



THAMES VALLEY  
UNIVERSITY

**Faculty of Health and Human Sciences**

## **Research Centre Annual Report**

Academic Year 2006/2007

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

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

Report compiled by Dr Carol Pellowe

## Highlights

- Publication of epic2 National evidence based guidelines for preventing healthcare associated infections in NHS hospitals in England;
- Validation of MSc in Health Protection and Patient Safety;
- Extension of the 'Living Well' Programme (Expert Patient Initiative) for people living with HIV/AIDS to East Africa
- Increase in PhD students enrolled
- Excellent publication record in quality peer-reviewed journals continues. (Appendix 1)
- Significant staff development to sustain the work of the Collaborating Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute

## 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 HCAI in particular. As the only research centre of this type in the Higher Education sector, we collaborate closely with the DH, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and a variety of relevant organisations and learned societies to establish the evidence-base for preventing and controlling HCAI in acute, primary and community care environments.

## Centre Staff

The following were the permanent staff of our Centre during the 2006/07 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
Simon Jones	Senior Lecturer	Research/Education
Jennie Wilson	Visiting Research Fellow	Research <sup>‡</sup>
Alison Tingle	Principal Research Officer	
Meg Morse	Senior Administrator	Centre Administration

\* Centre Director  
 + Deputy Centre Director  
<sup>‡</sup> Health Protection Agency

## Centre Mission

- 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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## Centre Objectives 2006-2007

### External

- Establish a facility to manage a service user research forum within the Department of Health National HCAI Research Network.
- Develop additional modules for the national HCAI blended e-learning programme for the NHS on behalf of the NHS Core Learning Unit.
- Secure additional and significant contracts for research, systematic reviews and health technology assessments from the DH and other government agencies.

### Internal

- Validation of an MSc in Health Protection and Patient Safety.
- Significantly contribute to the development of the Faculty and University research infrastructure by influencing research policy, strategy and governance through active participation in research committee activities, including ethical peer review and preparations for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

### Individual

- Publish a minimum of two RAE-enterable academic papers in appropriate peer-reviewed journals.
- Contribute presentations to an active national and international conference schedule.
- Significantly contribute to the teaching of specialist subjects throughout the range of programmes delivered within the Faculty.

The following report describes the extent to which we have met our objectives. We will continue to pursue these objectives during the next academic year.

## 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 that underpins infection prevention and control practice in the NHS. Funded principally by the DH, all phases of **epic** involve extensive collaboration with key stakeholders in this field, especially the ICNA, the HIS, and the HPA. This initiative has so far generated over 1.5 million Pounds of research funding and new phases continue to be developed. More than any other project, the epic initiative established both our credentials in the field of infection prevention and control and our expertise in conducting complex systematic reviews.

- **epic2 National evidence based guidelines for preventing healthcare associated infections in NHS hospitals in England**

[Principal Investigator: Robert Pratt]

In June 2005, the DH contracted us to update the epic phase 1 guidelines. This involved an additional systematic review in all six topic areas. The guidelines are complete and will be published as a supplement in the *Journal of Hospital Infection* in January 2007.<sup>1</sup> In addition, a patients' version has been developed and submitted to the DH.

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

[Lead Investigators: Peter Harper and Evonne Curran]

In February 2003 we commenced the initial planning stage of a two year national clinical trial to 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, was conducted in partnership with the ICNA and 24 NHS Trusts throughout England. This trial completed in April 2006 and results have been presented at a variety of national and international conferences and will be published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection*.

- **epic update – Monitoring the changing evidence for the prevention of HCAI**  
[Principal Investigator: Heather Loveday]

During this academic year, we completed two contracts with DH to conduct a systematic review to identify changes in evidence, emerging technology and other national and international evidence and guidelines for preventing HCAI, and to prepare briefs for and respond to departmental and ministerial enquires. We reviewed and advised on an e-learning infection prevention and control programme developed by NHSE Scotland for use by the NHS in England.

In addition, we conducted evidence reviews to inform NHS Trust staff uniform policies and laundering, i.e., the role of uniforms in transmitting infection. The results of these reviews will be published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection* and the *British Journal of Infection Control*.

- **epic MRSA evidence review - Systematic review of interventions to prevent the transmission of meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in hospitals**

[Principal Investigator: Heather Loveday]

This systematic review, commissioned by DH on behalf of the Joint MRSA Working Party, was undertaken to inform the development of the new national guidelines for preventing MRSA transmission in hospitals. The full review was published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection* in 2006. <sup>2</sup>

### **Additional Activities**

- **Caring: Perceptions and context of nursing and midwifery care in London in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A preliminary scope of published literature from 1995-2005**

[Principal Investigator: Heather Loveday]

A preliminary scope of the United Kingdom (UK) practice-based research literature was commissioned from the RWR and Centre for Midwifery and Childbirth by the London Network for Nursing and Midwifery (LNNM). The purpose of the review was to provide an insight into the research evidence that explored perceived changes in the expression of caring behaviours in nurses and midwives practicing London. Peer reviewed research literature from January 1995 to December 2005 was located and appraised using a systematic approach. An interim report containing the narrative synthesis of the literature and overview of the literature and the emerging themes was presented at the LNNM Conference in March 06.

- **National Healthcare-associated Infection Research Network**

[Principal Research Officer: Alison Tingle]

In early 2006, the Department of Health's National HCAI Research Network was established with the responsibility for managing this initiative contracted

to the Richard Wells Research Centre. The Network is directed by Professor Robert Pratt and supported by a group of senior research staff within the Centre. The day to day management of the Network is being undertaken by its Principal Research Officer, Alison Tingle and Professor David Edwards has joined the Network as its scientific advisor. A patient group to provide a consumer perspective to the network was established in 2007

The key aims of the HCAI Research Network are to contribute to the strategic development of the national research agenda in this field and support and manage DH funded HCAI-related research.

The Network is already managing and supporting major projects recently funded through the Department's Policy Research Programme's call for research into the cost-effectiveness of interventions for the control of HCAI. These include a diverse range of studies such as those focusing on the role of managing the hospital environment, environmental decontamination, MRSA carriage in care home settings and modelling MRSA intervention policies.

An Advisory Board for the HCAI Network, chaired by Professor Charles Easmon CBE, Deputy Chairman of the Health Protection Agency Board, is being established and its primary function will be to advise on national priorities for HCAI research.

In addition, the Network is developing plans to:

- coordinate with other research funders to explore how best to bring relevant research into the managed Network;
- enhance research capacity and capability in this area (by providing relevant interdisciplinary research training and opportunities for methodological support and advice to HCAI researchers);
- provide support to research groups for research governance and ethical approval processes.

The Network has established its own website which provides more detailed information about its activities [www.hcainetwork.org](http://www.hcainetwork.org)

- **National Health Service Core Learning Unit**

[Project Director: Robert Pratt, Project Manager Carol Pellowe]

In collaboration with the Faculty's Distance Learning Unit and Intuition Publishing Ltd. (Dublin), we developed a blended e-learning infection prevention and control programme for the NHS.<sup>3</sup> This initiative has been funded by the NHSU/DH and is now part of the NHS Core Learning Unit's core e-learning programmes. The programme is a major development for our Centre as it is intended that this multidisciplinary programme will be mandatory for all 1.3 million clinical and non-clinical employees of the NHS. During this year we secured funding to develop a clinical programme. In addition to an introductory module, funding was secured for two modules on vascular access devices.

- **JBI Collaborating Centre for Evidence Based Healthcare**

[Deputy Director; Carol Pellowe]

In 2005 we became a Collaborating Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute, Adelaide. This initiative is in collaboration with the Centre for Midwifery and Childbirth and the Centre for Research in Clinical Practice. The JBI has as its central focus the effectiveness, appropriateness, meaningfulness and feasibility of healthcare practices. JBI through its collaborating centres undertakes systematic reviews and produces a variety of resources to encourage the implementation of evidence-based practice in healthcare settings. During this year all centre staff have undertaken training in systematic reviews and a course has been offered to develop additional expertise within the faculty.

- **Living Well – HIV/AIDS**

[Project Manager; Simon Jones]

Having originally developed the evaluation tools and strategy for this pan-London DH Expert Patient Initiative, we are under contract to conduct an annual evaluation of this programme in NHS Trusts and corresponding local government authorities in London. Evaluation analyses have been presented at several international conferences.<sup>4</sup> During this year the Centre also successfully collaborated with Living Well on an Elton John AIDS Foundation funded project to pilot the Positive Self-Management Programme in Kenya and Uganda. The findings will be presented at the next International AIDS Conference (2009).

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

[Lecturers Robert Pratt and Carol Pellowe]

During this academic year, in partnership with the National Institute for African Studies in Slough, we continued to teach on the a part-time course for African Community Leaders, focused on developing their knowledge and skills in order to support Africans resident in the UK who are affected by HIV/AIDS. This course in HIV/AIDS is validated by TVU and delivered at TVU Ealing. It was well evaluated and is continuing in the next academic year. In addition, RWR staff moderate the assignments for the other modules.

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

The Centre has established formal collaborative links with the Infection ICNA. Professor Robert Pratt was President from 1999-2005 and Heather Loveday is a member of association's Research and Development Group and a member of the Scientific Programme Committee for the ICNA Annual Conference. CHART (described above) is a product of this partnership. During this academic year, centre staff presented at the ICNA national conference.

- **MedMined, a soft ware data mining programme**

[Investigators Pellowe C, Wilson J, Pratt RJ]

We were commissioned to review papers on MedMined, a software data mining company on behalf of Cardinal Health. The purpose was to review the strength of the literature and report on our findings including recommendations on future steps regarding the MedMined Integrated Infection Prevention System.

- **Report on Michaels B, Griffith C. Simple Soaps and NHS Infection Control Challenges. A literature review of potential sources of microbiological contamination of hand cleansing products and recommendations for risk reduction**

[Investigators Wilson J, Hoffman P, Pellowe C]

We were asked by an outside organisation to appraise the above review and comment on the rigour of the methods and interpretation of the evidence.

## Research Students & Faculty Staff Mentorship

This year has seen an increase in the number of PhD students enrolling with the centre and those a previously enrolled continue to make good progress.

### PhD Students

Eilidh Macrae. *Approaches to interpreting antiretroviral resistance, their relative effectiveness and use in the clinical management of people living with HIV.* Enrolled 2004

[Supervisors: Carol Pellowe, Robert Pratt, Clive Loveday, Sibel Roller,]

Sangeetha Parmasivan *South Asian Women and sexual health: attitudes, knowledge, behaviour and experiences. Implications for public health and sexual health services*

[Supervisors: Carol Pellowe, Debra Bick,]

Munya Chikahora *Hepatitis B in Pregnancy. A phenomenological Study of Women and Care Givers' Experiences* Enrolled 2007

[Supervisors: Carol Pellowe, Debra Bick,]

Jennie Wilson *Nosocomial infection surveillance. PhD by publication* Enrolled 2004

[Supervisors Carol Pellowe, Robert Pratt]

Simon Jones *Evaluation Research - Building an effective strategy for the evaluation and continual development of the Positive Self-Management Programme in Africa.* Enrolled 2007

[Supervisors: Peter Harper, Chris McCourt, Robert Pratt]

Heather Loveday *PhD by publication* Enrolling 2007/8

## Our Teaching Contribution to our Faculty

All academic staff were 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 four of the six modules in the MSc in Research Methods programme.

The Centre's MSc in Health Protection and Patient Safety was validated in July 2007 and will commence in January 2008.

### • Contributions to University and Faculty Committees

All academic members of the Centre are allocated 110 hours each per academic year to provide research mentorship to Faculty staff.

Members of the Centre are involved in appropriate research committees, including the University Research Committee, Faculty Research Committee (FRC), University and Faculty Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) sub-committees, Faculty Research Ethics Committee, Faculty Research Institute Advisory Committee, and the Academic Planning Committee.

Prof. Robert Pratt is Chair of the FRC, the Faculty RAE sub-committee, the University website review sub-committee. Dr Carol Pellowe is the Deputy Director for the Joanna Briggs Institute Collaborating Centre. Heather Loveday is the Chairperson of the Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

## 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. This has included research awareness sessions at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington and contributing to their professional development programme.

## Key Areas of Continuing Professional Development for Centre Staff

All Centre colleagues agree their individual staff development programme at their annual performance review. Conference activity remains an important staff development mechanism and this year colleagues have attended and presented papers at several conferences relevant to our research programmes, e.g., guideline development, infection control and prevention, and infectious diseases (Appendix 1).

## 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:

- 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)  
**Carol Pellowe (External Examiner)**
- National HIV Nurses Association  
**Robert Pratt (Patron); Heather Loveday (Research Awards Adviser)**
- Infection Control Nurses Association of the British Isles  
**Robert Pratt (President until September 2005); Heather Loveday ( Research and Educational Adviser)**
- The following London Boroughs: Barking & Dagenham; Brent; Camden; Ealing, Hackney; Hammersmith & Fulham; Haringey; Harrow; Hillingdon; Hounslow; Islington; Kensington & Chelsea; Waltham Forest; Westminster. (Living Well Programme)  
**Simon Jones (Project Manager)**
- Barnet, Haringey and Enfield NHS Ethics Committee  
**Carol Pellowe (Committee member)**

## Income Generation

A separate report with a restricted distribution details all income generated during this academic year and is available from the Faculty Finance Officer. The total amount of income generated almost a third of a million Pounds and the Centre exceeded its 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).



**END**

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

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2. Loveday HP, Pellowe CM, Jones SRLJ and R.J. Pratt A systematic review of the evidence for interventions for the prevention and control of meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (1996–2004): report to the Joint MRSA Working Party (Subgroup A) *Journal of Hospital Infection*, Volume 63, Supplement 1, May 2006, Pages S45-S70.
3. Pratt RJ, Pellowe CM, Shelley J, Adams J, Loveday HP, King D, Jones SRLJ. Using a blended e-learning model to provide accessible infection prevention and control training for NHS staff: The NHSU/TVU/Intuition approach. *British Journal of Infection Control* 2005; **6**(2):16-18.
4. Jones S, Miller J, Ojwang T, Tan H, Pratt R. An Evaluation of the West London Living Well Programme. (Poster). In: Programme and abstracts of the 15th International AIDS Conference, July 11-16, 2004; Bangkok, Thailand.

## 5. Appendix 1: Our publications during 2006-07

Loveday HP, Wilson JA, Hoffman PN, Pratt RJ. Public perception and the social and microbiological significance of uniforms in the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections: an evidence review. *The British Journal of Infection Control* September 2007; **8**(4):10-21.

Brimblecombe N, Tingle A, Murrells T (2007) How mental health nursing can best improve service users' experience and outcomes in inpatient settings: responses to a national consultation. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing* 2007; **14**(5):503-509.

Pratt RJ. Examining tuberculosis trends in the UK. *Nursing Times* 18 September 2007; **103**(38):52-53. Available online at: <http://www.nursingtimes.net/>

Wilson JA, Loveday HP, Hoffman PN, Pratt RJ. Uniform: an evidence review of the microbiological significance of uniforms and uniform policy in the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections. Report to the Department of Health (England). *Journal of Hospital Infection* August 2007; **66**(4):301-307.

Pellowe C, Rogers J. Preventing healthcare-associated infections when using urinary catheters. *Infant* 2007; **3**(4):150-152. \_

Loveday HP, Pellowe CM, Pratt RJ, Wilson JA, Jones SRLJ, Harper PJ. An Epic task: getting guidelines into practice. *Nursing Times* 28 July 2007. Available on line at <http://www.nursingtimes.net/>

Jones SRLJ, Pellowe CM, Pratt RJ, Wilson JA, Loveday HP, Harper PJ, McDougall C, Wilcox MH. epic2 National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England. Understanding the guidelines – information for patients, carers and the public. *Nursing Times* 21 July 2007. Available on line at <http://www.nursingtimes.net/>

Pratt RJ, Pellowe CM, Loveday HP, Wilson JA, Jones SRLJ, Harper PJ, McDougall C, Wilcox MH. epic2 National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England - Guidelines for preventing infections associated with the use of central venous access devices (CVAD). *Nursing Times* 2007 24 July 2007. Available on line at <http://www.nursingtimes.net/>

Harper PJ Pratt RJ, Pellowe CM, Wilson JA, Loveday HP, Jones SRLJ, McDougall C, Wilcox MH. epic2 National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England - Guidelines for preventing infections associated with the use of short-term indwelling urethral catheters. *Nursing Times* 17 July 2007. Available on line at <http://www.nursingtimes.net/>

Pellowe CM, Loveday HP, Pratt RJ, Wilson JA, Jones SRLJ, Harper PJ, McDougall C, Wilcox MH. epic2 National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England - Standard Principles: Personal Protective Equipment and the Safe Use and Disposal of Sharps. *Nursing Times* 10 July 2007. Available on line at <http://www.nursingtimes.net/>

Loveday HP, Pellowe CM, Pratt RJ, Wilson JA, Jones SRLJ, Harper PJ, McDougall C, Wilcox MH. epic2 National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-

Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England - Standard Principles: Hospital Environmental Hygiene and Hand Hygiene. *Nursing Times* 3 July 2007. Available on line at: <http://www.nursingtimes.net/>

Pellowe CM, Jones SRLJ, Pratt RJ, Wilson JA, Loveday HP, Harper PJ, McDougall C, Wilcox MH. epic2 National Evidence-Based Guidelines for Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England. *Nursing Times* 26 June 2007;103(26):28-29.

Pratt RJ, O'Malley B. Supporting evidence-based infection prevention and control practice in the National Health Service in England. The NHS/TVU/Intuition Approach. *Journal of Hospital Infection* June 2007;65(S2): S142-S147.

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Brimblecombe N, Tingle A, Tunmore, R Murrells T. Implementing Holistic Practices in Mental Health Nursing: A National Consultation. *International Journal of Nursing Studies* 2007;44:339-348.

Pellowe C, Loveday HP. epic2: Updating Department of Health guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections. *Infant* 2007;3(2):15-20.

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Pratt R J. Perinatal and infant HIV infection: Screening to minimise risk. *Infant* 2007;3(1):238-242.

## 5. **Appendix 2: Our Conference Activities 2006-07**

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

Lockwood C, Bick D, Pellowe C, Kenner C. A web-based platform to inform international evidenced-based healthcare, clinical quality improvement and research. Sigma Theta Tau 18<sup>th</sup> International Nursing Research Congress, Vienna 11-14 July 2007

Pratt RJ. ICNA Annual Conference 25 -27 September 06, Brighton

Pratt RJ. Robert Tiffany Memorial Lecture 12 October 06 Royal Marsden Hospital

Pratt RJ 6<sup>th</sup> International HIS Conference 15 – 18 October, Amsterdam

Pratt RJ. APIC and SHEA Conference, 14-17 April 07, Baltimore

Pratt RJ. NHIVNA Conference 28-29 June 07, London

Jones SRLJ. Publish or they Perish. (Poster). In: Programme and abstracts of the 16th International AIDS Conference, 2006; August 13-18, Toronto, Canada.

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