of Infection Control* and *Professional Nurse*.

Pratt RJ. (2003). *HIV/AIDS: A Foundation Text for Nursing and Healthcare Practice* 5th ed. London: Arnold (Hodder Headline) – in press.

Loveday HP. Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy. In: Pratt RJ. (2003). *HIV/AIDS: A Foundation Text for Nursing and Healthcare Practice* 5th ed. London: Arnold (Hodder Headline) – in press.

Robinson N. Complementary and Alternative Approaches to Care,. In: Pratt RJ. (2003). *HIV/AIDS: A Foundation Text for Nursing and Healthcare Practice* 5th ed. London: Arnold (Hodder Headline) – in press.

Pellowe C. International Aspects of Caring for Patients with HIV Disease. In: Pratt RJ. (2003). *HIV/AIDS: A Foundation Text for Nursing and Healthcare Practice* 5th ed. London: Arnold (Hodder Headline) – in press.

### ***Our Consultancy Activities***

Centre staff formally advises 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 Audit Office. **Prof. Robert Pratt**

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

The Lodge, Luton (A Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare Facility): **Carol Pellowe (Educational Adviser/Facilitator)**

National Patients Safety Agency. Reference Group for the Hand Hygiene Project. **Heather Loveday**

North East Wales Institute of Higher Education: **Carol Pellowe (External Examiner)**

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

Infection Control Nurses Association: **Prof. Robert Pratt (President); Heather Loveday (Educational Adviser); Peter Harper (Research Adviser); Carol Pellowe (Guideline Development Adviser).**

### **Income Generation**

A separate report with a restricted distribution details the exact income generated during this academic year and is available from the Faculty Finance Officer. However, in illustrating our success in generating income, it should be noted that the total **epic** contracts alone are worth in excess of £1.2 million Pounds.

### **Our Future Plans 2002-3**

As we will 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.

Additionally, we are committed to expanding our teaching and mentorship support to the Faculty and increasing our involvement in the research activities of our Learning Communities. We also intend to develop infectious disease and infection prevention and control modules for the Faculty's Masters programmes and to continue to exploit research and educational opportunities arising from our ICNA collaboration.

**ROBERT J PRATT** FRCN  
Professor of Nursing  
Centre Director

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31Jan03*