

CAHPR Public Health Research Awards 2018

Introduction

CAHPR ran the Public Health Research Awards in partnership with Public Health England for the fourth time in 2018.

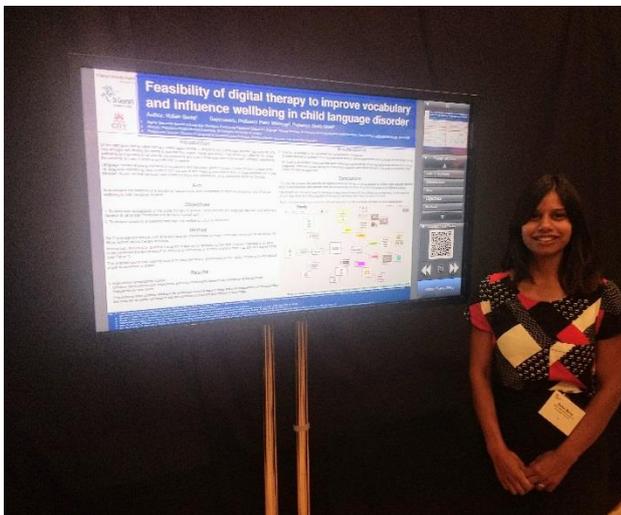
Two winners received an expenses paid visit to the Public Health England conference to present a poster.

All applicants were offered support with their submissions by CAHPR regional hubs.

Feedback from 2018 winners

Rafiah Badat (speech and language therapist)

Poster title: Investigating the feasibility of using digitally-enhanced language disorder therapy to improve vocabulary and influence wellbeing.



Above: Rafiah Badat with her poster

Here Rafiah explains more about how she got on at the conference.

How did you get involved in public health research?

As a Speech and Language Therapist I am particularly interested in researching the impact of communication difficulties on children's wellbeing and the role of digital therapeutics. The high prevalence of language disorders (affecting 1 in 10 children)

“As someone in the early stages of their clinical research journey the award has been an invaluable opportunity to network, learn and build confidence.”

Rafiah Badat

and increasing awareness of the long-term impact on social, emotional and learning development has led to this area gaining attention as a public health issue and consequently my involvement in public health research.

Why did you apply for the CAHPR public health research award this year?

My motivation for applying for the CAHPR public health research award was the opportunity to raise awareness and impact of my research by showcasing to a unique audience including clinicians, academics, commissioners and policy-drivers.

Would you have attended the PHE conference without the award?

Despite the value gained from the PHE conference, it is unlikely that I would have attended without the financial support of the award and the validation that selection of my research provided in terms of its significance to public health.

Please give some brief feedback on the PHE conference:

- **Did you make any new contacts?**

Yes, the conference provided great networking opportunities and I was particularly pleased by how well the research was received by those unfamiliar to the work of speech and language therapists! Thanks to conference I have made connection with Patricia Curmi from the What Works Centre for Wellbeing to discuss tools for measuring wellbeing impact and Dr Jacqueline Lindo, Local Director of Public Health.

- **Will learning from the conference influence (your) future research?**

Yes, even more so than I expected! The conference provided great insight into the way clinical research can influence public health work at both a national and local level. I also gained greater awareness of the complex interplay between public health issues and how they can be better supported through cross-sector collaborations. I feel that the learning from the conference will help guide my future research activities both in terms of prioritising multi-disciplinary practice and having the confidence to consider broad dissemination strategies.

- **What was your key take away point?**

The thing that struck me the most during the conference was the enormous scope of Public Health England campaigns and the valuable contribution of AHP research.

Do you have any other comments?

I would like to really thank CAHPR and PHE - as someone in the early stages of their clinical research journey the award has been an invaluable opportunity to network, learn and build confidence.

Alison Bruce (orthoptist)

Poster title: *Effect of adherence to spectacle wear on early developing literacy: A longitudinal study.*



Above: Alison Bruce with her poster

“The opportunity to present my research at the PHE conference provided a forum to inform and influence which I found exciting!”

Alison Bruce

Alison tells us more about her research and how she got on at the conference.

How did you get involved in public health research?

Applying research into clinical practice has been a central aim throughout my career. My research has centred round the follow-up of young children following vision screening, exploring the questions of access to health services and adherence to treatment in order to improve health outcomes; access and adherence; topics that are applicable across a wide range of health disciplines and particularly relevant to the Allied Health Professions.

Since qualifying as an orthoptist I have worked in the NHS gaining experience in clinical practice, teaching and management. I have been Head of Orthoptics of Bradford NHS Trust from 1988 and have continually strived to develop evidence based practice. In 1989 I was successful in gaining a Yorkshire Regional Health Authority Locally Organised Research Scheme Award which allowed me to lead a research project, collaborating with a team from the University of Bradford, in an investigation into the prevalence of refractive error (need for glasses) and strabismus (squint) in children. I used the evidence from the research to provide information to the locally based Primary Care Trust's to form a business case to provide vision screening services in Bradford schools. This now established orthoptic led vision screening service covers Bradford metropolitan area screening around 6000 children each year.

Why did you apply for the CAHPR public health research award this year?

In 2013 I was successful in gaining a National Institute for Health Research Post-doctoral Fellowship and have been developing a programme of research examining the impact of reduced vision on early developing literacy. My research programme has incorporated a longitudinal study, and I was in the process of writing up the results when the call for applications for the CAHPR public health research awards was launched. I believe my research has the potential to not only impact on children's health but also their future educational attainment, therefore the opportunity to present my research at the PHE conference provided a forum to inform and influence which I found exciting.

Would you have attended the PHE conference without the award?

I would not have been able to attend the conference without the award. My NIHR fellowship has now been completed and funding for training and conferences is limited, I therefore would not otherwise have been supported to attend.

Please give some brief feedback on the PHE conference:

- **Did you make any new contacts?**

Yes, this was the most important aspect of the conference. I made a number of contacts in the field of public health and I also met up with Rafiah Badat, Children's Speech and Language Therapist and CAHPR PHR awardee who is developing an exciting new technology for improving child language disorders.

- **Will learning from the conference influence (your) future research?**

I am continuing developing my programme of research in the field of public health. The next stage is to set up a feasibility study/ trial to find out if school based interventions to support parents with their child's attendance and adherence to glasses wear. The conference has provided me with access to other research programmes in the field of intervention research and allowed me to network with potential collaborators in the field of public health. I will use both the knowledge and new contacts to further develop my research.

- **What was your key take away point?**

Collaboration and communication are key. There is so much great research in the field of Public Health that I had previously been unaware of and so many questions still to be answered – a life time of research ahead!

Do you have any other comments?

Thank you CAHPR for supporting this award and providing the opportunity to showcase AHP research.