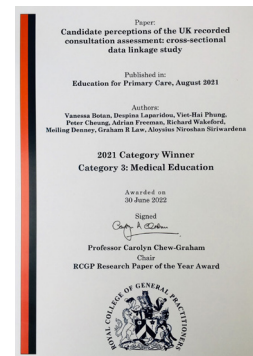


Newsletter Summer 2022

CaHRU and MRCGP collaboration wins RCGP Research Paper of the Year category prize for Medical Education

A research study led by a team from CaHRU, '[Candidate perceptions of the UK Recorded Consultation Assessment: cross-sectional data linkage study](#)', published in the journal, Education for Primary Care, won the category prize for Medical Education in the Royal College of General Practitioners Research Paper of the Year 2021 Award. The judging panel selected the paper to recognise a group of researchers who have undertaken and published an exceptional piece of research relating to general practice or primary care.



The study and the award were announced and presented to lead author, Dr Vanessa Botan, postdoctoral research associate in medical statistics at CaHRU, at the joint RCGP/WONCA Europe Conference, 28 June at ExCel, London in the "Winner's Enclosure" where Vanessa also presented the study findings. The study found the Recorded Consultation Assessment to be a broadly acceptable and feasible alternative to the Clinical Skills Assessment amongst candidates during COVID-19 but also identified areas for improvement, such as extending the consultation time and providing information and support to doctors undertaking the assessment. These recommendations along with others identified by the team have since been implemented.

The study team, led by Professor Niro Siriwardena, involved collaboration with examination experts and academics including Despina Laparidou, Viet-Hai Phung, and Professor Graham Law from CaHRU, Richard Wakeford from the University of Cambridge, Professor Adrian Freeman from the University of Exeter, and Dr Meiling Denney and Peter Cheung from MRCGP examinations. This is the second time that CaHRU has won this award [having previously won in 2019](#) for a study, 'Exploring reasons for differences in performance between UK and international medical graduates in the MRCGP Applied Knowledge Test: a cognitive interview study', published in BMJ Open. The study is part of a wider programme of research, investigating the [reliability, fairness and validity of the MRCGP exam](#), involving members of the team including Dr Vanessa Botan, Dr Julie Pattinson, Despina Laparidou, Viet-Hai Phung, Profs Graham Law and Niro Siriwardena working with the MRCGP exams and the GP National Recruitment Office funded by the RCGP and Health Education England.

Priya Sharma joins CaHRU as Clinical Trials Coordinator in the Lincoln Clinical Trials Unit



Priya Sharma joined CaHRU in June 2022 as a Clinical Trials Coordinator in the Lincoln Clinical Trials Unit. She will be involved in all aspects of clinical trials and related activities supporting research within the primary, prehospital and acute care quality themes by planning, coordinating, and completing designated projects.

Prior to joining CaHRU, Priya worked as Clinical Trials Coordinator in the global healthcare organization Merck Group and Clinical Research Organization (CRO) for Integrated Drug Development including Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD) by Thermo Fisher Scientific and IQVIA. She has Coordinated and completed functions on assigned clinical trials activities such as File Reviews, running eTAL, System access management for Organization/ Vendor/ Client in appropriate systems and has also provided System support for various systems including the CTMS (Clinical Trial Management System), Veeva Vault eTMF, Spotfire Visualization, SharePoint, OBI (Oracle Business Intelligence), Globalto Activate, Preclarus

and Endpoint. She has assisted the Clinical Research Associate, Regulatory and Start up (RSU) team with accurately updating and maintaining clinical systems by tracking site compliance and performance within project timelines. Priya holds a degree in Pharmacy. She also holds various certification courses from the World Health Organization (WHO) and Uppsala Monitoring Centre, for example in Good Clinical Practice, Vaccine Safety Basis, Collecting and Reporting Adverse Events in Clinical Research, Signal detection and causality assessment.

Dr Zahid Asghar of CaHRU promoted to Associate Professor

Colleagues were delighted to hear that Dr Zahid Asghar, who joined CaHRU in 2011 was promoted to associate professor in the latest round of internal promotions at the University of Lincoln.

Dr Asghar leads the Prehospital and Emergency Quality and Outcomes (PEQO) group within Community and Health Research Unit (CaHRU) as well as the Disease Modelling and Health Metrics group at the Lincoln International Institute of Rural Health (LIIRH). As director of postgraduate research (PGR) studies he leads the following programmes: MA (by research), MSc (by research), MPhil/PhD Health and Social Care, PhD by practice portfolio, and PhD by publications.



He provides feedback to the College Research Degree Board (CRDB) and as well as being on the Ethics, Athena Swan, and Inclusion Group committees, he chairs the Statistics Group. He is also a member of the National Institute of Health Research pre-doctoral selection committee. He is currently working on various research projects including: randomisation in the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT), use of MonitorMe in COPD, Community First Responders in the current and future rural workforce, modelling Covid-19 in Lincolnshire in collaboration with Lincolnshire Council and a self-harm evaluation in Lincolnshire in collaboration with Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust.

He is currently working on establishing a University of Lincoln Data Centre, big data projects in healthcare settings using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, including modelling local infectious disease outbreaks in Lincolnshire, transgender mental health, violence against women by collating relevant timely data for stakeholders through a regional and national charity, and modelling HIV in sub-Saharan Africa.

CaHRU team give five oral presentations at 50th Society for Academic Primary Care conference



Members of staff from CaHRU attended the 50th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Academic Primary Care, 'Recovery and Innovation', at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in Preston which took place between 4 to 6 July 2022. The conference began with the 8th Helen Lester Memorial Lecture, 'Breaking the cycle of inequalities: Doing things differently in research and in primary care for people with a learning disability' given by Dr Amy Russell, describing her ground-breaking research involving and studying people with learning disabilities. The first plenary on day two began with poetry reading by Sara McKelvie followed by a lecture on Diabetes, Covid and Recovery.

Dr Vanessa Botan presented on 'Optimising the transition from selection to licensing in general practice' describing her work funded by Health Education

England on the relationship between selection scores and performance at licensing.

She followed this with a related study exploring how, 'Specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) differently affect performance on written compared to clinical general practice licensing tests: cohort study'.

On the final day, there were three further presentations. Two were from the NIHR funded study, the first given by Vanessa on, 'What is the contribution of Community First Responders to rural Emergency Medical Service provision in the UK?'

The second given by Viet-Hai Phung was on 'How do Community First Responders contribute to rapid emergency response and recovery?'

The final presentation was given by Dr Joseph Akanuwe on the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration East Midlands funded study, 'Exploring the views of Point of Care Ultrasound practitioners for widespread implementation in community settings in the UK'.

All the CaHRU presentations were well received and generated much interest and questions. There were opportunities for networking and an excellent social programme including a guided walk of the beautiful Winckley Square and Avenham and Miller Parks in Preston and a conference dinner with entertainment from 'Dame Birley Shassey' (Dr Duncan Shrewsbury) followed by a jazz band.

Improvement Science and Research Methods seminar on “The use of simulation-based methodology in experimental studies” given by Kacper Sumera



The Community and Health Research Unit Improvement Science and Research Methods seminar held on 14th July was delivered by Kacper Sumera. Kacper is the Deputy Head of Education at East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust. He is an experienced paramedic, educator, senior manager at East Midlands Ambulance Service and chair at the European Pre-hospital Research Network.

Kacper gave a talk on the use of simulation-based research methodology in experimental studies using as an example a recently conducted trial into the effectiveness of an intervention aiming to improve out-of-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation performance in collaboration with CaHRU.

If you would like to attend future seminars, please email Sue Bowler to be included in emails and to be sent the link to join. sbowler@lincoln.ac.uk

PhD journey: Dr Viet-Hai Phung

Almost seven years, over 62,000 words, 313 pages, 10 chapters, 546 references, two publications, a transfer viva, and a full viva later, my PhD journey has ended.

The thesis comprised three different elements: the systematic scoping review; paramedic interview study and the patient interview study. There was also a shadowing exercise with paramedics.

In the systematic scoping review, the initial search produced almost 6,000 publications. A two-stage filtering process reduced this to 13. The main themes were: access and use of healthcare services; expectations and understanding of the healthcare system; medical travel; language barriers and communication problems; and social networks. The systematic scoping review was published in BMC Health Services Research in March 2020.

The thesis explored these themes further in interviews with 15 ambulance staff and 12 Eastern European patients. All staff interviews were conducted face-to-face and one-to-one. By contrast, some patient interviews were conducted face-to-face, some involved an interpreter, and others involved couples. Because of COVID-19, the final three patient interviews were undertaken by telephone, with one involving an interpreter.

Staff and patients generally challenged the negative media stereotyping of Eastern Europeans. They also agreed that the ambulance service and Eastern European patients needed a closer relationship to ensure that resources were being used effectively. While staff encountered more foreign medication due to medical travel, which complicated how they delivered prehospital care, patients used it to overcome perceived problems with the NHS, including long waiting times, perceived low staff competency, etc. The staff and patient interview studies were published in the Journal of Migration and Health in September 2022.

I am grateful to the support from my supervisors, Niro Siriwardena and Zahid Asghar from the Community and Health Research Unit (CaHRU), as well as Sundari Anitha from the School of Social and Political Sciences.



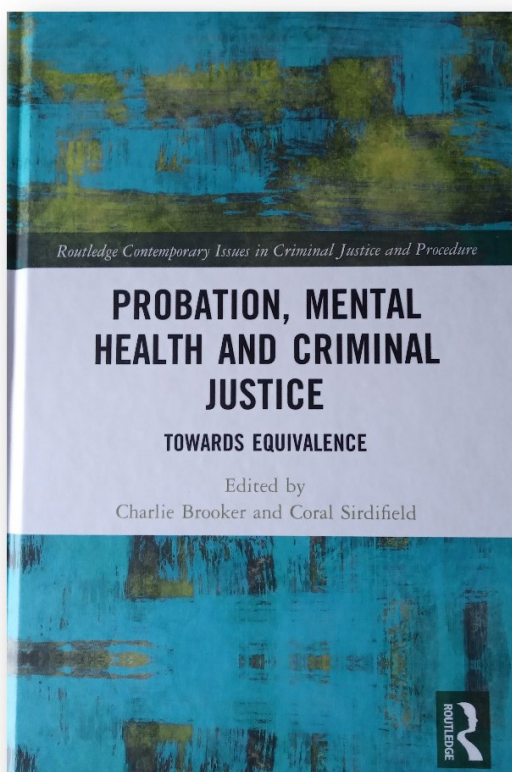
Probation, Mental Health and Criminal Justice. Towards Equivalence edited by Prof Charlie Brooker and Dr Coral Sirdifield



August 2022 saw the publication of a new textbook from Routledge 'Probation, Mental Health and Criminal Justice. Towards Equivalence, edited and co-authored by Professor Charlie Brooker and Dr Coral Sirdifield together with professionals working in the criminal justice and mental health field, and people with lived experience of the criminal justice system. The book was launched at an online event hosted by Revolving Doors Agency which attracted a large and diverse audience.

This book has been written for students, professionals, and academics with an interest in learning about probation and mental health. It covers what we know about the evidence for effective mental health interventions for people on probation, the prevalence of mental health problems amongst people on probation, recent thematic reviews around individuals with mental health needs and disorders in the Criminal Justice System and substance misuse services and probation, psychological treatment, probation and Covid-19 and methodological issues – both in terms of conducting research in probation settings, and the role of lived experience for enhancing the work of probation in this area.

As such, the book should be relevant for those working (or training to work) in the criminal justice system, and also those with or aspiring to roles in partner agencies such as public health and mental health trusts. It will also be a useful resource for individuals wishing to conduct research or evaluations around probation and mental health.



Funding

Redsell S, Spiby H, Matvienko-Sikar K, Siriwardena AN, Wharrad H, Howitt C, Co-production of a Caregivers intervention around Responsive Infant feeding Behaviours to prevent childhood obesity (CRIB). NIHR Research for Patient Benefit, £149,400.

Nelson D, Moore H, Laparidou D, Siriwardena AN, Gussy M, Wanninayake IK, Ortega M, Jha M, McCranor T, Spaight R. A systematic review on interventional studies for people presenting with mental health symptoms to ambulance services in rural and urban settings. National Institute for Health Research Applied Research Collaboration East Midlands, £32,212.

Publications

Botan V, Asghar Z, Rowan E, Smith M, Patel G, Phung V, Trueman I, Spaight R, Brewster A, Mountain P, Orner R, Siriwardena AN (2022). Community First Responders' contribution to Emergency Medical Service provision in the UK. *Annals of Emergency Medicine* (online first).

Phung VH, Asghar Z, Sundari A, Siriwardena AN (2022). The prehospital care experiences and perceptions of ambulance staff and Eastern European patients: an interview study in Lincolnshire, UK. *Journal of Migration and Health* 2022 (online first).

Dixon M, Appleton JP, Scutt P, Woodhouse LJ, Haywood LJ, Havard D, Williams J, Siriwardena AN, Bath PM on behalf of the RIGHT-2 Investigators. Time intervals and distances travelled for pre-hospital ambulance stroke care: data from the randomised-controlled ambulance-based Rapid Intervention with Glyceryl trinitrate in Hypertensive stroke Trial-2 (RIGHT-2). *BMJ Open* (in press).

Appleton JP, Woodhouse LJ, Dixon M, England TJ, Hepburn T, Krishnan K, Mair G, Montgomery AA, Siriwardena AN, Wardlaw J, Sprigg N, Bat PM on behalf of the RIGHT-2 Investigators (2022). Pre-hospital transdermal glyceryl trinitrate for ultra-acute ischaemic stroke: data from the RIGHT-2 randomised sham-controlled ambulance trial. *Stroke & Vascular Neurology* (in press).

Moore H, Siriwardena AN, Gussy M, Spaight R (2022). Mental health emergencies attended by ambulances in the United Kingdom, and the implications for health service delivery: a cross-sectional study. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy* (online first).

Evans BA, Carson-Stevens A, Cooper A, Davies F, Edwards M, Harrington B, Hughes T, Price D, Siriwardena AN, Snooks H, Edwards A (2022). Implementing public involvement throughout the research process—Experience and learning from the GPs in EDs study. *Health Expectations* (online first).

McFadzean IJ, Edwards M, Davies F, Cooper A, Price, D, Harrington B, Carson-Stevens A, Dale J, Porter A, Evans B, Siriwardena AN, Hughes T, Anderson P, Edwards A. Realist analysis of whether Emergency Departments with primary care services generate 'provider-induced demand'. *BMC Emergency Medicine* 2022; 22: 155.

Kingston M, Jones J, Black S, Evans B, Ford S, Foster T, Goodacre S, Jones ML, Jones S, Keen L, Longo M, Lyons RA, Pallister I, Rees N, Siriwardena AN, Watkins A, Williams J, Wilson H, Snooks H. Clinical and cost-effectiveness of paramedic administered fascia iliaca compartment block for emergency hip fracture (RAPID 2)—protocol for an individually randomised parallel-group trial. *Trials* 2022; 23: 677.

Brooker C, Sirdifield C (2022). *Probation, mental health and criminal justice. Towards Equivalence*. Routledge, London.