

RESPECT-21

Reorganising specialist cancer surgery for the 21st century: a mixed methods evaluation

PROJECT NEWSLETTER No. 5

May 2017

Welcome to the fifth RESPECT-21 newsletter, where we update you on how our study is progressing, and tell you about the team.

You can catch up on earlier editions of the newsletter by using the following link:

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/dahr/research-pages/RESPECT_21

This month, we update you on:

- How the study is progressing;
- our **survey of cancer patients, healthcare professionals, and members of the public**;
- our developing **database of patient and family groups** who might be interested in hearing about and contributing to our research;
- our latest plans to share findings at upcoming conferences.
- Also, there is the third in our series called '**Meet the Team**' - this month, we shine the spotlight on our cost effectiveness team.

PROGRESS UPDATE

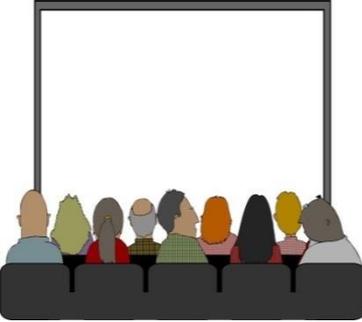
We have been very busy analysing the data from our survey on how cancer services should be organised, more news of this below!

We are continuing qualitative data collection (interviews and observations) in London and Greater Manchester:

- In **London** we have carried out 65 interviews with NHS and non-NHS employees and have conducted observations of meetings related to the planning, oversight and provision of cancer services such as Commissioning meetings, Pathway-specific meetings and Specialist Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings.
- In **Greater Manchester** we have carried out 18 interviews with stakeholders involved in planning and supporting the centralisations and 36 observations of meetings such as the Greater Manchester Cancer Board, Pathway Board meetings, and Implementation Board meetings.

We have started to analyse some of the interviews carried out in London in order to identify any lessons that can be learned about what is involved in successfully implementing large-scale changes in health services.

Our Research Strategy Group (RSG) met for the sixth time in March. This is always an interesting meeting as the RSG brings together co-investigators, researchers, patient representatives and clinicians – so the discussion can be wide-ranging! We are currently in the process of recruiting further patient representatives from Greater Manchester and London to join the RSG.

<p>SURVEY ON HOW CANCER SERVICES SHOULD BE ORGANISED</p>	 <p>We are pleased to report that we have been writing up the findings from our survey of cancer patients, healthcare professionals, and members of the public on how cancer services should be organised, and we are hoping that these will be published later on this year. We look forward to sharing these findings with you!</p>
<p>ENGAGING WITH PATIENT AND FAMILY GROUPS</p> <p>WE NEED YOUR HELP!</p>	<p>We want our research to reach the right people, including patients, their families, and anybody affected by oesophago-gastric and urological cancers. We would like to build our stakeholder database including groups in London and Manchester, as well as relevant national organisations, so that we can share findings from our research with people who may be interested. Importantly, we would like to get people's views on our research and our findings. The stakeholder database will soon be on our website, so please let us know of any other groups who might like to be involved in this way by emailing catherine.perry@manchester.ac.uk – the more the merrier!</p> 
<p>SHARING OUR FINDINGS</p>	 <p>We are going to be sharing our findings at a number of conferences over the next few months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Health Economists' Study Group are meeting in Aberdeen in June. We will be giving an oral presentation about the survey on how cancer services should be organised. • In July the Health Services Research UK symposium is in Nottingham. We will be giving an oral presentation about the survey work, and displaying a poster on what can be learned about implementing change. <p>We will let you know how these events went in our next newsletter!</p>
<p>MEET THE TEAM</p>	<p>This month we meet the cost effectiveness team</p> <p>They are answering the question: what are the cost and cost-effectiveness of the changes? To do this, they will use information on costs associated with the process of planning and implementing changes, as well as looking at differences in patient treatment costs before and after the reorganisation. Ultimately they will try to describe how much it will cost to centralise specialist cancer surgery services and how much it will cost to improve different outcomes.</p> 

MEET THE TEAM		<p><u>Caroline Clarke</u></p> <p>I am a Research Associate in Health Economics and have been at UCL for almost 3 years. I work in UCL's Priment Clinical Trials Unit on various studies in primary care and mental health, and with other colleagues from UCL and elsewhere on projects including the economic evaluation of cancer therapies and the MACRO study, looking at surgery for chronic rhinosinusitis. I have a PhD in Chemistry and lived in Spain for 5 years, doing postdoctoral chemistry research and translation (Spanish and Catalan to English). I came back to London in 2010 to a job in a health care consultancy and I did a part-time MSc in Economic Evaluation in Health Care, which led me back to academia as a health economist.</p>
	<p>What is your favourite part of this project?</p>	<p>Working with the rest of the project team and being involved in the different strands of the project as they generate the inputs to our cost-effectiveness analysis. The different parts of the study are knitted closely together, and each will both yield their own standalone results and weave into the overall aim of the study, and I find this fusion very pleasing.</p>
	<p>What do you think will be most challenging about this study?</p>	<p>Working out the planning and implementation costs from the bottom up. Trying to add up how much time has been spent by whom will be challenging, and it is important to document carefully how we do it.</p>
	<p>What advice would you give to someone wanting to start a career in Applied Health Research?</p>	<p>Get in touch with people already working in this field (i.e. us!) and have a chat. Go to public engagement or similar events if you can, to talk to more people and try and get an idea of the types of roles there are and how you might feel about them, and what sort of skills and experience are needed. There is a lot of work to be done, so people will be happy to help you get started!</p>
	<p>What are your interests and hobbies when you aren't busy conducting research?</p>	<p>I sing in a couple of choirs and go walking (and eating and drinking) with a group of friends. My smaller nephew (nearly 4) is currently fascinated by canal locks, so we are spending a lot of time discussing why boats go up and down, especially at locks with nice cafes next to them!</p>

MEET THE TEAM		<p><u>Rachael Hunter</u></p> <p>I've been working at UCL as a health economist for almost 7 years. In that time I've been involved with a wide array of projects and clinical trials, most notably looking at the cost-effectiveness of the stroke reconfigurations in London and Manchester. Prior to working at UCL I trained in health services management and spent time working with the NHS and Department of Health on service improvement in mental health and prisons.</p>
	<p>What is your favourite part of this project?</p>	<p>The work the team are doing working with patients to find out what matters to them in regards to service delivery.</p>
	<p>What do you think will be most challenging about this study?</p>	<p>Getting the data we need to provide a clear and reliable answer to the question of if the clinical benefits from the reorganisation are worth any additional cost.</p>
	<p>What advice would you give to someone wanting to start a career in Applied Health Research?</p>	<p>Do it (and maybe consider training as a health economist – we always need more health economists). Applied Health Research in general is a rewarding area to work in. There are always lots of new things going on and the NHS is keen to work with people who are able to help them evaluate the innovative things they are doing.</p>
	<p>What are your interests and hobbies when you aren't busy conducting research?</p>	<p>I have a 5 year old Alaskan Malamute (think Husky but twice the size) named Kai who I love taking for walks in the country side.</p>
PROJECT SUMMARY	<p>The RESPECT-21 research team are studying changes in specialist cancer surgery services across North Central and North East London and West Essex (population 3.2million) and across Greater Manchester (population 3.1million). Both areas are working to reduce the number of hospitals providing specialist surgery for a range of cancers. We are focusing on changes to bladder and prostate, kidney and oesophago-gastric (OG) pathways.</p> <p>We are using a range of research methods to study changes in the way specialist cancer surgery services are organised and provided in London and Greater Manchester. We will assess key processes in London and Manchester service centralisation. We will also look at the impact on care processes and outcomes, and the cost and cost-effectiveness of the changes. The impact on staff and patients will be explored, and we will study people's preferences in relation to centralisation. Finally, we will consider what lessons can be learned for future centralisations.</p>	
FUNDING	<p>This project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Services and Delivery Research Programme (project number 14/46/19).</p>	
DISCLAIMER	<p>The views and opinions expressed therein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Health Services and Delivery Research Programme, NIHR, NHS or the Department of Health.</p>	

**FURTHER
INFORMATION**

If you'd like to know more about RESPECT-21, or have ideas about what you'd like to see in this newsletter, please contact

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Please visit the RESPECT-21 project website for the latest news and links:



https://www.ucl.ac.uk/dahr/research-pages/RESPECT_21



We are now on twitter! Please follow us on @Respect21Cancer

Find out more about the service centralisations we are studying here:



<http://www.londoncancer.org/>



<http://www.qmcancer.org.uk/>

NEXT NEWSLETTER: August 2017

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who you think would be interested in our work.

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