

NHS GRAMPIAN MEDICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Kim attended the 8th NHS Grampian Medical Education Conference – a popular conference which is repeatedly sold out. There was a varied programme of invited

speakers and workshops. Topics discussed were widening access, the trainee's perspective, simulation, interprofessional learning, doctors in difficult situations and resilience. There were plenty of opportunities to network and discuss popular topics in medical education.

KEVIN KELMAN SEMINAR TO BE RESCHEDULED

The November CHERI Blossom seminar by Kevin Kelman, the Director of NHS Scotland Academy, Learning and Innovation, was cancelled but will be rescheduled in due course and details circulated.



Kevin Kelman



ASME CONFERENCE

ASME Researching Medical Education conference took place at Friends House in London on 16th November and was a sell-out event. The theme was 'Alignment matter: from conception to communication' which linked it very clearly to the newly launched 'Starting Research in Clinical Education' ASME book which Kim co-edited. Many authors from the book provided workshops for the conference, and there was a book signing! Both Anita and Kim had roles within the conference. Anita opened and closed the conference as Chair of ASME Education Research Committee.

Kim chaired the second keynote plenary session of the day by Prof Anthony Artino. It was great to have a prominent CHERI presence at this excellent health professions education research focused event.



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR REMOTE AND RURAL HEALTH AND CARE

Anita has been invited to join the Strategic Programme Board for the new National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care. In October the Scottish Government commissioned NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to develop and deliver the National Centre. The overall aim of the Centre is to support delivery of improved care for remote, rural and island communities across Scotland. The Centre aims to reduce wellbeing inequalities in these communities. This will be achieved through focused work to improve the sustainability, capacity, and capability of remote, rural and island primary care, and community-based workforce and service delivery. Further details can be accessed by the following link:

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/63205>



UK MEDICAL EDUCATION DATABASE (UKMED)

Peter Johnston, co-chair of the research subgroup of the UKMED database, attended the research strategy day in GMC headquarters, London. UKMED is a partnership between various stakeholders in medical education with data from admissions into medical school and throughout training. It holds and links data from bodies such as; the Higher Education Statistics Agency, UK Clinical Aptitude Test, Medical Schools, the General Medical Council, the UK Foundation Programme Office, Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties, and Postgraduate Deaneries and Local Education and Training Boards. As such, it is a powerful tool available to medical education researchers. The research strategy away day, which was attended by both Peter (as part of UKMED) and Anita (representing ASME), focused on the next steps

for UKMED in sustaining its activities to enable researchers to access the database contents securely and conducting research. To gain access researchers need to apply to one of the two application windows, and all applications are reviewed and provided with feedback. Not all applications are of sufficient quality to enable access. This, and other activity requires resource to support, and the discussion focused on how to secure access to this resource for the future, and also on specific areas where research using the database would be particularly impactful. The potential for high quality research with real world impact is high with the UKMED database resource, and CHERI looks forward to reading the research strategy once fully developed. Related to this activity, NIHR

has recently put out a call for 'New research on skills, training, development and support for the health and social care workforce' which specifically mentions UKMED as a potential resource ([23/140 New research on skills, training, development and support for the health and social care workforce | NIHR](#)). This call specifically states that 'Studies are welcome from researchers working in all parts of the UK.' Bids must be submitted by January 18th 2024. More details can be accessed on the following website: <https://www.ukmed.ac.uk/>



NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

CHERI BLOSSOM DECEMBER SEMINAR

The seminar will be presented by the CHERI team on their current activities. This will be a hybrid meeting, on Teams and in-person at 11.45 am to 12.45pm in the Rowett Level 2 Seminar room, 2.046.

Microsoft Teams meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#).

Meeting ID: 398 222 660 824
Passcode: 34i4wD

DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Online / in-person	Time	Presenter	Title
21/12/23	Hybrid: in-person and on Teams	11.45am -12:45pm	CHERI team	CHERI team activities update from staff
	FH – RINH Level 2 seminar room 2.046			Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer, mobile app or room device Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 398 222 660 824 Passcode: 34i4wD Download Teams Join on the web

SCHOOL HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP

The SHERG group met for the second meeting in November. Further information can be found on the Teams group site. If you would like to join the group please email ruth.obrien@abdn.ac.uk to find out more details.



GET TO KNOW...

KATIE GIBSON SMITH



1. Could you tell us about your role at the university?

I am an Advanced Research Fellow in CHERI and have worked here since August 2019. I spend most of my time researching (widening access to medicine, EDI topics and doctors' wellbeing) and supervising student research (from undergraduate to PhD). I also do a little bit of teaching, in my role as course coordinator for Fundamentals of Data Management and Analysis which is part of the MSc in Clinical Education.

2. What's the most exciting part of your job?

I really enjoy being part of the team in CHERI and, also the autonomy that the role and team give me. I particularly enjoy having the opportunity to be both creative and systematic within the research that I do. I am quite a creative person and when I first came into research, I didn't quite anticipate that these skills might be of use as it initially appealed to my more systematic side.

3. What brought you to the University of Aberdeen?

I was born and brought up in Aberdeen, and although I had plans to leave when I finished my undergraduate degree, life happened otherwise. As my first post-doc contract was coming to an end the opportunity came up to come to UoA – I was really keen as I had worked with some of the staff in CHERI previously and was eager to learn more from them.

4. What are your special areas of interest?

Widening access to medicine is my main area of interest but I also have interests in EDI and wellbeing. I am an academic psychologist by background, so I really enjoy the challenge of figuring out theoretical lenses for research – which I guess is another area of interest!

5. What are your work priorities at the moment?

I have a few research projects, along with teaching on the MSc, on the go that are keeping me busy (Evaluation of the G2M programme; Developing student support for WA students in the MBChB; Understanding factors which influence career trajectories of WA students in medicine; experiences of disabled doctors). I have a few other ideas under consideration or in the pipeline of development. One of my main priorities this year is to get the Scottish Widening Access to Research Network (which Prof Lumsden and I have started to grow) properly up and running, and secure funding to keep it going.

6. What future projects would you like to be involved in?

I truly believe research can give people a voice and I am always interested in projects where I can see there will be potential for a difference to be made for those that the research involves.

7. Do you have a mantra both professionally and personally?

Being a Scot, I suppose I kind of live by "whits fur ye'll no go by ye" (meaning, what's meant to happen will happen).

8. How do you like to relax outside work?

Spending time in nature with my kids – walking, hiking, swimming, paddleboarding or biking. I also love to travel and do all the aforementioned in warmer places!

9. Do you have any hidden talents or fun facts about yourself?

During lockdown, I got so frustrated at not being able to be able to swim train that by April (after 3 weeks) I had set up a 4x10ft paddling pool in my back garden and tethered myself to a fence just so I could get some metres in. The water was absolutely freezing, and it is the first time I think my retinas have ever felt cold.