Dental Public Health Group Annual Report 2014

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 2014.

Staffing

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

Honorary Staff

- 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
- Jenny Oliver, Consultant in Dental Public Health, Berkshire East PCT and Buckinghamshire PCT
- Huda Yusuf, Specialist Registrar in Dental Public Health

Research and Administrative Staff

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

- 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 had started a very fruitful collaboration with the Castlehaven Community Association (CCA), a well-established charity based in the London Borough of Camden. The CCA delivers a community intervention programme for older people called “Ageactivity”, launched in April 2014. We have been asked to undertake an evaluation study to assess whether the programme achieves its stated aims of bringing about positive changes for its users in the 3 target areas Health, Reduced Isolation and Sense of Community. The aim of this study is therefore to evaluate the impact of the CCA ageactivity programme in accordance with the CCA’s evaluation brief. A secondary aim is to test the feasibility and acceptability of measuring social support and social capital in a community setting, to inform a future social capital intervention study. Our group designed the evaluation study and developed the questionnaires. Ethical approval was granted in February 2014 by the UCL research ethics committee. The collection of baseline started in April 2014 and is almost complete. Follow-up data will be collected at 12 months and at 3 years after implementation of the Ageactivity programme, and will include both quantitative and qualitative methods.
Journal publications


Conference presentations


Postgraduate students

MSc in Dental Public Health

2013/14 was a successful academic year for our MSc programme with all students passing their exams in August; a distinction was awarded to: Flavio Yoshikawa De Sousa, Joana Antunes Catre Dos Santos and Noor Nazahiah Binti Bakri.
Current PhD students


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.

PhDs awarded in 2013/14

Rouxel, P. Exploring the association between social capital and oral health in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing.
On the initiative of Professor Ratilal Laloo, a mail list was established of all PhD graduates from the UCL Dental Public Health Group. Many hold academic posts including professorships. Professor Laloo has created a lively and interactive forum by encouraging members on the list to send their newly published papers and any articles they consider are important for their colleagues to read.

The Annual Aubrey Alumni Dinner was created to help establish this community and to introduce newly graduated students to the network. The 2014 dinner took place at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Meeting in Cape Town. Professor Sudeshni Naidoo organised a splendid dinner at the Aubergine Restaurant catered personally by her husband, the top chef and restaurant owner Harald Bresselschmidt.

The next Annual Aubrey Alumni Dinner will take place at the Boston IADR Meeting.