Welcome to the Spring Issue of the Kidney Research and Education Initiative (KREI) News

What is the KREI?

On Tuesday 19 October 2010 the Kidney Research and Education Initiative (KREI) at City University London was launched. The main aim of the Initiative is to become a centre of excellence for kidney care, education and research that has a particular focus on patient participation in research and teaching.

Who are we?

We are a small group of lecturers and researchers within the School of Community and Health Sciences who have a special interest in kidney care and/or patient (user) involvement in research and education. It is hoped that the Initiative will also develop best-practice guidance for practitioners who are interested in user participation in renal research, education and practice. Other aims of the Initiative include supporting clinicians in high-quality research and quality improvement activities, providing kidney care courses for nurses and allied health care professionals in primary and secondary care and supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students in the field of kidney care.

We have a Patient and Carer Advisory Group with seven members. Members of the Group are patients and carers and they will help shape City University London’s future renal research and education activities.

Patient and Carer Advisory Group

Since the launch we have had one meeting of the Advisory Group (funded by City University London). We are delighted to report that a grant application to the British Kidney Patients Association was successful and this grant will fund two Advisory Group meetings a year from July 2011. Our first meeting in March 2011 identified the Terms of Reference of the Group. There was further discussion on the short and long-term objectives of the Group and these included issues around training, quality of information and research.

For example, it was felt that there might be improved training for nurses (undergraduate and
post-graduate) and improved communication skills for nurses in certain areas of clinical practice, such as ensuring that student nurses have a more comprehensive understanding of renal patient care. The Quality of Information could be improved, such as information given to patients on choice of dialysis (such as home dialysis). Finally it was felt that the Patient Group could put forward ideas for patient-focused research such as the effects of dialysis on families.

The next Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for 14 July and will be reported in the next edition of KREI News. In the meantime a few members of the Group will observe a teaching session to nursing students on dialysis and transplantation - this will inform future planning and delivery of pre-registration renal education.

Other News

Train the Trainers Course in Bucharest, Romania

Nicola Thomas and Melissa Chamney have been involved in a Romanian project that has been funded by the European Social Fund, which can be visited here.

They developed and ran a short course that equips renal nurses with the knowledge and skills to teach other nurses about dialysis. It is hoped that in due course approximately 280 nurses working in Romania will undertake the course, based on the European Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing. They spent one week in Bucharest in March 2011 working alongside two translators and will return in October 2011 for an evaluation session.

Publications and Conferences

Hayley James and Professor Stanton Newman have published a protocol for a self management study in haemodialysis they are running with colleagues in Singapore


Melissa Chamney is presenting “User involvement: Development of a kidney research and education initiative” on 9th June 2011 at the 39th Annual Renal Society of Australasia Conference being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Australia

Members of the KREI have the following presentations at the forthcoming British Renal
Society/Renal Association conference in Birmingham 6-9 June visit their website. Nicola Thomas and Fiona Loud are presenting ‘User involvement in the ENABLE study ‘Enhancing Care and Saving Lives of People with CKD’.

Hayley James, Rebecca Walker and colleagues are presenting a poster ‘Adhering to behaviour change in pre-dialysis populations - what do patients think? A qualitative study.’

Julia Jones, Sarah Eales and Jenny Oates are presenting a poster on “Exploring the psychological well-being of haemodialysis patients” at the 40th EDTNA/ERCA International Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 10-13 September 2011

Staff News

Dr Helen Noble commences a new post at Queens University Belfast on the 30 May 2011 as a Lecturer in Health Services Research. The role involves undertaking research to assess the quality, effectiveness, appropriateness and efficiency of clinical care and health service systems with a focus on end of life care particularly in those with chronic kidney disease.

Helen will continue her collaboration with City University London as a Visiting Honorary Research Fellow and will remain a member of KREI. She is collaborating with staff and patients at City University London, Barts and The London NHS Trust and Belfast City Hospital to develop research proposals for future funding bids.

Thank you for your interest in our work. The next issue of the KREI News will be available in August 2011.

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