



**NHS Lothian Nursing, Midwifery, Allied
Health Professionals and Pharmacy
Research
Annual Review
2023-2024**

May 2024

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Lothian NMAHPPS Research Strategy 2022-2025	1
3. NHS Lothian NMAHPPS Collaborative Research Conference 2023	1
4. Investment in research capacity building	2
4.1 Lothian Clinical Academic Pathways Partnership – Research Futures Fund	2
4.2 Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards	3
4.3 CSO Research Development Fellowship Awards	5
4.4 Doctoral Activity.....	6
4.4.1 New doctoral students.....	6
4.4.2 Doctoral Completions	6
4.5 National Research Scotland Fellowships.....	7
5. Engagement in externally funded research	7
6. Clinical Academic Research Implementation Network (CARIN)	9
6.1 CARIN Survey.....	9
6.1.1 Research Funding.....	9
6.1.2 Conference Presentations.....	9
6.1.3 Publications.....	10
6.2 CARIN Devolved Nations Sub-Group.....	10
7. Clinical and Academic Homes Framework.....	10
7.1 Progress to date	10
8. Contributions to wider Clinical Academic Developments	12
8.1 CSO Researcher Development Fellowships	12
8.2 Challenges in Clinical Academic Medicine in Scotland	12
9. NHS Lothian AHP Innovation, Research, and Improvement Strategy 2022-2027	13
10. NHS Lothian Pharmacy & Medicines Service	13

1. Introduction

This review outlines the key research activities and achievements of the Nursing, Midwifery, Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy (NMAHPP) professions during 2023-2024. NHS Lothian is recognised as being the leading health board in Scotland for NMAHPP research, especially in the area of capacity building. This position has been significantly influenced through the investment in a leadership infrastructure that includes the following dedicated posts for Nursing and Midwifery, Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy.



Andy Peters, AHP Research Facilitator



*Prof. Juliet MacArthur, Chief Nurse
Research & Development*



*Elaine Rankine, Head of Pharmacy
Education, Research & Development*

NHS Lothian benefits greatly from its strategic research partnerships with the six universities across Scotland:

- Edinburgh Napier University
- Queen Margaret University
- Robert Gordon University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde

2. Lothian NMAHPPS Research Strategy 2022-2025

Over the past year Nursing, Midwifery, Allied Health, Pharmacy, Psychology and Healthcare Science (NMAHPPS) leaders have continued to work in partnership with colleagues in the university sector to implement Lothian's [NMAHPPS Research Strategy](#). A high-level group including the Directors of these services and the Deans and Heads of Schools of the academic partners meets quarterly to shape the implementation of this strategy and progress a concrete action plan.

3. NHS Lothian NMAHPPS Collaborative Research Conference 2023



A one-day collaborative NMAHPPS conference focusing on research with impacts for healthcare emanating from clinical academic collaborations took place on 7th November 2023 at the John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh. The conference involved 63 concurrent sessions and 60 poster presentations and was attended by 250 delegates from the partner organisations. Evaluation was extremely positive, with 94% of delegates rating the event very good or excellent and there has been considerable ongoing positive feedback since. Feedback included:

The opportunity to get insights to the work being done by other professions and to make contacts and identify common areas of work and collaboration for the future. Interdisciplinarity is the way forward!

It is one of the best meetings I have attended on this scale. Felt world-class.

Realising how much research work is going on in NHS Lothian, how important sharing this work on 'local level' is important. Took with me lots of nuggets re research methodology and research design.

Understanding how we can incorporate research into our daily clinical work in the NHS has always been a challenge. This conference highlighted very well how ideas can develop into projects which will improve our clinical practice.

4. Investment in research capacity building

The ongoing investment in research capacity building since 2010 has been around £1.9 million from NHS Lothian and its academic partners, and has seen steady growth, particularly in the number of doctoral students undertaking research training. Despite this progression, the funding and support for doctoral training remains challenging for those NMAHPPs aspiring to pursue a career in research, with 86% of NHS Lothian NMAHPP doctoral students in 2023 undertaking their studies part-time alongside their NHS roles and with only 8% being recipients of salaried studentship awards.

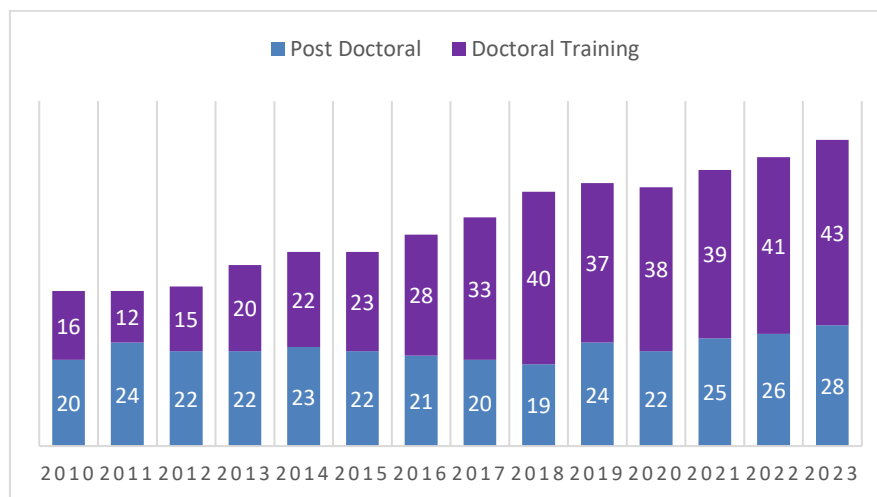


Figure 1: NHS Lothian NMAHPP Research Capacity Building 2010- 2023

4.1 Lothian Clinical Academic Pathways Partnership – Research Futures Fund

For a number of years funded opportunities have been available to NMAHPP staff in NHS Lothian through a small amount of recurring funding (circa £10k per annum) from Corporate Nursing. Two awards were made from the Research Futures Fund in the last year.

4.1.1 University of Stirling - Clinical Doctorate Programme

In autumn 2023 Caroline Kenny, Lead Nurse Prison Healthcare commenced the Clinical Doctorate programme at the University of Stirling and her research will focus on nurses' role in chronic disease management in the prison population.

4.1.2 Edinburgh Napier University – Masters in Research

In February 2024 Lee Burgum, Lead Cardiac Physiologist commenced a Masters in Research programme at Edinburgh Napier University. Lee was a recipient of a First Steps into Research Gateway Award in January 2023 and will undertake a study to develop patient reported experience measures (PREMs) for patients undergoing cardiovascular imaging.

4.2 Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards

The Lothian Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards scheme was established in 2023 following the award of £250,000 over a five year period from the NHS Lothian Charity: [Lothian Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards – Health and Care Professions Research \(nhslothian.scot\)](https://www.nhs.uk/clinical-academic-research-gateway-awards-health-and-care-professions-research/)



These awards, which are unique in Scotland, can be taken forward in a range of universities and provide (where applicable) salary backfill for agreed study leave, tuition fees, and/or course/conference fees. The five levels of award are:

- **First Steps into Research** – an internship placement within an active research group plus £500 funding for personal research development
- **Research Master’s Degree** – salaried funding plus tuition fees for part-time research Master’s degree study
- **Pre-doctoral Bridging** – allowing salaried preparation time with mentorship to construct a competitive application for an externally-funded doctoral opportunity
- **Post-doctoral Bridging** – allowing salaried time with mentorship for further development of doctoral research outputs, network-building, and applications for externally-funded post-doctoral fellowship awards
- **Advanced Methodologies** – fees expenses to attend an advanced methodological training course in an area congruent with current doctoral students’ research study.

4.2.1 Cohort 1

A total of 14 awards were made, with recipients commencing in January 2023. These included 11 First Steps into Research awards, one Pre-doctoral Bridging award, one Post-doctoral bridging award and one Advanced Methodologies. All recipients have completed their awards, with very positive feedback on experience and outcomes. A few examples of the First Steps into Research recipients are presented here:



Chelsea Oliphant, Paediatric Nurse

Chelsea had a combined experience with Child Health researchers at Edinburgh Napier University and at the Paediatric Clinical Research Facility (CRF) at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People. She has gone on to a new career pathway as a Paediatric Clinical Research Nurse in the Paediatric CRF and aims to do a PhD in the future.



Lee Burgum, Cardiac Physiologist

Lee became involved in screening and recruitment for the Re-CETT-AF study at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He presented his experience of the Gateway Award at the Scot Govt. Healthcare Science Awards. Despite not having a first degree, this experience enabled Lee to be accepted on to a Masters in Research at Edinburgh Napier University, funded by NHS Lothian Research Futures and commenced in February 2024.



Rebecca Rowson, Paediatric Physiotherapist

Rebecca worked on the BEAMS Kidney Kids study at Queen Margaret University and was involved in the development of online platform materials that would form part of the study intervention. She developed a strong interest in patient and public involvement and has worked with QMU to secure funding from The National Lottery establish a Young Person’s Advisory Group for South-east Scotland. This work has been highlighted by the Colin Beattie, Midlothian and Musselburgh North MSP at the Scottish Parliament.



Victoria Johnstone-Cooke, Community Speech and Language Therapist

Victoria became part of the National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT) at Queen Margaret University and took part in interviews, coding, analysis, writing publications and presentations. She was successful in securing a PhD studentship at QMU and commenced in September 2023 with a focus on developmental language disorder in late talking toddlers.

4.2.2 Cohort 2

Cohort 2 of the awards were launched in March 2023 and 20 applications were received with 11 successful applicants commencing in September 2023. The profile of the awards were five First Steps into Research, one Masters in Research, one Pre-doctoral, two Post-doctoral and two Advanced methodologies.



Cohort 2 Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards September 2023

Initial outcomes from cohort 2 include:

Chloe Farmer, Health Inclusion Specialist Nurse Practitioner, Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership who was awarded a Pre-doctoral Gateway Award has been successful in her application for a CSO Clinical Academic Fellowship. She will commence her PhD at University of Stirling in September 2024 on a study 'Exploring the needs of women with co-occurring homelessness and problem substance use, and their experiences of 'inclusion health services' in meeting these needs' with Professor Tessa Parkes and Dr Hannah Carver. As part of this Fellowship Chloe will retain 20% of her clinical contract with NHS Lothian.



Chloe Farmer



Dr Kath Williamson

Dr Kath Williamson, District Nurse and Manual Handling Advisor who was awarded a Post-doctoral Gateway Award has been selected as one of three people up for best thesis at the European Congress on Obesity in Venice in May 2024 for her study exploring the prevalence, service utilisation and patient experience of severe obesity. She co-ordinated an innovative webinar on the wider care needs of people living with obesity for the European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) Centre of Obesity Management network, involving researchers from Ireland, New Zealand and Canada, which took place in March 2024.

4.2.3 Cohort 3

Applications for Cohort 3 closed on 25th March 2024 with 17 applications submitted, although 3 were withdrawn as they had been awarded CSO Research Development Fellowships. Twelve people were shortlisted and 9 awards were made. The launch event will take place on 12th June 2024.

- First Steps into Research – 7
- Masters in Research – 1
- Post-doctoral Gateway - 1

4.2.4 Collaborative Approach

The Gateway Awards represent an important example of the benefit of the strategic partnerships that have been developed through the NMAHPPS Research Strategy. In particular the very positive response to requests to offer [First Steps into Research](#) opportunities for potential candidates. For the latest round 36 placements were advertised.

4.3 CSO Research Development Fellowship Awards

The first round of CSO Researcher Development Awards were made in April 2024. Nationally there were 24 applications. Four NHS Lothian employees were successful. Although funded through a different route they will be invited to become members of Cohort 3 of the Gateway Awards and be offered the same support and networking and will be included in reviews and evaluation.

- Kerry Jack, Senior Charge Nurse, Paediatric Critical Care – First Steps Award in Paediatric Critical Care with Dr Milly Lo, Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
- Nadine Hare, Joint Clinical Lead Speech & Language Therapist - Head & Neck/ENT/Oncology – First Steps Award in Patient Experience following Laryngectomy with Dr Annie Hurren at Leeds Beckett University
- Fiona McKeown, Highly Specialist Neonatal Physiotherapist – Pre-Doctoral Award
- Mary-Anne Robertson, Integrated Care Pharmacist – Pre-Doctoral Award

4.4 Doctoral Activity

There are currently 44 NMAHP and pharmacy doctoral students working in NHS Lothian across a range of professions (Figure 2). They are supported in terms of peer networking through the Lothian NMAHPPS Researcher Network, which meets four times a year and also through two new support mechanisms that include bi-monthly informal online networking meetings and separate bi-monthly online writing group.

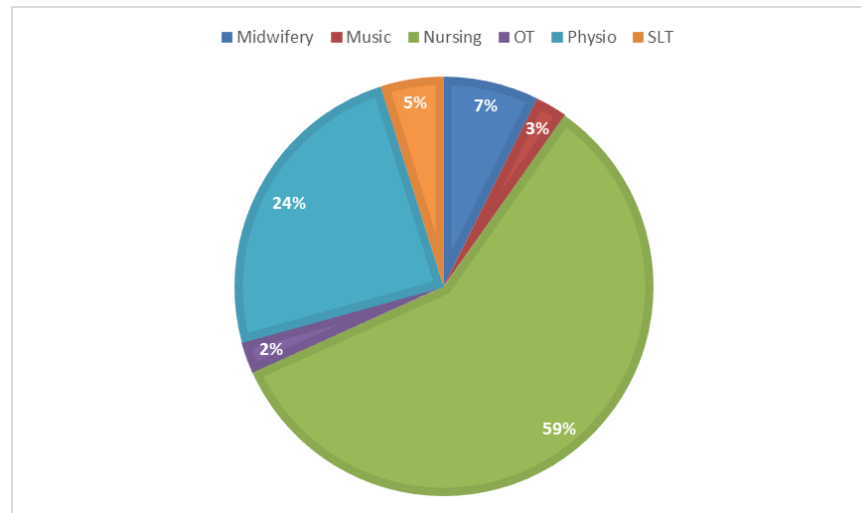


Figure 2: Professional Profile of NHS Lothian NMAHP Doctoral Students

4.4.1 New doctoral students

There were six new NMAHP doctoral students in 2023:

- Claire Yerramasu, Advanced Physiotherapy Practitioner, Community Respiratory - CSO Innovation Fellowship, University of Edinburgh
- Polly Black, Senior Research Nurse, EMERGE - Multi-Morbidity Research Programme, St Andrew's University
- Tahira Ali, Clinical Education Facilitator - Advanced Care Research Centre, University of Edinburgh
- Caroline Kenny, Lead Nurse Prisons - Research Futures Clinical Doctorate, University of Stirling
- Isaac Chau, Research Nurse Anne Rowling Clinic (UoE) - Anne Rowling Scholarship, University of Edinburgh
- Victoria Johnstone-Cook, Speech & Language Therapist – Queen Margaret University PhD Studentship

4.4.2 Doctoral Completions

There were three NMAHP doctoral completions in 2023:



Dr Daisy Sandeman, Clinical Nurse Manager Advanced Practice (PhD, University of Edinburgh) - Incidence, peri-operative risk factors and patient experiences of post-operative delirium and associated post-traumatic stress syndrome following cardiac surgery.

Dr Daisy Sandeman

Dr Kath Williamson, Manual Handling Advisor/District Nurse/NRS Fellow (PhD, University of Glasgow) – EXPRESSO: EXploring the PREvalence, Service utilisation and patient experience of Severe Obesity.



Dr Kath Williamson



Dr Kate Toft, Speech and Language Therapist (Clinical Doctorate, University of Stirling) - Analysing and enhancing the MD Anderson Dysphagia Inventory: a mixed methods analysis of the head and neck cancer swallowing-related quality of life patient reported outcome tool.

Dr Kate Toft

4.5 National Research Scotland Fellowships



Dr Gearóid Brennan

Two NHS Lothian employees were the successful recipients of the most recent round of NRS Fellowships for NMAHPPS. These are Dr Gearóid Brennan, Lead Psychiatric Liaison Nurse, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Martin McHugh, Principal Clinical Scientist, Microbiology, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.



Martin McHugh

Gearoid's fellowship will focus on 'Establishing an evidence-base for psychological trauma-informed healthcare in the emergency department'. This research programme aims to employ a multi-methods approach to examine how healthcare professionals in Scottish emergency departments (ED) comprehend and implement trauma-informed care, as well as its impact on patient care. The goal is to develop ED-specific interventions informed by study findings, which will be implemented and evaluated across departments in Scotland.

Martin's fellowship is 'Expanding laboratory methods to detect and counter antimicrobial resistance (AMR)'. This research programme aims to test a method for rapid detection of sexually transmitted infections and treatment options from clinical samples, investigate the impact of prescribing policies on AMR trends, and use targeted surveillance to detect carriage of linezolid resistance mechanisms.

5. Engagement in externally funded research

In addition to research activity led by NHS Lothian researchers, we welcome opportunities to participate in externally funded and led research studies. The NMAHP and Pharmacy research leads often act as the initial gatekeeper for prospective studies and facilitate the involvement of appropriate clinical teams and clinician to become local Principal Investigators. Examples in the last year have included:

Researcher	Organisation	Title	Local PI/NHS Lothian Involvement
Anna Bovo, PhD Student	University of Edinburgh	'Exploring nurse's experience of emotion whilst working in acute care contexts'	Nurses in critical care and emergency department were funded by Gillian McAuley, Nurse Director Acute to participate in a series of workshops delivered by Anna as the study intervention
Professor Lawrence Taggart	Ulster University	'My Diabetes and Me' to examine 'The clinical and cost- effectiveness of the DESMOND-ID education programme for adults with learning disability and Type 2 Diabetes' – multi-centre RCT	Scott Taylor, Consultant Nurse Learning Disabilities is the Local Principal Investigator for this study, which also involved the clinical research nursing team in the Edinburgh Clinical Research Facility and several community learning disability teams.
Professor Tanya McCance	Ulster University	'Implementation of a mobile app (iPAKT2) for improving person- centred practice: A multi-methods study'	5 nursing teams in Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership will test a mobile app to measure Person-Centred Nursing Key Performance Indicators. Professor Juliet MacArthur, Chief Nurse Research & Development is the local Principal Investigator on this study and Jess Gilmour, Lead Specialist Practitioner District Nurse and Kate Tomlinson, Community Advanced Nurse Practitioner are the project leads.
Dr Leah Macaden, Senior Lecturer in Nursing	University of Edinburgh	Dementia Workforce Capacity Building for Dementia Care Excellence in NHS Lothian: A mixed methods study	This study has been funded by NHS Lothian/University of Edinburgh Dementia Clinical Academic Research Careers fund and is testing an educational intervention with a number of acute care teams across NHS Lothian. Siobhann Blair, Interim Deputy Chief Nurse Royal Edinburgh and Associated Services (REAS) is the local Principal Investigator
Dr Simon Hackett, Senior Clinical Lecturer in Mental Health / Consultant Arts Psychotherapi st	Cumbria, Northumberl and, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust and Cardiff University Ce ntrre for Trials Research.	Secure Care Hospital Evaluation of Manualised (interpersonal) Art- psychotherapy: A Randomised Controlled Trial (SCHEMA)	This is an NIHR funded, multi-centre trial of Art Psychotherapy for people with a learning disability and aggression problems who are currently resident in a secure setting. Dr Andy Stanfield, Senior Clinical Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, is the local Principal Investigator. Simon Marshall, Deputy Head of Arts Psychotherapies in NHS Lothian, is applying to become Associate PI on the trial through the NIHR scheme. Arts Psychotherapies colleagues Kate Pestell, Gail LeMasurier and Megan Hatcher are also local investigators, the latter two providing the treatment for the trial locally.

6. Clinical Academic Research Implementation Network (CARIN)

NHS Lothian is an active member of the UK-wide CARIN network, which was established to advise, support and share innovation and best practice of activity that promotes, engages and evaluates the development and implementation of joint clinical academic roles for healthcare professionals (excluding doctors and dentists).

6.1 CARIN Survey

CARIN undertake a bi-annual survey across the UK, which aims to gather consistent metrics on clinical academic activity in healthcare professions across UK NHS CARIN member organisations. The survey facilitates mapping of the research environment, understanding of the clinical academic workforce, and recording of research outputs and impact within and across NHS organisations.

In the NHS Lothian return for the calendar year 2023 the following metrics were included:

6.1.1 Research Funding

- Internships, studentships or fellowships - £88,134 (NMAHP & Pharmacy)
- Grant funding as a Chief Investigator - £4,303 (AHP)
- Grant funding as a Co-applicant - £2,575,463 (Nursing)

6.1.1.4 Dr Ann McMurray

Dr Ann McMurray, Paediatric Asthma Nurse Specialist is a co-applicant on two UK-wide research studies funded by Chief Scientist Office and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on paediatric asthma, with total grant funding of £2,545,463. Ann's PhD study on Near Fatal Asthma in children, young people and young adults has led to her recognition as a leading researcher in this field. The CSO study will involve use of the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit (BPRS) to capture information on the incidence of Near Fatal Asthma and the NIHR study, which is being led by Imperial College London focuses on a novel reliever strategy for children with asthma: Children's Anti-inflammatory Reliever study, United Kingdom (CARE-UK).



Dr Ann McMurray

6.1.2 Conference Presentations

- AHP – 30
- Pharmacy – 23
- Nursing and Midwifery – 25

The Lothian NMAHP Research Conference in November 2023 was a key opportunity for many of these presentations, however a number were at international conferences including:

- Dr Kath Williamson, Manual Handling Advisor/District Nurse/NRS Fellow 'It would help if... professionals could understand what difficulties big people have': A qualitative study of the experiences of people with severe obesity who use community health and social care services. Canadian Obesity Summit, Whistler May 2023
- Sue Abbott-Smith, Specialist Mental Health Practitioner (CAHMS)/PhD Student 'Suicide prevention: What does the evidence show for the effectiveness of safety planning for children and young people? A systematic scoping review' International Summit on Suicide Research in Barcelona October 2023

6.1.3 Publications

- AHP – 5
- Nursing and Midwifery – 19
- Pharmacy – 2

The NMAHPPS Research leads aim to establish more robust mechanisms for data collection of research funding and outputs during this next year.

6.2 CARIN Devolved Nations Sub-Group

In recognition of the difference in strategic development and funding opportunities for NMAHPPS in England compared to the other three UK countries, Professor Jane Coad, Chair of CARIN has established a Devolved Nations Sub-Group. Professor Juliet MacArthur, Chief Nurse Research and Development and Andy Peters, AHP Research Facilitator are members of this new group.

7. Clinical and Academic Homes Framework

The [Clinical and Academic Home \(CAH\) Framework](#) was launched in October 2021 and represents another example of the collaboration between NHS Lothian and its academic partners. It aims to foster career development opportunities, enhance collaboration and develop capacity and capability in the four pillars of practice identified in the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) NMAHP Post Registration Career Framework (NES, 2020).

- Clinical Practice
- Education/Learning
- Leadership
- Evidence, Research & Development



‘Clinical Homes’ are intended for academic NMAHPPS staff and are set up in defined clinical or other professional services within NHS Lothian and confer an appropriate honorary title aligned to the relevant professional post graduate career framework

‘Academic Homes’ are intended for clinical NMAHPPS staff to make a contribution professional practice, education and research programmes within specific academic departments and confer an honorary title in line with the individual institution’s processes.

7.1 Progress to date

7.1.1 Fully implemented

All individuals involved have an honorary contract in place, signed agreements and are undertaking a range of activities within their partner organisations.

Profession	Clinical Home	Academic Home	Total
Healthcare Science	2	0	2
Nursing	9	5	14
Midwifery	1	0	1
Pharmacy	1	1	2
Psychology	1	0	1
Occupational Therapy	0	1	1
Total	14	7	21

The CAH Framework includes a review process to understand how individuals are progressing with their specific objectives and to evidence examples of impact.

7.1.2.1 Examples



Ali Wood & Margot McCulloch

Dr Alison Wood, lecturer Queen Margaret University and Margot McCulloch, Lead for Advanced Practice and Non-Medical Prescribing in NHS Lothian established a clinical academic partnership in December 2021. Ali has been appointed as Honorary Nurse Consultant Non-medical Prescribing and Margot is honorary lecturer. Their focus is on non-medical prescribing and together they have collaborated to undertake a research study to explore the experiences of nurses, midwives and AHPs returning to prescribing. This study has been presented at the Lothian NMAHPPS Research Conference and has been accepted for presentation at the

International Council of Nurses' Advanced Nurse Practitioner Conference in Aberdeen in September 2024. It has also been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Prescribing Practice*. Margot also contributes to teaching and curriculum development at QMU and Ali has become a member of the NHS Lothian Drug and Therapeutics Committee and Lothian Formulary Committee.



Prof. Erna Haraldsdottir

Professor Erna Haraldsdottir, Deputy Head, Division of Nursing & Paramedic Science and Director, Centre for Person-centred Practice Research and Gillian McAuley, Nurse Director Acute have a clinical academic partnership that is focussed on person-centred care. Gillian, who has been appointed as Honorary Senior Research Fellow, has delivered a number of teaching sessions to nursing students at QMU, including on leadership and Erna, who has become Honorary Nurse Consultant in Person-Centred Practice has become a member of the national Health Improvement Scotland Excellence in Care

programme defining person-centred measures. Together they collaborating to design and conduct a research study 'Expert Components of Person-Centred Nursing Intervention for People with Cognitive Impairment in a Hospital Experiencing Distress (EPIC)'.



Gillian McAuley



Michelle Lewington & Karen Campbell

Michelle Lewington, Lecturer and Dr Karen Campbell, MacMillan Associate Professor Cancer Nursing, Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) have clinical homes in the Edinburgh Cancer Centre. They are collaborating with Heather McVicar, Clinical Research Nurse Manager and Emma Childs, Interim Nurse Consultant Cancer Care who are in the process of establishing academic homes at ENU. Both have been appointed as Honorary Nurse Consultants in Cancer

Research. Together these nurses have established a Clinical and Academic Partnership Group (CPAG) with their NHS colleagues in the Edinburgh Cancer Centre and have written a strategic plan. The main objective for this year has been to develop and implement a Cancer Nursing Rotation Programme for newly qualified nurses joining Oncology in September 2024, which will include the clinical research team.

In addition, Karen is collaborating with outpatient and inpatient facilities who administer cytotoxic drugs with ICU Medical, to provide a safer environment, reducing occupational exposure by conducting a surface and air sampling contamination study. This study is part of a wider national UK Oncology Nursing Society project. Karen is also collaborating with Louise Maguire, Advanced Nurse Practitioner Oncology on an extravasation project.

7.1.2 Under development

These clinical and academic homes are at different stages of discussion and many are likely to be finalised during 2024.

Profession	Clinical Home	Academic Home	Total
Nursing	18	13	28
Midwifery	4	1	5
Physiotherapy	0	1	1
Total	22	15	34

8. Contributions to wider Clinical Academic Developments

8.1 CSO Researcher Development Fellowships

CSO launched their Researcher Development Fellowships as a new type of award for NMAHPs in 2023 and acknowledge that these were based on models for First Steps into Research and Pre-Doctoral Bridging Award from the NHS Lothian Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards. All the NHS Lothian systems and processes for application, shortlisting and interviews have been adopted by CSO.

8.2 Challenges in Clinical Academic Medicine in Scotland

Professor Juliet MacArthur, Chief Nurse Research and Development was invited to join a group of leading medical clinical academics from University of Edinburgh to host a one day meeting focussing on the challenges in Clinical Academic Medicine, which was held on 22nd January 2024. Attendees included representatives from each of the Scottish Medical Schools, NHS Education for Scotland, Chief Scientist Office, UK funders (Wellcome, Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK), independent bodies representing medical sciences (The Academy of Medical Sciences and The Royal

Society of Edinburgh) and clinical academics both on the pathway and with roles supporting those on the pathway. Juliet presented the NMAHP perspective and Dr Kath Williamson presented her experiences as one of the clinical academic case studies.

9. NHS Lothian AHP Innovation, Research, and Improvement Strategy 2022-2027

AHP services in NHS Lothian launched their [Innovation, Research and Improvement Strategy](#) (IRI) in November 2022 and, since then, an Implementation Steering Group has been taking various actions forward. Achievements to date include establishing:

- a temporary intranet-based IRI digital hub, whilst working towards a more permanent, interactive, internet-based solution
- a standard paragraph for all AHP job adverts which highlights our IRI strategic intent
- staff guidance on approaches to patient and public engagement/involvement in data projects
- searchable, up-to-date lists of IRI funding (e.g. grants, fellowships etc.) and training opportunities
- accessibility for all NHS Lothian AHPs to the Scottish Improvement Foundation Skills course
- a series of promotional events to raise awareness of this strategic work among Lothian AHPs



Work in progress currently includes:

- establishing a network of AHP IRI mentors/advisors and shaping the support infrastructure required to facilitate AHP data project work in the future
- developing accessible Project Governance Guidance for AHP staff relating to issues such as approvals, ethics, consent, data protection, Caldicott requirements for different types of project
- establishing guidance for AHP staff re: accessing routine clinical data (e.g. held in TRAK) for data project purposes
- early discussions on the best approaches to AHP IRI Practice-based Learning for AHPs in training

10. NHS Lothian Pharmacy & Medicines Service

The Pharmacy Project Governance and Quality Team (PGQT), which is coordinated by the Pharmacy Education, Research and Development (ERD) Team, provides guidance for projects conducted by pharmacy staff within Lothian to ensure compliance with research governance and Caldicott requirements. The ERD Team coordinates the operational management including data management (Information Asset Register), communication and facilitation between the project investigators, supervisors, Pharmacy PGQT and academic institutions within agreed timescales.

An annual report of project activity is submitted to the Pharmacy Senior Leadership Team.