Dental Public Health Group Annual Report 2013

UCL Research Department of
Epidemiology & Public Health

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Introduction

The Dental Public Health (DPH) Group is one of the 12 research groups within the Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London (UCL). This report summarises the main research, teaching and NHS/policy activities undertaken by the DPH Group in 2013.

Staffing

- Professor Richard G Watt, Professor and Honorary Consultant in Dental Public Health
- Dr George Tsakos, Senior Lecturer in Dental Public Health and Honorary Consultant in Dental Public Health
- Professor Aubrey Sheiham, Emeritus Professor in Dental Public Health

Honorary Staff

- Huda Yusuf, Specialist Registrar in Dental Public Health
- Jenny Oliver, Consultant in Dental Public Health, Berkshire East PCT and Buckinghamshire PCT
- Dr Paul Batchelor, Consultant in Dental Public Health, Berkshire West Primary Care Trust
- Dr Habib Benzian, Honorary Lecturer in Dental Public Health
- Anna Ireland, Consultant in Dental Public Health, NHS, North Central London

Research and Administrative Staff

- Louise Gregory, Administrative Teaching and Research Assistant
- Antiope Ntouva, Research Associate
- Jessie Porter, Research Assistant
- Dr. Anja Heilmann, Research Associate
Current research projects

- Child Dental Health Survey (England, Wales & Northern Ireland). Lead contractor Office for National Statistics with consortium of university partners including UCL.


- Dental Alcohol Reduction Trial (DART). Funding body: National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), Research for Patient Benefit Programme. This exploratory randomised controlled trial aims to assess the acceptability and feasibility of dental professionals delivering alcohol brief advice to adults attending general dental practices across London. PI: Richard Watt.

- Facilitated through the UCL "Creating Connections" initiative, the DPH group has started a fruitful collaboration with the Castlehaven Community Association (CCA), a well-established charity based in the London Borough of Camden. Our group is conducting an evaluation of the CCA’s “Ageactivity” programme for older people, to assess whether participation in the programme is related to improved health, reduced isolation and better sense of community. The research proposal and questionnaires were developed between October and December 2013. Baseline data collection started in April 2014 and has been completed, follow-up data will be collected from September 2015.

- Investigating inequalities in oral health using the Adult Dental Health Survey. Funding body: Economic and Social Research Council. This was a study based on advanced secondary analysis of different Adult Dental Health Surveys in England with the objectives to: a) measure socioeconomic inequalities in oral health and quality of life, b) assess whether, and to what degree, socioeconomic inequalities are explained by oral health behaviours and dental service/care provision, c) decompose socioeconomic inequalities in oral health into the contributions of different determinants, and d) investigate the trends in oral health inequalities and the determinants of oral health inequalities across time from 1988 to 2009 by following age cohorts over a 21 year period. The research was carried out by University of Newcastle, UCL and NatCen [PI: Prof. John Wildman, University of Newcastle; PI for the UCL part of the consortium: Dr Georgios Tsakos]. Main Responsibilities included lead role in: 1) Socioeconomic inequalities in subjective measures of oral health and quality of life; 2) Assessing the role of health behaviours and dental care services on socioeconomic inequalities in oral health. Funding: £194,134 (UCL funds: £48,911) (ESRC grant ref: ES/K004689/1).
In 2009 a needs assessment was conducted in Islington nursing homes, it was found that there were large proportions of residents with high levels of oral health needs, along with many residents reporting that their oral health had impacted negatively on their quality of life. Since then, the nursing homes have embarked on an oral health improvement programme. The aim of the 2013 survey was to assess the oral health status and care needs of older people living in nursing homes across Islington, as well as obtain views of nursing care home managers and other staff. This survey, carried out 4 years after the initial improvement programme. Compared to the previous survey, the oral health of the residents is in an improved state, however there is still work to be done in terms of consolidating previous initiatives and also implementing further improvements. PI: Georgios Tsakos. Awarded by Public Health Islington.
Journal publications


Duijster, D. Sheiham, A. Hobdell, MH. Itchon, G. Monse, B. 2013. Associations between oral health-related impacts and rate of weight gain after extraction of pulpally involved teeth in underweight preschool Filipino children. BMC Public Health, 3(13), pp.533


Lamarca, GA. Leal Mdo, C. Leao, AT. Sheiham, A. Vettore, MV. 2013. The different roles of neighbourhood and individual social capital on oral health-related quality of life during pregnancy and postpartum: a multilevel analysis. Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology, 42(2), pp. 139-150


Sheiham, A. 2013. Major changes in strategies are needed to promote oral health worldwide. Journal of Public Health Dentistry, 73(2), pp. 87-88


Conference presentations

1. Heilmann A, Kelly Y, Stafford M, Watt RG: The Contribution of Neighbourhoods and Schools to Cognitive Test Performance at Age Seven – Findings from the UK Millennium Cohort Study. Presented at the Society for Social Medicine 57th Annual Scientific Meeting, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex, Wednesday 11 – Friday 13 September 2013.


11. Benzian H. Health promotion, prevention and control of NCDs in school settings, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, Regional Consultation to Develop the Strategic Action Plan and Targets for Prevention and Control of NCDs in the South-East Asia Region, New Delhi, India, 25-27 February 2013.


Postgraduate students

MSc in Dental Public Health

2013 was a successful year for our MSc course with all students passing their exams in August; a distinction was awarded to: Alejandra Rodrigues and Yu Hsin Wu. Good luck to all the students in their future careers.

MSc Dental Public Health 2012/13
**Current PHD students**

Almalki, S. Effect of treating traumatic dental injuries on quality of life: A randomized controlled trial among Saudi children

Al Jameel, A. Perceptions of parents/ Carers of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities about their Oral Health-Related Quality of Life.

Gill, T. Oral health related quality of life affecting the service utilisation.

Guarnizo-Herreno, C. Political factors as determinants of socioeconomic inequalities in oral health: a cross-national analysis

Jamaludin, M. A systematic review with meta-analysis of the effects of population and individual level tobacco interventions on health inequalities and statistical modelling of the determinants.

Yusuf, H. Exploratory randomised controlled trial of an obesity prevention motivational interviewing intervention delivered in general dental practice.

Aldalooj, E. Psychosocial Work Environment and Oral Health in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

Letelier A. Assessing the impact of life course socioeconomic trajectories on oral health outcomes in English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

Masuma M. Exploring the path ways how dental caries have impact on growth of children.

Chaianant N. Evaluating the cost to levelling up oral health inequalities among Thai adults.

Rouxel, P. Exploring the association between social capital and oral health in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing.

**PhDs awarded in 2013**

Mathur, M. Social determinants of oral health inequalities in India.

Heilmann, A. Neighbourhoods and children’s cognitive and social development - pathways of effects