

CAHPR Public Health Research Awards 2019

CAHPR ran the Public Health Research Awards in partnership with Public Health England for the fifth time in 2019. To 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 2019 winners

Emma Cribb, Dietician

Poster title: *Cow's Milk Protein Allergy: A study to explore current practice and knowledge among primary healthcare professionals in Doncaster and Bassetlaw.*



How did you get involved in public health research?

As a practising paediatric dietitian, there is a lack of good quality evidence regarding nutrition for health and in a wide range of medical conditions including allergy. Research is vital to supporting national policy and clinical guidelines and I have always wanted to contribute to research within the field of nutrition and dietetics. I completed the Health Education England and National Institute for Health Research Internship Scheme; this scheme enhanced my knowledge and understanding of clinical research and supported me to undertake my first research project with the expert guidance of a project supervisor.

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

I became aware of the award through Lucie Nield, senior lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University who was my supervisor during the internship and co-author of my research. I applied as I felt it was a great opportunity to network with other professionals working within the NHS and public health across the country to enhance my knowledge of research opportunities. It would also enable me to showcase my research to a wide audience and maximise its impact.

Would you have attended the PHE conference without the award?

I would have been unable to attend the conference without the award as funds available to be able to attend conferences are very limited.

Please give some brief feedback on the PHE conference:

- Did you make any new contacts?

Yes – one of the most important parts of the conference was networking. I made a number of useful contacts both within Public Health England and other bodies including British Heart Foundation and NICE who had exhibits at the conference. These contacts will be vital when looking at further research opportunities within Public Health. I also learnt about other possible research funding opportunities by attending the conference and I have been able to share this with the Research Department of my employer. I also met up with the other award winner, Melissa and hope to stay in touch with her; she provided me with some valuable advice regarding my clinical research academic career.

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

I had not appreciated the variety of companies/bodies that Public Health England work with which was highlighted to me at the conference. It has provided me with insight into how public health issues can be tackled through cross-sector collaboration. I also had not realised the huge impact of clinical research and the influence this data/evidence has on public health strategy at local and national level. The conference has broadened my thinking for my future research in terms of incorporating multidisciplinary working and cross-sector collaborations.

- What was your key take away point?

How vitally important the data and evidence is to enable Public Health England to target their intervention appropriately and produce evidence based guidelines/programmes.