



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

WOMEN IN RESEARCH SERIES

**Research Units and Groups –
What are they and how could they help you in your research?**

Dr Jo Middlemass and Fiona Togher



Aim of the session

- Who and what is CaHRU? Personal stories of how we came to work there and what it's like to work in a research unit.
- How CaHRU collaborate with other research colleagues.
 - Two examples of existing studies that came from 'grass-roots' personal interest.
- Consider where other research groups and units fit in within the University structure.
- Who can start a research group and what does it entail?
- Generate discussion on how you could utilise research groups in your research either as a research idea or as a new group.

CaHRU - Who are we?



CaHRU

The **Community and Health Research Unit (CaHRU)** is the research centre:

- In the School of Health and Social Care (based in Bridge House)
- Within the College of Social Science
- Allied with the Lincoln Institute for Health
- Directed by Professor Niro Siriwardena
- Research expertise include:
 - Clinical trials, systematic reviews, observational studies, mixed methods and qualitative designs for research and evaluation.

CaHRU programmes of research

- CaHRU has three programmes of research, each with an academic lead working with CaHRU's director Prof Niro Siriwardena to further the strategic development of the group.

Quality and Outcomes in Primary Healthcare (QOPH)

Lead Dr Jo Middlemass

Prehospital Emergency Quality and Outcome (PEQO)

Lead Dr Zahid Asghar

Enhancing Experience and Equity in healthCare (EPiC)

Lead: Dr Coral Sirdifield

- Underpinning these three programmes are the three cross-cutting themes of Quality improvement, healthier ageing and ethical healthcare.
- Our work focuses on translational, empirical and operational research relating to quality improvement in health and social care.

Personal stories – How did we get here?

Best bits and the challenges of working in a research unit.

- Jo
- Fiona



CaHRU collaboration with other researchers

- Two examples of collaboration.
 - CAD:E3
 - CFR project.



Example 1. Carers of people with dementia* - the recipe for collaborative research success!

- Take one enthusiastic Professor in higher education with an interest in people with dementia and their carer's.
- Stir with colleagues in other disciplines, to refine research idea. Follow MRC guidelines.
- Apply RIF funding!
- Mix in talented RA with love of systematic reviews and pop in oven.
- Result one successful study with future funding bid with the Alzheimer's Society pending.



*(Carers of people with dementia – empowerment and efficacy via education)

Example 2. Community First Responders: Scoping review & qualitative study

- Senior Lecturer in nursing with an interesting idea — how do CFR's understand their role and experiences of volunteering for LIVES?
- Very limited prior research into the topic area
- No funding available (apart from my time!)
- Small scale pilot with intention to submit a funding bid
- Internal collaboration between CaHRU, wider nursing team and Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Services (LIVES)



Lincolnshire Integrated
Voluntary Emergency Service

Current research groups/units in College of Social Science

Research Group & Centre Application			
Research Groups			
No	Group Name	School	Group Lead
1	Community Organisation Group	Business	Rebecca Herron
2	Marketing and Supply Chain	Business	Martin Hingley
3	Regional and Rural Enterprise	Business	Gary Bosworth
4	Responsible Management Research Group	Business	Ted Fuller
5	Visitor Economy Research Group (VERG)	Business	Heather Hughes
6	Research in Critical Education Studies (RiCES)	Education	Sarah Amsler
7	Research in Mental Health, Health and Social Care (MH2aSC)	Health & Social Care	Christine Jackson/Ian McGonagle
8	Law in a Global Context	Law	Graham Melling/Samantha Velluti
9	Evolution & Development	Psychology	Kerstin Meints
10	Forensic Clinical Research Group	Psychology	Todd Hogue
11	Identity & Social Relationships Research Group	Psychology	Ruth Gaunt
12	Perception, Action & Cognition (PAC)	Psychology	Kun Guo
13	Biofeedback in Sport	Sport	David Mullineaux
14	Health Advancement Research Team	Sport	Jacquelyn Allen-Collinson
15	Mental Toughness Research Group	Sport	Lee Crust
16	Youth Sport Research Group	Sport	Donna Evans
17	Science and Technology Education Group (STEG)	Education	Ian Abrahams
18	Physiology of Exercise and Sport Performance (PESP)	Sport	Mark Smith
19	Policy Responses to Extremism and Terrorism	S&PS	Joshua Skoczylis
20	Health Ageing Research Group (HARG)	H&SC	Karen Windle
21	Lincoln Economics & Finance research Group (LEAF)	Business	Marian Rizov
Research Centres			
No	Group Name	School	Group Lead
1	Community & Health Research Unit	H&SC	Niro Siriwardena
2	Lincoln Centre for Environmental Law and Justice	Law	Duncan French/Matthew Hall

Becoming a Research group – Is it for you?

- The main justification for the creation of a Research Group is that of drawing on the strengths of a collaborative team to produce results that go beyond what one individual working alone could achieve.



- Group recognition but not any special commitment of resources beyond those already available.



Awards & Recognition

Research groups

Research Groups should:

- Strengthen bids for external research and demonstrate a proven and record of successful bidding.
- Support the research delivery as set by the Strategic Plan.
- Support emerging researchers.
- Strengthen the links between research teaching activities.



Research groups – what does it entail?

Research groups should

- Propose a statement of the aims and activities for the Group.
- Indicate membership.
- Present a well-structured and up-to-date website/blog to showcase the Group's work.
- Cultivate and encourage engagement, impact and knowledge exchange activities.
- Convene workshops and seminars.



Applying for Research group status

- Application – complete the proforma application and submit to the relevant College Director of Research.
- Approval of the Group by the agreed designated College body indicates that the proposal is consistent with the aims and objectives which the School/College wishes to promote.
- Review take place every two years to assess the impact and effectiveness of a Group.



And Finally

Your thoughts and ideas on research groups and units and how they might help you to develop your own research career.



Group Discussion



Thank you for your attention.