



## **Annual report**

**May 2022 – April 2023**

## Foreword

Health Education England (HEE), Allied Health Professions (AHP) Research and Innovation Strategy was launched in January 2022, which led to a busy year for CAHPR as we have been heavily involved with the implementation of the strategy.

CAHPR received funding from HEE for three projects on 1) Communication and Culture, 2) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and 3) Optimising AHP academic research opportunities and opportunities for AHP researchers.

The key outputs from the HEE project 1) were around extending our influence, re-working our website and considering CAHPR as part of an ecosystem of many organisations involved in research and playing to our strengths. Project 2) highlighted areas where we could be more diverse and the work we can do to promote EDI in research by challenging inequity and calling out poor and unfair practice. Project 3) identified our key strengths, which are: being able to represent the 14 AHPs and providing individualised AHP support via the hubs. In addition we have identified a wealth of free online resources for AHPs.

The hubs continue their good work maintaining a wide network of support for AHP research and AHP researchers. This year all the hub annual reports are being made available on-line and the new CAHPR calendar of events shows the interesting line-up of webinars from the consortia across the UK.

In addition, the National Institute for Health research (NIHR) funded the resurrection of the CAHPR/NIHR Research Champions Initiative. We have recruited new research champions to ensure full UK coverage bringing the total to 34. We welcome our new champions and look forward to seeing their work connecting academic and NHS work.

The year ended with a community event for CAHPR leaders where we got together on-line to hear all the great work that CAHPR is doing and to plan for the future. We are working towards a new website, a new organisational structure and planning campaigns to promote and celebrate the work of AHPs in research.

Sincere thanks must also be made to all the people who volunteer to make CAHPR the successful organisation it has become, this includes the Strategy Committee, its vice chairs, the Hub Leader Forum Chair and Vice Chair and the hub leads and of course thanks to our hosts the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Dawn Carnes (Chair CAHPR Strategy Committee)

**CAHPR Strategy Committee Chair** Professor Dawn Carnes

**Vice Chair and Professoriate Lead** Professor Kate Grafton

**Vice Chair and Research Champion Coordinator** Dr Richard Collings

**Hub Forum Leads**

**Chair** Harriet Shannon

**Vice Chair** Dr Ruth Strudwick

**CAHPR members**

- British and Irish Orthoptic Society
- British Association of Art Therapists
- British Association of Drama Therapists
- British Association for Music Therapy
- British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists
- British Dietetic Association
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- College of Paramedics
- Institute of Osteopathy
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists
- Royal College of Podiatry
- Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists
- Society of Radiographers

**CAHPR Representation**

- Consultant practitioners
- Service Managers

## Background

CAHPR is the representative voice of 14 allied health professional bodies (listed above) on research matters. The Council's mission is to develop AHP research, strengthen evidence of the professions' value and impact for enhancing service user and community care, and enable the professions to speak with one voice on research issues, thereby raising their profile and increasing their influence.

To deliver its mission, CAHPR has set out five strategic objectives:

- To strengthen CAHPR's profile and capacity for expanded activity through a sustainable model of development and delivery
- To build AHP capacity for research activity, including through collaborations and communities of practice
- To develop the scale, depth and quality of AHP research through skills development and strengthened opportunities for research-oriented career progression
- To strengthen CAHPR's support for AHP research, underpinned by its regional network and delivery of distinctive CAHPR resources
- To increase CAHPR's strategic influence with key stakeholders, including through alignment with national health and care priorities, European and international developments.

The Council comprises a Strategy committee, a UK-wide regional hub network, a network of AHP Professors and CAHPR/NIHR Research Champions. The Strategy Committee is the overarching committee of the CAHPR, with responsibility for overseeing the Council's outward-facing activity, its operations and continued development.

CAHPR primarily works through its regional hub network to deliver on these objectives with the provision of opportunities for learning, sharing, networking, collaborations and access to advice and support. Each hub identifies its own activities according to local need and expertise (<https://cahpr.csp.org.uk/about-cahpr>).

This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by CAHPR in 2022-23 to support its strategic aims. It is divided into three sections:

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## **1. Central CAHPR Activity**

The independent review in 2022 made eight recommendations:

1. Refresh and review strategic vision, articulating relevance and impact
2. Plan activity based on unique range of expertise
3. Adopt a wider remit around research and practice
4. Plan for inclusion and diversity
5. Develop a communication strategy
6. CAHPR structure reform
7. Partnership with others
8. Develop a blended funding model

Ongoing work includes the sustainability and future organisational structure of CHAPR to ensure CAHPR can meet its objectives. A new business operating model will be implemented in 2024.

HEE funded three projects on:

- 1) Communication and Culture,
- 2) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and
- 3) Optimising AHP academic research opportunities and opportunities for AHP researchers.

Reports were submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, these projects generated lots of work and also recommendations. Working groups are being established to implement many of the recommendations, some of which align with the CAHPR review recommendations above. This includes a communication strategy, and an updated vision statement and consideration of EDI throughout all our operating procedures, and continuous monitoring of diversity and equity of access to CAHPR and its resources.

## **2. Research Champions**

The CAHPR/NIHR research champions scheme was relaunched this year. Following a review of the previous elements of the scheme, a new job description was introduced alongside recommendations for sustainability of the role. A more strategic influence at regional level is now a key feature, alongside an improved working relationship with the CAHPR hubs. The scheme was widened to all include all areas of the United Kingdom. Recruitment took place in February 2023 with 64 applicants from 13 professional bodies submitting expressions of interest.

In total 34 champions have been appointed, representing nine professional bodies aligned to the 18 clinical research network areas and devolved nations. Over the next 12 months, the champions will embed in their regions, developing relationships with key research stakeholders. A program of training events will run alongside to provide support and mentorship. Impact will be monitored and reported back to the CAHPR strategy committee.

## **3. Networking and Collaboration**

CAHPR has worked closely with the HEE AHP Research and Innovation Strategy developer (Dr Hazel Roddam) to implement the strategy and move the aims forward. Our professional bodies hosted events to 'continue the conversation' around AHP Research. We were involved with the HEE/NIHR research Summit, the HEE R&I anniversary event and the Council of Deans for Health Research Week.

We were also mindful that CAHPR had not had any internal networking opportunities since the start of the pandemic in 2020, so we organised a community event in Manchester for the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Initially this event was planned as face to face but due to ongoing train strikes this was transferred to an online event, 68 invitees people attended this event, designed to share good practice, thanks to everyone for their contribution, leadership and plans for the future. The event went very well and we look forward to another one soon.

#### **4. CAHPR hub activity**

2022 was another busy year for our 24 hubs, with a range of different activities organised to meet the needs of the local populations. Hub leads and facilitators come from across the AHP professions with particularly healthy representation (proportionate to the size of the professional group) from dietetics, music therapy and prosthetics/orthotics as well as physiotherapy. We continue to work on encouraging engagement from the smaller AHP professions and ensuring diversity within the hub facilitator teams. Hubs have been providing a mix of in-person and virtual events, which have been well attended. There are advantages to both of these modes of delivery and we intend to continue providing face-to-face and online events in the future, as appropriate. We also continue to offer one-to-one support and advice, local conference or research grant schemes, and act as an information point for local research activities. Hubs have been working towards an operational baseline, with most exceeding this expectation. We were delighted to see the relaunch of two existing (but dormant) hubs in 2022/23 - CAHPR Essex and CAHPR Herts and West Essex. Both hubs have been supported by the consortium lead for East of England. Discussions are underway to introduce an additional new hub in Lincolnshire in the near future. New for 2023, CAHPR has launched a National research events series, with a different hub delivering a relevant virtual seminar each month. These have been well supported by the hubs and have attracted a large number of attendees. The challenge of the coming year will be to ensure our CAHPR/NIHR research champions have a fully integrated sense of belonging within the CAHPR hubs. We will work closely with the research champion lead and hope to draw on the expertise of the champions, particularly with regards to research within clinical practice.

#### **5. Professoriate**

Scoping work has been undertaken to consider how the professoriate should be reshaped and reformed, including their role and purpose and how they can best support the delivery of CAHPR's objectives. The new network will be broader than Professors membership and will pull together those with a research leadership focus. It will also contribute to national key stakeholder representation and influencing, communication and the development of staff development assets. We are in the process of compiling a national 'Professoriate Directory' to be hosted on the CAHPR website. The directorate will serve as a reference source and asset register of AHP Professorate expertise and will facilitate networking and connectivity.

## 6. Future

Over the next few years we will be focusing on implementing the recommendations from the HEE funded review and projects. Plus, there is still much ongoing work to review options about the structure, governance, financial security and sustainability of CAHPR.

## 7. Finance

### Income

Professional body	Approx membership numbers 2022	Contribution £ (36p member)
The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists	600	216
The British Association of Drama Therapists	700	252
The British and Irish Orthoptic Society	1000	360
The British Association for Music Therapy	1100	396
The British Association of Art Therapists	2000	720
The Institute of Osteopathy	3,000	1080
The College of Operating Department Practitioners	3200	1152
The Association of UK Dietitians	8000	2880
The Royal College of Podiatrists	10,000	3600
The College of Paramedics	16000	5760
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists	18,000	6480
Royal College of Occupational Therapists	28,000	10080
The Society of Radiographers	30,500	10980
The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	60,000	21600
	182100	£65,556

## Budget 2022 -2023

### Budget summary update (NB. not yet validated by CSP finance)

#### 2022

Carry over from previous years	+£41,872	
Total income in 2022 (includes HEE project funds)	+£113,909	
Total expenditure in 2022		-£92,554
Total to carry over to 2023		<b>+£63,227</b>

#### 2023

##### *Income*

Carry over from previous years	+£63,227	
Membership subscriptions*(excluding CSP subscription)	+£43,954 (expected but not yet rec'd)	

##### *Expenditure*

Hubs		-£26,000
Social Media		-£5,000
Running total surplus		<b>+£69,729</b>

Combined Professional Body Income of £65,556

Funds support:

£22,400      Secretariat: Administrator .5FTE (inc employment cost)

£26,000      Hubs (admin and funds for training, conferences, grant writing, webinars)

£17,000      Coordinator / Management role (currently vacant)

CSP hosting support provides – IT, finance, webpage management, line management of administrator, project management, contracts /legal