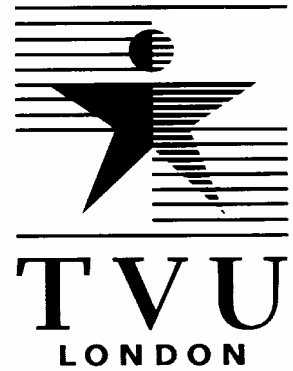


Thames Valley University
Faculty of Health & Human Sciences



Research Centre Annual Report

Academic Year 2002/2003

Centre: **Richard Wells Research Centre**

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

26 January 2004

Highlights

- New national evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections in primary and community care developed for the National Institute for Clinical Excellence
- A national two year clinical trial involving 27 NHS hospitals in England will be funded by the Department of Health to identify how to most effectively use MRSA surveillance data and structured diagnostic tools to reduce the incidence of hospital infections
- New collaborations established with the National Audit Office, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, the Clinical Governance Support Team and Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Health Authority
- Educational and Staff Mentorship activities expanded
- International, national and regional conference contributions significantly increased
- Publication record in quality peer-reviewed journals continues to improve

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 (DH), 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 Staff

The following were the permanent staff of our Centre during this academic year:

Robert Pratt	Professor of Nursing	Research/Education *
Carol Pellowe	Principal Lecturer	Research/Education +
Heather Loveday	Principal Lecturer	Research/Education
Peter Harper	Senior Lecturer	Research/Education
Caroline Smales	Senior Lecturer	Education
Simon Jones	Senior Research Assistant	Research
Meg Morse	Senior Administrator	Centre Administration

* Centre Director
+ Deputy Centre Director

Centre Mission Statement

- We value excellence in education and research as tools to enhance public health, to facilitate the continuing development of quality evidence-based healthcare and to promote social justice and equality.
- We are committed to pursuing new knowledge and developing creative educational initiatives focused on enhancing patient safety by further developing the evidence base for the prevention and control of infection and the care of patients with communicable diseases.
- In pursuit of our vision we will establish mutually supportive local, national and international multi-professional collaborative research and teaching networks with a variety of agencies, institutions, professional organisations and healthcare 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 academic endeavours, we will make a positive and significant impact on our university, community and professions.

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Report: Centre Activities

The **epic** initiative - introduction

The **epic** initiative is a series of long-term government commissioned research projects focused on contributing to the development of the evidence base which underpins the practice of infection prevention and control in the National Health Service (NHS). Funded principally by the DH, all phases of **epic** involves extensive collaboration with key stakeholders in this field, especially the Infection Control Nurses Association (ICNA), the Hospital Infection Society (HIS), and the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

This initiative has so far generated 1.2 million Pounds of research funding and various phases continue to be developed. During this academic year our research programme has been dominated by completing phases of various epic projects and setting up the new phases of this enquiry.

The phases of epic

- **epic phase 1 – Developing national evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections in NHS Hospitals**

[Principal Investigator: Robert Pratt]

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 in England and Wales were developed, approved and published in *The Journal of Hospital Infection* in January 2001.¹ During this academic year, we commenced systematic reviews to update the evidence base for these guidelines (see **epic phase 1b**).

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

[Principal Investigator: Heather Loveday]

Last year the DH funded a collaboration between the Richard Wells Research Centre at Thames Valley University and the National Clinical Governance Support Team (part of the NHS Modernisation Agency) to develop a Clinical Governance Development Programme focused on preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAI). This programme is intended to support multidisciplinary healthcare teams in NHS Trusts throughout England to improve infection prevention and control services, improve practice and reduce the rates of preventable HAI. The first programme commenced in May 2003 with 5 delegate teams and will complete in January 2004.

The programme is lead jointly by Dr. Rosemary Gillespie, Associate Director of Education for the Development Programme in the Clinical Governance Support Team, and Heather Loveday, Principal Lecturer in the Richard Wells Research Centre. Jennie Wilson, Senior Nurse Manager and Surveillance Coordinator at the Nosocomial Infection National Surveillance Unit in the Health Protection Agency acts as the Programme Specialist Advisor. We have secured additional DH funding to continue the programme throughout 2004-05.

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

[Principal Investigator: Heather Loveday]

As part of our contractual obligations to the DH, we commenced the updating of the evidence base for the phase 1 guidelines within two years of publication. Systematic reviews and evidence appraisals have continued in this academic year and the final report is scheduled for completion in March 2004.

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

[Principal Investigator: Carol Pellowe]

During this year we completed the development of new national evidence-based guidelines for preventing HAI in NHS primary and community care services in England and Wales. Although originally commissioned and funded by the DH, contract management for guideline development was transferred to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE). The guidelines were approved by NICE and published in June 2003 as a short version and a special version for the public on the NICE website.² The DH then funded the joint publication of the full guidelines in special supplements of the *Journal of Hospital Infection* and the *British Journal of Infection Control*³ and circulated copies to all relevant NHS Trusts.

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

[Principal Investigators: Heather Loveday and Peter Harper]

This national review was completed in March 2002 and the results published jointly by the *British Journal of Infection Control* and *Professional Nurse*.⁴⁻⁷

The Report is available at: <http://www.epic.tvu.ac.uk/epicphase/2b.html>

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

[Principal Investigators: Peter Harper and Evonne Curran]

In February 2003 we commenced the initial planning stage of 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. This study, funded by the DH, is being conducted in partnership with the ICNA and 27 NHS Trusts throughout England. Ethical approval was received from a NHS Multi-Centre Research Ethic Committee (MREC) in December 2003 and the trial is scheduled to commence in March 2004.

Additional Activities

- ***Living Well* – Ealing Hammersmith and Hounslow Health Authority and the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham**

[Principal Investigators: Simon Jones and Robert Pratt]

Funded by the NHS, *Living Well* is an initiative for HIV-positive people who live, work or use a HIV/AIDS treatment centre in the West London area. The aim of the programme is to enable people with HIV to enhance their

health and sense of wellbeing by taking greater control of their lives and making informed choices regarding antiretroviral therapy. Following our critical review of the forerunner programme in East London, we were commissioned to develop an evaluation strategy for this programme and to provide ongoing evaluation support to the Project in West London. We presented our evaluation of the first programme at the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA), Kenya at the end of this academic year.⁸ Our contract for evaluation support has been renewed throughout 2004-05 and further findings are scheduled to be presented at the World AIDS Conference in Bangkok in 2004.

- **National Audit Office (NAO) - Comparison of International Practices in the Management and Control of Healthcare-associated Infections**

[Principal Investigators: Heather Loveday and Robert Pratt]

This project was commissioned in May 2003, completed in September 2003 and forms part of the NAO follow-up Value for Money study of hospital-acquired infection. The review focused on the extent, cost and strategic response to hospital-acquired infections in a range of comparable countries with western healthcare systems, mature infection control structures and arrangements, and established networks of infection control professionals.

The review entailed: a formal review of published literature; a review of relevant web-based databases maintained by national governments, departments of health and professional bodies; and a targeted e-mail survey of key government departments, professional organisations, learned societies and relevant networks in North America, Australasia and in five member states of the European Union.

- **Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)**

[Principal Investigators: Robert Pratt & Carol Pellowe]

We were commissioned by the MHRA to review and critically appraise the accuracy and integrity of the safety evidence submitted by a multinational manufacturer to support an application for licensure for an intravascular medical device causing concern to practitioners. Our evaluation was completed in October 2003.

- **National Institute for African Studies (NIAS)**

[Principal Investigators: Robert Pratt and Carol Pellowe]

During this academic year, in partnership with the National Institute for African Studies in Slough, we continued to teach and further develop and prepare the curriculum for validation for a part-time 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'), delivered at TVU Slough, was well evaluated and is continuing in the next academic year where it will be validated 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, and Peter Harper is supporting ICNA 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**

[Principal Investigators: Robert Pratt & Carol Pellowe]

We developed and piloted a one-day clinical governance workshop focused on using an evidence-based approach to preventing catheter-related urinary tract infections. Eleven workshops took place throughout the British Isles and were extremely well evaluated. A follow-up questionnaire to ascertain the impact of this programme is currently being evaluated. The workshops were fully sponsored by BARD UK Ltd. and generated income for both ICNA and our Centre.

In addition BARD commissioned Centre staff to contribute to their corporate training and participate in their regional training days for nursing staff.

- **The Terrence Higgins Lighthouse Trust**

[Principal Investigator: Carol Pellowe]

In 2002, 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. They have supported and part-funded Centre research focused on capturing the experiences of women diagnosed as HIV positive through antenatal testing, and hosted a conference at London Lighthouse to disseminate the initial findings in March. We are exploring further opportunities for collaborative research in areas of mutual interest.

- **The Lodge - Sexual Health and HIV Services in Bedfords and Luton Community Care NHS Trust**

[Principal Investigator: Carol Pellowe]

The Centre has continued for the eighth year to support sexual health and HIV infection prevention training delivered by the Lodge to healthcare and health promotion staff in the Bedfordshire area. This involves teaching the first day of a two-day orientation and training programme and facilitating one specialist subject day (this year men's sexual health). This has generated significant income for the Centre

Research Students & Faculty Staff Mentorship

Although the Centre did not supervise research students during this academic year, all research active staff allocated 110 hours each for mentoring Faculty Staff.

Our Teaching Contribution to our Faculty

All teaching staff allocated 110 hours each to support Faculty teaching programmes and taught specialist subjects, e.g., infectious diseases, medical sciences, infection prevention and control, and research methods, in a range of certificate, diploma, degree and post-graduate level courses.

In addition, the Centre took academic leadership of the quantitative research methods module in the MA in Research Methods programme.

Curriculum planning also commenced to develop Masters level modules, i.e.,

- *The Population:* This module will address the needs of the population in relation to health protection from infectious diseases. It will enable participants to consider the population within their own practice area and reflect upon characteristics of the population, i.e. age, gender, race and ethnicity and infectious diseases notifications.
- *Preventing infection: Delivering the Service:* This module will provide students with the skills to examine their own organisation's service delivery in health protection/ infection prevention and control and devise a strategy to improve delivery in one area.

These modules will be ready for validation from December 2003 onwards.

Certificates in Personal and Professional Development (CPPD)

[Educational Lead: Caroline Smales]

During this academic year, the Centre became responsible for the continuing development and delivery of all Faculty CPPD programmes focused on:

- Tuberculosis: Healthcare Management
- Infection Control: Principles and Practices
- Management and Care of People with Infectious Diseases

Supporting Our Learning Communities

All Centre research and teaching 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. Additionally, senior Centre staff participate in the evaluation of this initiative.

The below is an example of service-initiated collaborative research that Centre staff are supporting.

- **HARP – Healthcare Assistant Research Project**

[Principal Investigator: Simon Jones]

In collaboration with The Lister Hospital in the Chelsea and Hammersmith Learning Community, we are currently evaluating the impact of introducing healthcare assistants into their nursing service. This is an ongoing project and we expect to report on this initiative in April 2004.

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 (Appendix 1). Two members of staff (Carol Pellowe and Peter Harper) are continuing their doctoral studies.

Membership of Advisory Groups

The profile of the Centre has continued to be raised by the work of individual Centre staff working as advisors and members of government

committees, professional organisations, expert reference groups, local government and health authorities and as external examiners to other Universities. Centre staff formally advise or support the following:

- Department of Health, Chief Medical Officer's Expert Advisory Group on AIDS (EAGA) **Robert Pratt**
- National Audit Office. **Robert Pratt and Heather Loveday**
- National Patients Safety Agency. Reference Group for the Hand Hygiene Project **Heather Loveday**
- Health Protection Agency (Advisory Group to Lead Nurse) **Heather Loveday**
- Manchester University (Mildmay International) **Robert Pratt (External Examiner)**
- North East Wales Institute of Higher Education **Carol Pellowe (External Examiner)**
- National HIV Nurses Association
Robert Pratt (Patron); Carol Pellowe (Executive Board Member); Heather Loveday (Research Awards Adviser)
- Infection Control Nurses Association of the British Isles
Robert Pratt (President); Heather Loveday (Educational Adviser); Peter Harper (Research Adviser)
- The Lodge (Sexual Health and HIV Services in Bedfords and Luton Community Care NHS Trust) **Carol Pellowe (Educational Adviser/Facilitator)**
- London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Health Authority (Living Well Project)
Robert Pratt and Simon Jones

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. The Centre met it's agreed income generation target for this academic year.

Our Publication Record

All research active Centre staff published in peer review journals and the total volume and quality of publications was excellent (Appendix 2).

Our Principal Objectives for the next academic year

Centre colleagues meet annually to formally review the previous year and set objectives for the forthcoming year. The following are our objectives for the 2003-04 academic year:

Centre - External

1. Develop and formalise an ongoing TVU-led multiprofessional, multi-agency research collaboration to respond quickly to invitations to bid for government research grants. The core members of the

collaboration would consist of the principal stakeholders in the arena of infection prevention and control, e.g., Infection Control Nurses Association, Health Protection Agency, Hospital Infection Society, Association of Medical Microbiologists, National Association of Theatre Nurses.

2. Secure additional and significant contracts for research, systematic reviews and health technology assessments from the Department of Health and other government agencies, e.g., National Patient Safety Agency, National Institute for Clinical Excellence, National Health Service, and appropriate commercial organisations.

Centre - Internal

3. Lead the development, validation and delivery of two generic M-level modules in Health Protection (includes infection prevention and control) as options for the Faculty's new Master of Science programmes. Further develop the format of these modules for multi-modal delivery, including e-learning.
4. Significantly contribute to the development of the Faculty and University research infrastructure by influencing research policy and strategy through research committee activities, including the preparations for the next Research Assessment Exercise.
5. Lead the development, implementation and monitoring of quality staff development initiatives described in the Faculty's Pro-Vice Chancellor's HEFCE funded proposals for increasing research capability. This includes creating enhanced opportunities for staff development through organised programmes of research mentorship and supervision and support to staff to develop the evidence-base of their teaching.

Individual – Personal Staff Development

6. Publish a minimum of 2 RAE-quality academic papers in appropriate peer-reviewed journals.
7. Develop and present papers to local, regional, national and international Conferences.
8. Significantly contribute to the teaching of specialist subjects throughout the range of programmes delivered within the Faculty.
9. Enhance own academic qualifications/skills.

END

ROBERT J PRATT CBE FRCN

Professor of Nursing

Centre Director

31 January 2004 RJP:me

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2. National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/>
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7. Loveday HP, Harper PJ, Mulhall A, Pellowe C, Howard J, MacRae E, Pratt RJ. Informing the future: 2. Developing the role of community IPCNs. *Professional Nurse* 2003;**18**(6):327-331.
8. Jones SRLJ, Miller J, Ojwang T, Pratt RJ. Evaluation of the West London Living Well programme between April 2002 and August 2003. Poster presented at International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA), Kenya 2003.

Appendix 1: Our Conference Activities 2002-03

We presented the following papers/posters at regional, national and international conferences during this academic year:

- Pratt RJ. *Clinical Governance – the UK Experience*. Keynote address. 2nd Biennial Australian Infection Control Association conference, Brisbane, Australia. 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. 17 September 2002.
- Pratt RJ. *Preventing Bloodborne Infections in Perioperative Nursing Practice*. Sibohan Rankin Memorial Lecture. National Association of Theatre Nurses' Annual Conference. Harrogate, 10 October 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.
- Curran E, Harper P. *The CHART Project: forum*. ICNA Annual Infection Control Conference; 2002 November 18-22; Torquay, England.
- Pellowe C, Harper P. *How to Develop Evidence-based Guidelines: Theory and Reality (Workshop)*. Royal College of Nursing Research Society International Annual Nursing Research Conference; 2003 April 10-12: Manchester, England.
- Jones SRLJ, Miller J, Ojwang T, Pratt RJ. *Evaluation of the West London Living Well programme between April 2002 and August 2003*. Poster presented at International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA), Kenya 2003.
- Pellowe C, Harper P, Loveday H. *Developing evidence –based guidelines workshop*. RCN International research conference Manchester 10-12 April 2003.
- Pratt RJ. *An evidence-based approach to preventing healthcare-associated infections in the elderly*. Keynote: Marjorie Robertson Endowed Lecture. Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Symposium on Geriatric Medicine, Edinburgh, 28 May 2003.
- Pratt RJ. *Haematological Manifestations of HIV Disease*. Annual International Advanced Haematology Conference for Nurses, Hammersmith Hospital, London, 9 June 2003.
- Pellowe C. *The NICE Guidelines, Infection Control: Prevention of healthcare-associated infection in Primary and Community Care*. Community Infection Control Nurses' conference. Nottingham 25 June 2003.
- Pellowe C. *Screening pregnant asylum seekers in London for HIV infection*, NHIVNA Conference, Brighton 26-27 June 2003.
- Pratt RJ. *Opening Address*. NHIVNA Conference, Brighton 26-27 June 2003.
- Pellowe C. *The experience of being identified HIV positive in the antenatal period*. Second Annual sexual health in Ireland Conference, Dublin, 5 September 2003.

Appendix 2: Our publications during 2002-03

- Pratt RJ. In Harm's Way: Protecting ourselves against bloodborne pathogens. *Nurse2Nurse* 2002;**2**(12):33-36.
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- Pratt RJ. *HIV & AIDS: A Foundation for Nursing and Healthcare Practice* 5th ed., (former editions under the title of: *HIV & AIDS: A Strategy for Nursing Care*) London: Arnold; 2003.
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