Health care for older people research in Nottingham and Derby 2016
Excellence in care through world class research

Gladman JRF\textsuperscript{1, 2, 7}, Masud T\textsuperscript{2}, Harwood RH\textsuperscript{2}, Sahota OS\textsuperscript{2}, Logan PA\textsuperscript{1}, Drummond AE\textsuperscript{4}, Gordon AL\textsuperscript{1, 3}, Goldberg SE \textsuperscript{4}, Blundell A\textsuperscript{2}, Robertson K\textsuperscript{5}, Robinson K\textsuperscript{1, 7}, King A\textsuperscript{1, 7}, Garden G\textsuperscript{6}, Godfrey M, Marshall\textsuperscript{1}, Ong T\textsuperscript{1, 2}, Anthony K\textsuperscript{1, 7}, Goodwin R \textsuperscript{1, 7}.

East Midlands Research into Ageing Network (EMRAN) is a research collaboration across the East Midlands to facilitate collaborative applied clinical research into ageing and the care of older people. EMRAN was set up with support from NIHR CLAHRC East Midlands.

Address for correspondence: Professor John Gladman, University of Nottingham, School of Medicine, Division of Rehabilitation & Ageing, Queen’s Medical Centre, Nottingham. NG2 7UH. Email: john.gladman@nottingham.ac.uk

\textsuperscript{1} University of Nottingham, School of Medicine, \textsuperscript{2} Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, \textsuperscript{3} Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, \textsuperscript{4} University of Nottingham, School of Health Sciences, \textsuperscript{5} Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, \textsuperscript{6}St Barnabas Hospice, Lincoln, \textsuperscript{7}CLAHRC East Midlands
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Foreword

It is with pleasure that I present this 2016 update of the brochure describing the work of the Nottingham and Derby Health Care of Older People Research Group. In 2015 we reported on academic expansion and the award of several large research grant awards.

In 2016 there has been much to report. Since we last reported the most important news is that the University of Nottingham and Nottingham University NHS Trust has received initial approval for its Biomedical Research Centre application. Within this is a Musculoskeletal Disorders theme, part of which is the complex packages theme co-led by Professor Gladman on behalf of colleagues described here. There is much other good news. We have obtained a PhD Fellowship to continue our work on hypertension in dementia from the Alzheimer’s Society (led by Professor Sarah Lewis) and Alison Cowley will join our group on a CLAHRC East Midlands PhD Fellowship. Several of our group have obtained their PhDs (Tomas Welsh, Thomas Jackson, Jane Horne, Philip Whitehead). Professor Opinder Sahota has been appointed R&D lead for the medicine directorate at Nottingham University Hospital. Professor Masud has been elected as President Elect of the British Geriatrics Society. Associate Professor Blundell has been appointed as Director of Medical Education at Nottingham University Hospitals Trust. Assistant Professor Dr Tomas Welsh has been appointed to an academic post in Bath. Sadly, I report the death in 2016 of Professor Rob Jones who has played and was playing a major role in our research: he is greatly missed.

For up to date information about the work of the group, please take a look at our website (http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/index.aspx)

John Gladman
1 What we do

This multi-disciplinary group delivers world class applied health research into the health care of older people, particularly those living with frailty, thereby supporting the best possible health care for these people in practice.

2 Our research topics

We describe our research in these five overlapping and closely-related topic areas:
- The health care of the residents of care homes
- People with delirium and dementia, and their families
- The aged musculoskeletal system: fractures, bone health falls and exercise
- Community services for older people
- The education and training of staff in the care of older people

See our web page that lists current and previous studies: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/projects/index.aspx

3 How we work

To produce the very best research:
- Our work is multidisciplinary – across the range of health disciplines and collaborating with a range of academic disciplines along the research translational pathway
- Patient, Public and Carers Involvement which we consider central is continuing to be embedded at every stage in our numerous studies

To maximise the impact of our research upon the health of older people
- We value close links to clinicians in the NHS
- We value close links to regional, national and international health organisations and charities
- We drive our research findings into professional training
- We drive our research findings into practice

To develop local, national and regional abilities to pursue excellence in care through world class research
- We have established the Centre for Doctoral Training in health care research to provide world class research training aimed particularly at health care clinicians

4 Who we are

Our research is a result of collaboration between many institutions with an interest in the health and well-being of older people. At the core they comprise:
- The University of Nottingham (the School of Medicine in Nottingham and Derby and the School of Health Sciences)
- The Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Senior academics who lead the group are:
- Professor John Gladman 1, 2, 3, 4
- Professor Tahir Masud 2, 1
- Professor Rowan Harwood 2, 1
- Professor Opinder Sahota 2, 1
- Professor Pip Logan 1, 2
- Professor Avril Drummond 4
- Associate Professor Adam Gordon 1, 3
- Associate Professor Sarah Goldberg 4
• Associate Professor Adrian Blundell ²,¹
• Assistant Professor Kate Robertson ⁵,¹

¹ University of Nottingham, School of Medicine
² Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
³ Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
⁴ University of Nottingham, School of Health Sciences
⁵ Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

The group works closely with The Centre for Dementia, Institute of Mental Health (University of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Healthcare), particularly Professors Tom Dening, Martin Orrell and Justine Schneider

Professor John Gladman

5 Find out more

For more information on the work of the group and all the studies mentioned in this document, please visit our group’s webpage

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/index.aspx
6 The health care of the residents of care homes

Associate Professor Adam Gordon leads the work in this topic for the group.

Further details of all the studies listed here are found on our group’s website: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/index.aspx

6.1 What we have achieved

In 2009 we reported that care home medicine had “come in from the cold”, having been hitherto largely overlooked - even by specialists in the health care of older people. Part of the evidence for the warming up of care home medicine was because in 2008 we commenced the Medical Crises in Older People (MCOP) research programme (2008-2013) in which one of its three workstreams was dedicated to health care for care home residents. The MCOP work reviewed the world literature on the topic, surveyed the health and needs of people in care homes, showing that there was a huge amount of robust information to guide many aspects of health care for the residents of care homes. This information is now used to guide the education and training of staff. The MCOP work also examined the challenges to the delivery of health care to the residents of care homes, focussing on the UK. This work also allowed us to develop a wide collaborative network of care home practitioners, most notably a leader of care home managers, Mrs Anita Astle MBE who has enthusiastically become one of our research team.

Subsequently our group worked with Professor Claire Goodman (University of Herts), and other leading researchers in this field, on the recently completed “Optimal” study (2004-2016) to evaluate models of health care delivery for care home residents. The Optimal study showed that what matters in the delivery of health care to care home residents is whether health services and practitioners have dedicated time and resources to develop responses to resident’s health care problems with care home staff (known as “relational working”), particularly related to those problems that accompany dementia. This is an important finding because at present the focus has been upon whether it is regulation that will improve health care, whether providing more services and teams will do so, or whether empowering care home staff will do so: the Optimal findings indicate that any of these three approaches could work if a relational working approach is taken, but could fail to produce good health care if not.

6.2 What we are doing now

Given the importance of the Optimal findings to funders of health care (commissioners) in the UK, we will be making sure that they are briefed in the implications. We suspect that the lessons from Optimal will resonate in other countries where health services and the provision of residential nursing care are potentially uncomfortable bed-fellows.
Our on-going research is to develop and evaluate health care interventions for the residents of care homes, and we are ensuring that the lessons from Optimal are applied in this work: we are researching with care home staff, rather than “doing to” care homes. Our key current projects are described below.

6.2.1 The LPZ and United Kingdom Care Homes (LaUnCH) study

There are at least three times as many places in the care home sector in the UK as there are beds in the NHS, and the residents are almost all frail. Yet mechanisms to maintain and improve safety in care homes are less developed than for hospitals. A major problem is that there is no common or reliable mechanism for measuring the prevalence of common care problems across care homes and hence no consistently recorded objective measure to drive, or measure the impact of, quality improvement initiatives in the sector. The International Prevalence of Care Problems (LPZ) tool was developed for this purpose in the Netherlands and is now implemented across many parts of mainland Europe. It was not clear whether this would be a feasible or acceptable approach to care homes in the UK – which are smaller and more diverse than those in much of the rest of Europe. The East Midlands Patient Safety Collaborative funded the LaUnCH project, the aims of which were to study the implementation of the International Prevalence of Care Problems (LPZ) tool in a small sample of care homes across East Midlands. The study was led by Dr Adam Gordon.

The LPZ tool was used for the first time in 489 residents across 26 East Midlands Care homes on the 26th November 2015. It was feasible to implement, with the bulk of the work being undertaken, on a voluntary basis, by care home providers. Focus group work revealed that care home providers valued the opportunity to work closely with NHS staff on implementation of the audit, that they improved their care processes and documentation in run up to the audit and that they learned about how to provide better care for pressure ulcers and continence in the process. They did not, however, find it easy to know what to do with the results of the audit and the absence of clinical governance infrastructure in care homes meant that in many cases the data generated was not used.

In round 2 of LPZ-UK, due to take place in 2016, we’ll be exploring how homes can be supported to make better use of the data to drive up quality and also be considering the potential health economics impacts of auditing practices in care homes.

6.2.2 The Proactive healthcare for older people in Care Homes (PeaCH) study

The understanding we gained from our research in the MCOP programme and subsequent work on the Optimal study prepared us well to attempt to improve the health care of the residents of care homes. As part of Optimal we had shown that in the UK it is now not the case that the residents of care homes are simply ignored, and many different services and approaches are usually available – but they are often not sustained, or remain fragmented, leading to unacceptable variation in quality. The principles of comprehensive geriatric assessment (a proactive process using individualised, integrated care which is known to be effective) offer a rationale to improve the health care of the residents of care homes. The PeaCH study implements, and aims to sustain, proactive health care in care homes through:

- A region-wide quality improvement (QI) to deliver proactive health care to care home residents using the principles of comprehensive geriatric assessment
- A process evaluation of the QI programme and resulting changes to health care
- Measuring changes in Health-Related Quality of Life during the QI programme
- Costing health service use to consider cost-benefit
- Analysing records of hospital, GP and ambulance attendances to measure impact on health service use

This study is funded by the Dunhill Medical Trust and led by Associate Professor Adam Gordon.
The first quality improvement collaborative for PeaCH will take place in September 2016 and the last will take place in September 2017. Work to collect individual outcomes from residents will commence in November 2016 and take place over 12 months. The East Midlands Academic Health Sciences Network Health Informatics workstream has already generated an algorithm to identify care home residents admitted to acute hospital and this work will be used to generate some of the metrics required to drive the PeaCH project over the coming year.

6.2.3 Rehabilitation for outdoor activity and mobility (ROAM) in care homes

The health and well-being benefits of being active and getting out of the house are well-known, and Professor Pip Logan in our group has led several research studies showing how occupational therapists can improve outdoor mobility in people who become housebound due to disabilities and illnesses. This PhD study aims to extend this work to the residents of care homes. The main aim of the PhD is to identify practices and resources that increase residents’ access to and engagement in outdoor activities and mobility in care homes gardens. The study is funded by CLAHRC-East Midlands and the PhD student is Amanda King, an experienced occupational therapist.

A mapping review of outdoor activities and mobility in care homes was conducted and helped to narrow the focus of the study to care home gardens and homes specifically providing dementia care, without nursing. Barriers to residents getting outside are consistently reported in the literature - the Dementia Care Mapping observational tool and focus groups with care workers will be used to explore the issues and find practical ways to increase residents’ garden and outdoor area use. Care homes in Nottinghamshire and those registered with the Enabling Research in Care Homes (East Midlands) network were approached to participate. There has been a good response and three homes have been selected to participate in the study. Recruitment of care worker and resident participants will be starting in the next few weeks.

6.2.4 Falls in Care Homes (FinCH)

Our group has worked for many years to develop and evaluate interventions to promote health and hence prevent falls – this work is described in the later section on the aged musculoskeletal system research theme. One overlap between themes is our research to try to prevent falls in the residents of care homes – falls in care homes residents are notoriously hard to prevent. Working closely with care home staff, Kate Robertson, Marie Ward and Pip Logan have developed a “Guide to Action” to be used by care home staff to help them prevent falls in those for whom they care. FinCH is a study to test whether putting the Guide to Action into practice in care homes prevents falls. The FinCH study is funded by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme, and led by Professor Pip Logan. This multicentre study started in April 2016 and in November 2016 will start to recruit 66 care homes across the UK. At present, Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire, Derby City, Leicester City Bradford and Norwich are all locations where care homes are being asked to take part. In the next few months other places may come on-board. 1308 residents will be trained to use the will be followed up falls will be used to and economically, observation studies is going on in the future work and

Kate Robertson
6.2.5 End of life care for people with dementia in care homes
Many people in care homes end their days there. Care home staff find end of life care challenging and are often unsupported in delivery of palliative care. As a result, many care home residents are admitted to and die in the unfamiliar surroundings of an acute hospital.

With funding from a local charity, the Bromhead Medical Charity, Dr Gill Garden, a liaison psychiatrist in Lincolnshire, developed and lead an innovative service to improve end of life care for care home residents with dementia in Boston, Lincolnshire. The service involved training and support for care home staff in end of life care, assessment of residents with reference to Gold Standards Framework prognostic indicator guidance train and development of advance care plans with residents or on a best interests basis with families of residents who lack mental capacity. Evaluation of the service showed a 37% reduction in hospital admissions from the Boston care homes in the first year of the service, and 55% in the second and third years. All but one of the residents died in their or their family’s preferred place of care.

The Bromhead Medical Charity awarded a further grant to develop a multidisciplinary care home service in Lincoln. Twenty two care homes and approximately 1000 residents will be involved ultimately. All residents, irrespective of whether they have dementia or not, are being offered Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment with the purpose of optimizing their care and developing care plans which reflect the residents’ or their families preferences for treatment, place of care and end of life care. An integral part of this service is education of care home staff and involvement of families. Gill Garden is using evaluation of this service as an opportunity to undertake a PhD study looking at the health service utilization of those residents or their families who choose a palliative approach to their health care as compared with those residents who opt for escalation of care and admission to hospital.

6.2.6 Defining the core competencies for registered nurses working in care homes
Registered Nurses (RNs) working in UK care homes receive most of their training in acute hospitals. However the type of care that they deliver in care homes and the core competencies required to do so, are quite different from those needed by hospital staff. Care homes often struggle to recruit and retain nurses and a lack of recognition of the specialist skills required by the sector has been stated as a contributing factor. With funding from Health Education East Midlands, Dr Miriam Stanyon, with Anita Astle and Assoc Professors Adam Gordon and Sarah Goldberg set out to establish a list of core competencies that could help to address this deficiency.

The group used a two-stage process was adopted, where a systematic literature review and focus groups with stakeholders were used to develop an initial list of competencies and then the competency list was modified over three rounds of a Delphi process with a multi-disciplinary expert panel of 28 members.

At the end of this process 22 competencies were agreed as essential for RNs working in care homes. These competencies provide a firm basis on which to build a curriculum for this staff group.

The findings from the Delphi process are awaiting publication. Once they have been published the research team will be sharing these at national and international conferences. A local initiative in the East Midlands, funded by Health Education East Midlands, is using the competencies as the basis of developing a dedicated curriculum to train RNs as specialists in Nursing Home care.
7 People with delirium and dementia, and their families

Professor Rowan Harwood and Dr Sarah Goldberg lead research in this topic.

Further details of all the studies listed here are found on our group’s website: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/index.aspx

7.1 What we have achieved

Our previous work to improve the hospital care of people with delirium and dementia and their families includes the “Better Mental Health” study (2008-2011) and a workstream of the Medical Crises in Older People programme (2008-2013), during which we developed our Patient and Public and Carers Involvement Group and valuable links with individuals who are part of our team, particularly Kate Sartain, Margaret Kerr and Maureen Godfrey. Over the past six years we have worked continuously with the Patient, Public and Carers involvement Group. This focuses on dementia, frail older people and palliative care research. The members continue to work to provide valuable input into the numerous studies presented to their regular meetings. The diverse group are able to bring their lived experiences primarily as carers and also their transferable skills and knowledge from all aspects of their lives. All have worked on every aspect of research as well as promotional activities engaging with the public.

In the Medical Crises in Older People (MCOP) programme, we learnt a great deal about the care of people with delirium and dementia in hospital. For example we showed that many people with delirium and dementia have very poor outcomes: by six months many will have died or gone into care homes, and most of the remainder continue with considerable physical and mental health problems. We showed that their families were under considerable strain. These findings show how important it is to take a palliative approach to such people to reduce their symptoms where possible, and to concentrate...
on their quality of life. The main research in the MCOP programme was to develop and evaluate a specialist ward to deliver the principles of best care to older people with delirium and dementia. It was gratifying to note that this study showed that the quality of care was better on the specialist unit, and that carers were more satisfied with the care of their loved ones. It was also valuable to find that the unit was affordable - even though more resources were required to bring the quality of care up to what we felt was best practice, there were savings to be made in terms of a reduced length of hospital stay and fewer people admitted to care homes. It will probably take more studies such as ours to be conducted before there is widespread adoption of such specialist units in hospitals – ours was the first robust study and it is usually best for early positive findings such as ours to be repeated a few times in further studies.

However, we needed to learn a great deal about best practice in the care of people with delirium and dementia in the course of the MCOP programme. To help share our learning and improve the training of health care staff, we developed a brief documentary about the specialist unit and principles of care it applied. We then used a further research grant to develop it as an educational resource, alongside other educational materials summarising our collective knowledge and expertise. All these material are now in widespread use in undergraduate and postgraduate clinical training.

7.2 What we are doing now

Our group’s interest in the care of people with delirium and dementia in hospital continues. Professor Sahota leads local work on a study to improve the care of people with dementia with hip fracture. Professors Harwood and Goldberg are exploring how to improve communication with people with delirium and dementia, since effective communication is at the heart of effective, personalised and respectful care.

Our experience that many of the people seen in hospital with dementia are relatively late in their disease has led us to give attention to helping people to live well with dementia. Two pieces of research in particular illustrate this: the PrAISED programme to develop and evaluate an intervention to maintain health and well-being and hence prevent falls in people with early dementia, and Scaling the Peaks, which is a study to understand and improve the organisation of services for people with dementia in rural areas.

A theme that permeates much of our research and many of our interventions is the adverse effects of medications in older people with frailty. One particular area of concern is drugs for hypertension in people with dementia. The Hypertension in Dementia (HIND) programme considers this.

7.2.1 Promoting Activity, Independence and Stability in Early Dementia (PrAISED)

The problems faced by people with dementia are many, but falls is one particular one that has been identified as a priority for research. Not only can falls cause, pain, injury, hospitalisation and even death, but for people with dementia some restrictive attempts to prevent falls could affect their independence. Importantly, although there are good interventions to reduce falls in people who do not have dementia, these do not work or work so well in people with dementia.

Our work aims to understand why people with dementia are so prone to falling and hence what might be done to mitigate this risk. There are two key problems: people with dementia are particularly prone to falls because the dementia process itself affects movement and balance; and people with dementia find it difficult to participate in existing programme for fall prevention that rely heavily upon an intact memory. However, there good reason to think that different types of exercises and new ways to deliver them for people with dementia will be effective.
We started work on this topic in 2012. This programme of work is now supported by a NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research (PGfAR) award led by Professor Harwood, and an Alzheimer’s Society Clinical Training Fellowship for Victoria Booth. We are grateful for the previous support from an NIHR Programme Development Award, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust Charitable Funds, Nottingham University Hospitals Flexibility Support Funding, Nottingham University Hospitals Research and Innovation funding, and Nottingham City PCT and Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust Flexibility Support Funding.

In the last four years, as well spending a lot of effort to obtain funding, we have thoroughly examined the evidence base related to balance and stability of people with dementia, and interventions to improve outcomes. We have found, for example, that people with dementia particularly find it difficult to do two tasks at once, such as to walk and talk. We have found that the benefits of exercise require more strength training than is usually achieved. We have found that strategies that are suitable for people with dementia exist to improve motivation and hence sustain participation in exercise. We have used these findings in the development of our intervention.

We have developed our intervention and tested it with people with dementia and their carers. We have found that an ideal time to recruit people with dementia to engage in exercise is shortly after their diagnosis is made, as this is a time when they want to preserve their health and well-being for as long as possible. We have clarified the necessary links between the mental health and falls prevention teams for the intervention to be delivered smoothly. We have developed all the materials needed to help rehabilitation staff, people with dementia, and their carers if they have them, to put the intervention into practice. We have found that our intervention is feasible and acceptable. Our current work is to gather the final bits of information that is needed to be able to run a proper scientific experiment to compare the outcomes of people offered our intervention compared to usual practice, and to see whether it is good value for money. The next step, obviously, is to do this experiment.

To this end, we have trained a number of clinicians in Nottingham and Derby to deliver the PRAISED intervention. This has involved integrating a number of different disciplines and skills about dementia, falls prevention, motivation, exercise and activity. The trained staff found it to be an exciting and innovative way of working and are looking forward to delivering the new intervention in the feasibility study which started to recruit participants in September 2016.

7.2.2 Communication training for hospital staff caring for people with dementia (VOICE)

Successful communication between health care staff and patients and their families is central to safe, effective and high quality health care. Dementia often causes deficits that make communication difficult, and this requires health care staff to have greater communication skills. This project defines the most effective communications skills required, develops a teaching package, put it into practice, and assesses its impact. This study is funded by the NIHR Health Service and Delivery Research Programme and runs between 2015 and 2018. The School of Health Sciences supports a PhD for Becca O’Brien to work on this study. The study and PhD are led by Professors Harwood and Goldberg.

In the past year, we have video recorded 41 clinical encounters between healthcare professionals and patients with dementia. Working with experts from UCL (Dr Beeke) and the Department of Sociology (Prof Pilnick), these video recordings have been analysed in detail using a method called Conversation Analysis. This method allows us
to explore interactional patterns across encounters by focusing on the fine detail of verbal and non-verbal behaviour. We have identified common phases across these encounters to be: opening, establishing the reason for the encounter, information gathering, business, closing. We have prioritised two striking features of the dataset for in-depth analysis:

- overt refusals by patients after requests for action
- the often-extended closing sequences of the encounter.

We are now using these findings to develop a dementia communication skills training course for healthcare professionals which will use actors to simulate patients with dementia.

### 7.2.3 Services for people with dementia in rural areas

In recent years there have been major initiatives to change the way that society is able to respond to the growing number of people with dementia - we are aiming for “dementia friendly societies” where people with dementia and those who care for them are not alienated, or even merely tolerated, but enabled to sustain their local connections and lead meaningful lives. There are larger numbers of older people living in rural than urban areas in the UK yet the majority of dementia care research is located within urban areas. This study bucks that trend and seeks to understand the particular aspects of living with dementia amongst rural dwellers. There are concerns that, despite the idyllic scenery of rural areas such as the English Peak District, the challenges to developing dementia friendly societies in rural areas are distinctive from those in urban areas.

In a study called “Scaling the Peaks; Understanding the barriers and drivers to providing and using dementia friendly community services in rural areas: the impact of location, cultures and community in the Peak District National Park on sustaining service innovations”, we visually map the services and resources available to people with dementia and their carers, and examine how these are affected by the local geography and seasons of the year. It studies people with dementia and the providers of support in a very rural location with a particular interest in the influences of locality, culture and community have upon their experiences and well-being.

This study has commenced work with voluntary, health and social care providers by regularly meeting with them to observe and discuss the ways in which they collaboratively work to build and maintain dementia friendly communities. The range of approaches suggests that there is a diverse and committed number of mostly small grassroots initiatives which seek to value all members of a community. Early findings suggest that the role of the church, local shop, pub and agricultural markets are seen as pivotal places which are valued by members of the community; arguably more so than public services locations such as health centres, libraries and village halls. Robust reliable and affordable infrastructures such as transport, internet and landline services, fuel and housing, as well as accessible health and social support are all considered as key characteristics of rural dementia friendly communities.

We are currently seeking to recruit up to 60 families living with dementia as part of the longitudinal study to understand their experiences and views about living in the Peak Park. Each family will be visited by the research team every few months to discuss their everyday lives and explore what they value the most in their communities. This will include physical, social and community sharing activities in addition to any care needs. This information will be used to develop a visual and conceptual map of the area to provide a way of identifying the places and types of dementia friendly communities. This will help in the future planning of services and support the development of truly dementia friendly communities across the trajectory of living with dementia.
The study is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship funded by the Alzheimer's Society and runs between June 2015 and May 2019.

7.2.4 End of life care for people with dementia in care homes

We have previously described this study in the care home theme section (6.2.5).

7.2.5 PERFECTED (Peri-operative Enhanced Recovery hip Fracture Care of patients with Dementia)

People with dementia who break their hip are extremely vulnerable. This research programme develops and pilot an evidence based interventions to improve the hospital care of physical and mental health problems in people with dementia. The PERFECTED (Peri-operative Enhanced Recovery hip-fracture Care of patients with Dementia) National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded 5 year research programme aims is to develop and pilot an evidence-based intervention to improve the hospital care of patients living with dementia who have fractured their hip, through 3 work packages.

The PERFECTED Enhanced Recovery Pathway checklist intervention (PERFECT-ER) has now been developed, (Work package 1) and we are currently in work package 2. This aim of this phase is to use an action research (plan-do-study-act) approach to understand how to best implement the PERFECT-ER and will be led by three centres, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Norwich and Norfolk University Hospital NHS Trust and Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Knowledge generated during this study will be used to develop an “Enhanced Recovery Pathway” and staff training manual. This will aid implementation of the intervention arm of a later cluster randomised controlled trial (Work Package 3), ensuring the PERFECT-ER can be put into practice in health settings quickly and faithfully. Professor Opinder Sahota is the Nottingham collaborator on this programme, which is led by Professor Chris Fox, University of East Anglia. The programme runs between 2013 and 2018.

7.2.6 Hypertension in Dementia (HIND)

Our research in this area stemmed from our concern as clinicians that the treatment of high blood pressure may do more harm than good in some very fragile older people. We have set out to find out if this is true and, if so, what can be done about it. We have worked with Professor Simon Conroy in Leicester and Dr Jenni Harrison in Edinburgh on this project and, latterly, with Professor Sarah Lewis in the University of Nottingham – professor of medical statistics with whom we have long and successful links since the days of the Medical Crises in Older People (MCOP) programme.

Our first work was to look at the underlying evidence about whether there is good evidence already that lowering blood pressure in people with dementia is a good thing to do or not. We found that there is very little evidence one way or the other, mainly because people with dementia were not entered into the trials.

This means that doctors presume that lowering the blood pressure of people with dementia has the same benefits and risks as in people without dementia, and our reviews showed that they manage hypertension in people with dementia just as they do in those without dementia. Our survey found that some GPs are a little uncomfortable with this, and many take special care to take individual factors such as dementia into account when offering blood pressure lowering drugs.

But we noted that people with dementia might be at greater risk of side effects from anti-hypertensive drugs than those without dementia, and many of these potential side
effects were not studied in the original trials of anti-hypertensive medication. Furthermore, we noted evidence that lowering blood pressure might worsen the progress of dementia. People with dementia also tend to be frail and many are very old and these factors might increase the harm and reduce the benefits of antihypertensive drugs. Worryingly, although higher blood pressure is generally associated with poorer outcomes in most adults, the reverse is often observed in the very aged and those with disability.

Assistant Professor Tom Welsh’s PhD looked at how hypertension is managed in the modern NHS. It was not an easy study and largely the fitter people with dementia were studied. By and large their care was in line with modern best practice, but he noted a slightly increased proportion of people taking anti-hypertensive drugs reported potential drug related side effects. There was also a high rate of heart attacks and strokes, which is what anti-hypertensive drugs are supposed to prevent. However, this was not a study comparing matched groups given, or not given, antihypertensive drugs, and the patients Tom studied were at high risk of both heart attack and stroke and side effects.

Given the strong understanding that hypertension in people with dementia should be treated in the same way as in people without dementia, and given that there is no strong evidence to oppose this view, it is difficult at this stage to consider a trial of not treating high blood pressure in this group of people – even though one might be scientifically justifiable. However, we noted that many people taking antihypertensive drugs can stop them without their blood pressure rising to levels that would justify re-starting them. We therefore wondered in one way to optimise the potential benefits yet reduce the potential harms of antihypertensive drugs in people with dementia would be to attempt to withdraw them and only to re-start them if their blood pressure rose again to treatment levels. We tried this in a feasibility study led by Veronika van der Wardt and funded by the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit programme. We found that it was hard to recruit people into the study as it required a lot of engagement from GPs who are very busy, and there was understandable reluctance of people with dementia or their carers to wish to interfere with their long term medication. At present, we do not think that a large scale study is feasible in the UK.

Thus, our research to date has not allayed our concerns that treating hypertension in people with dementia may not be safe and effective, yet we have found it difficult to find a research approach that will get a definitive answer. This is where our current research comes in. Much has been learnt about the benefits and harms of drugs from epidemiological studies of huge anonymised databases of GP records. The advantage of these databases is that they represent usual practice and do not require us to recruit participants which proved so difficult in our feasibility study of the withdrawal of antihypertensive drugs. Professor Sarah Lewis is leading a PhD Fellowship to start in the academic year 2016-7 to explore the relationship between antihypertensive drugs and a range of adverse outcomes in people with and without dementia. We hope that we will be able to observe whether the presence of dementia appears to modify the benefits of blood pressure lowering therapy, or increase the risks.
8 The aged musculoskeletal system: fractures, bone health, falls, exercise and sarcopenia

The aged musculoskeletal system research in our group is led by Professors Pip Logan, Tash Masud, Opinder Sahota and Rowan Harwood.

Further details of all the studies listed here are found on our group’s website: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/index.aspx

8.1 What we have achieved

Whereas the previous research topics concern an important setting for older people with frailty (care homes) and the problems of the aged brain (delirium and dementia), this research topic concerns another major health care topic seen in older people, the aged musculoskeletal system. By this we mean fractures, the underlying bone diseases that make the older bone susceptible to fracture, the underlying muscular weakness that predisposes to falls, and the falls that precipitate a fracture. There is a lot of overlap between themes.

Our group has a long track record of falls research contributing to the evidence base for the benefit of interventions to prevent falls that now underpins routine clinical practice. One previous study showed that cataract surgery not only improves vision but prevents falls. Another previous study showed that community falls teams could prevent falls in people who fall at home but do not get sent to hospital. We have shown the limited value of attempting to prevent falls in people who are at risk of falling but have not yet done so in the geriatric day hospital. We have also been part of a multicentre study that demonstrated the value of group exercises in leisure centres in the prevention of falls in the community.

Professor Masud collaborated with Professor Kendrick in Nottingham and Professor Iliffe in London and others in the Pro-Act65+ study (of over 1200 people) which showed that physical activity levels could be increased by implementing the FaME exercise programme in community dwelling older people and that falls could be reduced with this approach. In further collaboration with the University of Loughborough (with Dr Brooke-Wavell), the bone arm of ProACT65+ shoed that the impact of the FaME exercise and Otago exercise programmes was not sufficient to increase bone quality.

In collaboration with University of Loughborough (Dr Brooke-Wavell) Professor Masud showed that whole body vibration in frail older people can improve leg muscle power and increase bone formation without affecting bone resorption.

Professor Masud has also been part of the clinical academic group that has written “A comprehensive fracture prevention strategy in older adults” the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society Statement, demonstrating that our research is getting into guidelines that will improve care internationally.
8.2 What we are doing now

There are many active studies running in this theme, particularly about the role of exercise. The University of Nottingham has created several “Research Priority Areas” which aim to facilitate research in areas of strength and strategic importance. We are pleased to be part of one of these in Musculoskeletal Ageing. In the future we fully expect to conduct more applied health research that translates new understandings drawn from laboratory science, for example about exercise and diet, into clinical interventions and settings.

8.2.1 Preventing falls in care homes (FinCH)

We have described this earlier in the care home theme section (6.2.4).

8.2.2 Chair based exercise in the community

Whilst the benefits of various forms of exercise on health and well-being are becoming ever clearer, there are difficulties in very frail people being able to participate and benefit from doing so. Many exercise programmes require the participant to be able to stand or walk. For those that cannot, there is chair based exercise. This has been little studied. Our group has reviewed the literature briefly once and found little, and is repeating this review to look deeper. The first review was somewhat stymied by the lack of definition of chair based exercise, so we produced a definition of what chair based exercise should be.

This work is supported by a CLAHRC PhD Fellowship for Katie Robinson (a physiotherapist) and by a NIHR Research for Patient Benefit programme led by Professor Tash Masud.

Katie has thoroughly reviewed the existing research on chair based exercise using our new definition: there is very little firm evidence that there are any physical health benefits from it. This is partly due to the lack of research, but also because most studies have not tested exercise regimes that are intense enough to change muscle strength. Despite this, her survey of current practice shows that chair based exercise is widely offered. We suspect that the justification for chair based exercise as currently delivered – usually to frail older people such as those in care homes – is as a form of recreation rather than altering physical health.

Katie has however developed a more intensive chair based exercise regime which is capable of improving muscle function. Questions remaining now are whether this new intervention is feasible and sustainable in the sorts of people with frailty that chair based exercise is offered to, and in the settings where it is usually delivered.

Work is also being undertaken to optimise the method of evaluating the chair based exercise intervention to help design a future trial. This is being done through feasibility work across day centres, care homes and community groups in Nottinghamshire. This study is not designed to look at whether the chair based exercise intervention is effective: instead it focuses on whether the intervention can be delivered and whether it is possible to run clinical trial across a range of community settings. Little research of this kind has taken place across day centres and local community groups emphasising the importance of feasibility work to explore approaches to recruitment and delivery.

The chair based exercise intervention has now been delivered across all the settings. Community settings and older adults were interested in taking part in the study however there were some challenges with recruitment and delivery of the study which need to be considered for a future trial. These challenges included changes in the provision of day
care for older adults, temporary closure of centres due to outbreaks and the daily routine of centres. We now have a better understanding of how long the recruitment may take, what resources are needed and how we can minimise the impact to the study when centres have to close. There were also difficulties with delivering the chair based exercise intervention as planned with day centres and community groups only being able to accommodate exercise sessions once a week, which is not sufficient to make a real difference. Work is currently underway to gather the views of the older adults and staff at the centres. This will help to explore whether there are ways to improve how the intervention is delivered as well as the research process.

We then need to consider all the feasibility information to establish the most appropriate way to evaluate the chair based exercise intervention.

### 8.2.3 Chair based exercise in in-patients (PEDAL)

Another role for chair based exercise is in in-patients. Many patients are temporarily immobile, yet the hazards of inactivity especially in such settings are increasingly being recognised – muscles wastes away very quickly when not used. This pilot study compares the muscles strengths of in-patients using a cycle exercise machine to those who do not. This study is led by Professor Sahota and supported by a start-up grant from the British Geriatrics Society.

### 8.2.4 Engaging older people in long term exercise (OPREE)

Adult physical inactivity has been estimated to cost the UK economy £1billion. A recurring theme in all research involving exercise as an intervention is that sustaining exercise at levels necessary to have health benefits is challenging. For example, falls and the risk of falls, has been shown to be reduced in older people living in the community if they complete regular lower limb strength and balance training. The NHS provides this training for a short period of time with the expectation that people will maintain the exercises after they leave the training programme. Our research has demonstrated however, that of those referred to the exercise programme, a quarter fail to start, a third withdraw prior to completing half of the programme, and only a quarter complete the programme. The withdrawal reasons varied, and included concerns about the intensity of the programme, medical incidents, transportation problems, holidays, commitments or people being too busy. We are exploring why people do not attend the NHS training programmes by collecting data from NHS services, and from the patients themselves. Using the data and other published literature we are developing a number of strategies to increase the rate of attendance at the prescribed training and the ongoing exercises.

We have completed a systematic review of the literature, and found that there are very few evidence-based interventions that have been proven to help older people engage with exercise programmes. The most promising strategies we found were: staff using the theories of “positive messaging”; regular monitoring and feedback; staff providing home visits to encourage attendance; staff being attentive to “self-efficacy”; exercise classes being targeted and individualised; staff “signposting” people to appropriate resources to encourage sustained engagement with exercise; and some formal behavioural change techniques.

Interviews and focus groups with patients and staff have found that to make exercise classes more engaging they need to be purposeful, practical, affordable, fun, empathetic, and innovative, proven to be effective and not be time limited. Trainers need to be skilled in motivational techniques, be knowledgeable about local facilities and understand older adult’s needs.

Based on these understandings an intervention package has been developed (called OPREE). It will be tested on a group of 12 patients. This work is being completed by Kevin Anthony as part of his CLAHRC East Midlands PhD Fellowship, supervised by
Professor Pip Logan, Professor Tash Masud, Professor Kristian Pollock, and Dr Veronika Van der Wardt.

8.2.5 The Physical activity Implementation Study In Community-dwelling Adults (PhISICAL) study

The recent ProAct 65+ research study showed that the group-based Falls Management Exercise (FaME) programme was more effective in preventing falls than one-to-one exercise programmes. Nottingham and Derby together with London were the recruiting centres for ProAct65+, with Professor Tahir Masud being a co-investigator on this large multicentre trial led by Professors Steve Iliffe (London) and Denise Kendrick (University of Nottingham). There is now sufficient justification for these to be put into practice widely. Public health teams in Leicestershire and Derby are implementing FaME programmes. Many implementation research questions can be answered while this is done such as determining the barriers and facilitators to put this into practice at scale and pace, whether establishing a community of practice helps the implementation and embedding of the intervention, and whether the intervention retains its effectiveness when put into practice outside of a clinical trial. This study is funded by the NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) East Midlands, runs from 2015 to 2017, and is led by Professor Liz Orton.

This study hosts a clinical academic PhD student, Sarah Audsley, a physiotherapist. The title of her PhD study is Keeping Adults Physically Active Following the Completion of a Community-based Falls Prevention Exercise Programme: a Feasibility Study (KAPA). During her PhD Sarah will be exploring how best people who are offered the FAME programme can be help to stay engaged.

8.2.6 Novel non-invasive techniques to measure mass, synthesis, and breakdown.

At present, measuring muscle mass usually requires scans that have to be done in hospital, and measuring muscle synthesis and breakdown requires invasive laboratory experiments. Together, the difficulty of making these measures hampers research in this field. Colleagues in the University of Nottingham in Derby have developed non-invasive techniques in which muscle mass, synthesis and breakdown can be calculated by the take up and excretion of molecules that are used to make up muscle proteins. In this study, A PhD Fellowship funded by the Abbeyfield Foundation, Jessica Cegielshi examines the use of this new technique in a range of people, of varying ages, some of whom are undergoing exercise regimes and hence are expected to synthesis muscle and some of whom will have a limb immobilised and so would be expected to lose muscle. If this technique proves to be successful, it can be used to test the effect of interventions to prevent or reverse sarcopenia targeting synthesis, breakdown or both.
8.2.7 Perindopril and Leucine to improve muscle function in older people. (LACE Study)

Despite the problems we have in measuring sarcopenia, some research to date using existing techniques have noted that a drug called perindopril (widely used to lower blood pressure and help in heart failure) is associated with less sarcopenia, and an amino acid called leucine is a food component that is particularly important in triggering muscle synthesis. There is sufficient reason already to test these out properly in a research study to see if giving them to people with sarcopenia makes any appreciable difference. We already know that resistance exercise can prevent or reverse sarcopenia, but it is important to look for drugs and food stuffs that can also do so, either to be used in addition or instead of resistance exercise in those who are too weak to do resistance exercise. Professor Tash Masud leads the Nottingham arm of this study, which is funded by the NIHR and led by a study team in the University of Dundee by Dr Miles Witham.

8.2.8 Intravenous iron after hip fracture surgery

Anaemia following hip fracture is common. Approximately 30 to 45% of patients are anaemic on admission - 10% are severely anaemic. Anaemia is associated with poor outcomes with regard to mobility, postoperative mortality and readmission. There is currently no clear consensus on the optimal method of managing perioperative anaemia in this group of frail patients with frequent comorbidity. One approach is to give iron by injection – it is often not well tolerated or absorbed if given by mouth. This study will compare the outcomes of a group of 40 people after hip fracture surgery given intravenous iron to a group of 40 given usual hospital care. The primary outcome in this study simply looks at whether the iron injections increase the amount of blood synthesis in the week after the surgery, although other outcomes such as the need for transfusions, complications, mobility and mortality will be looked at. If the results are promising, larger trials, big enough to see if intravenous iron improves clinical outcomes, will be justified. Professor Opinder Sahota leads this study for the group.

8.2.9 Care of people with vertebral fractures

Osteoporotic spinal fracture is often associated with significant pain and deterioration in physical function. Patients with these fractures who require hospital admission are frailer, older, in significant pain and have poor mobility. Treating their fracture needs to be done in conjunction with other age-related co-morbidities, polypharmacy, cognitive impairment, sensory impairment and frailty. Orthogeriatric medicine brings together expertise in fracture management (invasive and non-invasive), peri-operative medicine, rehabilitation and bone health optimisation in a patient centred, co-ordinated multidisciplinary fashion. This has proven to be successful in the management of hip fractures and could offer the same benefits in spinal fractures.

The aim of the research is to define a care model for the management of older people with osteoporotic spinal fractures in hospital. The study is conducted by Dr Terence Ong, with support from a PhD Fellowship award from the Dunhill Medical Trust.

The first part of Terence’s was to review the literature on the natural history of osteoporotic spinal fractures, to help clarify the nature of the problems these patients experience and hence to establish the parameters for designing a service to meet their needs. He has shown that generally the people with this condition are fitter than those who fracture their hip, but there is a proportion that is frail. Whereas virtually all patients with hip fracture have surgery, only a minority of those with vertebral fractures do so. These findings will help to design the functions of an orthogeriatric service for people with vertebral fractures. His review also showed that there is still information lacking
about the functional consequences of this fracture, exactly who is at risk of particularly poor outcomes, and what modern management already comprises. His next step is to conduct a careful survey with follow-up (a cohort study) to look in detail at these gaps in the literature.

8.2.10 Intranasal drug delivery development

As part of a large grant by the Technology Strategy Board (in collaboration with Alan Perkins and Richard Pearson, University of Nottingham and Critical Pharmaceuticals), Professor Tahir Masud led the clinical trial aimed at developing a new intranasal route for the bone building drug teriparatide. This is the first “First in Man” trial conducted in Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. Valuable information has been gained about the effectiveness of intranasal absorption of teriparatide in both rodents and humans and further studies are being planned to develop this route further.

8.2.11 Osteoporosis and Falls Collaboration between Nottingham and Denmark

A collaboration between Nottingham and the University of Southern Denmark (funded by the municipality in Odense and the University of Southern Denmark) is led by Professor Tahir Masud who is supervising several PhD students investigating the prevalence of osteoporosis in people prone to falling, the usefulness of peripheral bone density in people who fall and the combination of whole body vibration and teriparatide in the treatment of osteoporosis. A further programme of research in collaboration with the University of Aalborg is investigating development of interactive gaming devices including the Wii in balance and muscle strengthening programmes. Another study is utilising Danish databases to investigate if adding falls risk factors to FRAX (Fracture Risk Assessment Tool) improves fracture prediction (collaboration with Dr Stig Anderson, Aalborg University and Professor Nadeem Qureshi, University of Nottingham). A computer programme has been developed to use the Wii board as a method for measuring leg extensor power as well as measuring body sway and hand grip strength (with the University of Aalborg).

8.2.12 Sarcofalls

A recent area of research for the group is in the field of sarcopenia – the age related loss of muscle mass and strength. Professor Masud leads a study on the prevalence of sarcopenia in people who fall (Sarcofalls), funded by NUH Charity. Initial evaluation of results suggest that using bioimpedance the prevalence of sarcopenia in frail fallers may be as high as 40%. However bioimpedance may overestimate prevalence when compared to DEXA and a re-evaluation may be needed for cut-off points for the technique (being presented at EUGMS and currently being written up for peer review publications). The importance of this work that if we are to develop treatments for sarcopenia and prevent he consequences, we need to be able to diagnose the condition and measure it.

8.2.13 Community Based Rehabilitation after Knee Arthroplasty (CORKA)

CORKA is a large multi-centre trial which is investigating the rehabilitation of those at risk of a poor outcome after knee replacement. In 2013, there were over 90,000 knee replacement procedures in the UK, representing a 7.3% increase over 2011, and this in continuing to rise due to an ageing population and other factors such as obesity. However although this is a routine procedure, around 15% of patients who undergo knee replacement surgery report they have continuing pain and mobility problems - a poor outcome – which limits or prevents them from being able to do activities they want to do. The study investigates the effect of a multicomponent community based rehabilitation programme on such patients after knee replacement surgery (knee arthroplasty), and compare this approach with standard care rehabilitation.
programmes. The trial is led by colleagues at the Universities of Oxford and Warwick with Prof Avril Drummond from Nottingham. 212 patients had been recruited by August 2016, and the study continues to recruit.

8.2.14 Does occupational therapist led home environmental assessment and modification reduce falls among high risk older people? Occupational Therapy Interventions Study – OTIS

Falls in older people are highly prevalent and are a major contributor to morbidity in the community. A significant proportion of falls in the community occur at home with many caused by simple hazards such as tripping over a rug or lack of handrails. Consequently relatively simple modification of home hazards could lead to a reduction in falls. Whilst there is some evidence that an assessment by occupational therapists can lead to a reduction in falls, this evidence is based on small trials. As a consequence routine home assessment by occupational therapists it is not widely undertaken among older people at risk of falls. Thus the main aim of this trial is to establish whether environmental assessment and modification by occupational therapists will lead to reduction in falls among people at elevated risk of falling who are living in the community. The trial has started to recruit in 2016 and is led by colleagues in York with input from Oxford, Leicester, Sheffield, Australia and Prof Avril Drummond from Nottingham.

Professor Avril Drummond

8.2.15 Nottingham Neck of Femur Vision Assessment (NoNOF-Vision)

Ten percent of those who sustain a hip fracture will later fracture their other one, over half doing so within 2 years. Visual impairment is a recognised major risk factor for this, and many visual problems can be improved, but few studies have tried to do anything about this. The overall aim of this study was to prepare to improve the vision of people who have had hip fractures in an attempt to prevent future falls and fractures. Our objective in this study was to screen patients presenting with their first hip fracture for visual problems and to consider which of them could be improved. The early findings were that 20% had refractory problems that could be improved (with better glasses) and 30% met criteria for referral to an eye specialist. The findings give rise to optimism that there is a large number of people whose vision could be improved, which is worthwhile in itself and might reduce the chance of future falls and fractures. This study is led by Professor Sahota, and supported by a grant from the Nottingham University Hospitals Charity Fund.

8.2.16 The role of professions in implementation of self-referral physiotherapy in musculoskeletal primary care patients

UK general practice is under ever increasing pressure as a result of the continued austerity from the financial crisis in 2008, the increasing requirements of an ageing population, the expansion of lifestyle-related health conditions, and the recruitment and retention challenges facing general practitioners.

Musculoskeletal conditions make up to 30% of GPs workloads, Self-referral physiotherapy is an established practice with a body of evidence demonstrating efficacy which could be helpful to GPs, patients and the NHS. However, self-referral remains the exception rather than the rule with implementation patchy. Furthermore, even in those areas where self-referral is available, most patients still access physiotherapy services
having already seen their GP. It would appear that there are obstacles to the successful implementation and subsequent uptake of physiotherapy by self-referral.

This research hopes to explore why there has not been a more comprehensive implementation. Often the rationale for issues such as this are attributed to financial constraints. However, we think there’s perhaps more to it – perhaps anxiety from doctors that the physios may miss something serious, perhaps physios lack confidence in their abilities, or maybe patients’ beliefs about who best to see when in pain. Our intention is to talk to all of these groups and explore the issues, beyond lack of money, because some of these issues may be more important to overcome.

By undertaking qualitative research, we aim to get at the root of issues, and describe them in ways that allow practitioners and systems to change and modernise. It should help patients and the public to take better control of their health. This means that the societal impact of this research could be extensive.

Self-referral physiotherapy does not provide all of the answers but has the potential to contribute significantly to the agenda of sustainability of primary care services within the NHS.

This PhD project is funded by the CLAHRC for a clinical academic physiotherapist, Rob Goodwin.

9 Community services

Professor John Gladman leads the work in this area for the group. Further details of all the studies listed here are found on our group’s website: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/index.aspx

9.1 What we have achieved

Two important previous studies in this area were our trials of different forms of “intermediate care” – short term rehabilitation to improve health and reduce the time spent in hospital. We studied a service that provided rehabilitation at home, and a service that did so in a care home. The home-based service led to better health outcomes, shorter lengths of stay and was good value for money, and this justifies the major role of home-based intermediate care services.

We have recently reviewed the evidence on a third type of intermediate care used in the UK run by home care workers known as “re-ablement”, showing that at present this sort of service is poorly defined and has no robust evidence to show that it is effective. One of the theoretical concerns about re-ablement is that home care workers are not rehabilitation specialists yet the clients they typically see have complex conditions such as stroke, dementia, and falls which are known to respond to specialist care. With this in mind, Phillip Whitehead’s recently completed his PhD examined whether occupational therapy can help re-ablement services to be more effective. He showed promising findings in a small pilot study, and it is expected that re-ablement services will be more effective if they receive input and support from rehabilitation professionals than if they rely solely upon home care workers.

The recently completed Optimal study, described in the care home section, 6.1, is our most recent important study, which we expect to have a considerable and immediate influence on the commissioning of services for the care home sector.

9.2 What we are doing now

Whilst much of our current research deals community based services (such as PeaCH in section 6.2.2, the end of life study in care homes in 6.2.5, Scaling the Peaks in 7.2.3,
and PhISICAL in 8.2.4) two current studies we list here are a study to evaluate the role of community hospitals in the care of older people, and a study to explore the commissioning of community services promote the resilience of older people.

9.2.1 Community hospitals (MOCHA)

There are several hundred community hospitals in the UK, and such hospitals are found throughout the world. Little research has been done into whether there are any particular models or configurations that are particularly efficient. This study used econometric methods to examine a national audit database of community hospitals to identify the characteristics of efficient community hospitals, and is conducting case studies of community hospitals with varying degrees of efficiency. The study is funded by the NIHR Health Service and Delivery Research Programme, and is led by a team from Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Leeds.

9.2.2 Promoting resilience in older people (SOPRANO)

Much of our research work deal with mitigating the adverse consequences of old age such as by the use of rehabilitation. Whilst our group does not primarily lead research to prevent the ageing process, we are aware that it makes sense to also attempt to protect people from the effects of ageing and ill health. This study aims to identify what is being commissioned to support older people to maintain their resilience. The word resilience refers to the ability to resist or bounce back from the challenges faced in older age (e.g. illness or bereavement). We have reported a theoretical model that proposes that resilience is a function of a numbers of “assets” that older people have – mental, physical, social, environmental, financial, and so on. The sorts of services that we think are likely to enhance resilience are those that promote a healthy lifestyle in general (exercise, smoking cessation, alcohol moderation, a healthy diet) but also those that help social aspects of health such as services to reduce loneliness. We think that there are many sorts of low level interventions such as these that are available in society, some provided by the health services, some by the social services but many will be in the “third sector” (e.g. charities). We also recognise that these services will only be of use if they reach the people for whom they are intended and work together as required in an integrated way. The SOPRANO study (Supporting Older People’s Resilience through Assessment of Needs and Outcomes, funded by the NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health and Care Research (CLAHRC) East Midlands, is studying what services exist, how they are targeted and how they are integrated. We are particularly grateful for the support of the East Midlands Later Life Forum, via Andy and Moira Findlay, and Jo Smith.

10 Education and training

Health practitioners of the present and the future need to be skilled in the care of older people with frailty – given the ubiquity of older people with frailty this is now a core skill and not something for specialists. The evidence base for the care of older people is rapidly advancing. As a group delivering a wide range of research, and sitting alongside schools of medicine, nursing and physiotherapy, our group is ideally suited to influencing undergraduate curricula in this area. Also as a group with a high number of clinical academics, we are well placed also to ensure that post graduate training and education is up to date and evidence-based.

We describe here work we have done to develop national and international curricula in geriatric medicine, and illustrate some of our innovative work including computer aided learning and the development of advance nurse practitioners.

Over the last 3 years we have strengthened our education team with the joining of a nurse educator (Jocelyn Mjojo) and a Clinical Teaching Fellow (initially Jo Pattinson and now Tom McGowan)
Associate Professors Adrian Blundell and Adam Gordon have used their expertise in evidence-based practice and education to write the highly rated textbook “Geriatric Medicine at a Glance”, published by Wiley (June 2015 ISBN: 978-1-118-59764-4).

This work is led by Associate Professors Adrian Blundell, Sarah Goldberg and Adam Gordon and Professor Tahir Masud

10.1 Undergraduate medical curriculum

Back in 2007 we brought together a range of experts in biological, social and clinical gerontology to consider the specific knowledge and skill base required to deal with older people now and in the future, and we mapped this to the general guidance produced for the training of doctors in the UK by the General Medical Council (Tomorrow’s Doctors) to produce a national undergraduate curriculum. We have since conducted two UK national audits of the delivery of this curriculum, helping medical schools across the country to prepare medical students better for their lives as doctors caring for older people. The Nottingham team led the development of the European Undergraduate Curriculum on Geriatric Medicine.

10.2 Innovation and computer aided learning

The challenges for medical education are that the number of students is rising, which potentially threatens the delivery of consistent teaching and training, and the amount of information that could potentially be taught is overwhelming, and so care must be taken to control their exposure to the things they need to learn to be safe and to prepare them for modern practice. Computer aided learning packages are a means of providing enjoyable, consistent, well-defined, quality-assured teaching of the relevant knowledge base. Their use can mean that face to face teaching time is not used simply to pass on knowledge, but used to help students to apply that knowledge.

Our group has developed a suite of computer aided learning packages covering key topics such as delirium, dementia, continence, activity, and prescribing. They are freely available for use by anyone, anywhere from our website http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/study/learningresources/geriatricmedicine.aspx. We have shown in a number of studies that the use of these learning packages improves students’ learning.

10.3 Developing a curriculum for advanced nurse practitioners specialising in frail older patients

Experienced nurses are beginning to take on some of the roles traditionally done by doctors. These nurses are called advanced nurse practitioners. Nottingham University Hospitals is one of the first places to train advanced nurse practitioners specialising in the hospital care of frail older patients. We have brought together experienced doctors, nurses, therapists and lay representatives to get expert agreement on a set of competencies and a role description for these roles. This work is being used as the basis of a curriculum for the training of these advanced nurse practitioners and will ensure
consistent standards. The work is funded by Nottingham Hospitals Charity and led by Sarah Goldberg.

Over the past 18 months, we have gained consensus from an expert panel on the role and essential competencies of ANPs specialising in frail older patients. This work has been published and presented nationally. Many hospitals around the country are using this work to develop their own ANP service.

10.4 Multiprofessional geriatric training using simulation

Historically much simulation has focussed on high fidelity equipment testing acute medical emergencies. Our group has introduced and piloted several multiprofessional simulation activities included scenarios using simulated patients. The two main projects are an undergraduate multiprofessional simulated ward round and a multiprofessional postgraduate simulation teaching day covering core topics in geriatric medicine (funded through a grant from Health Education East Midlands). Both these innovations are currently being evaluated by the team.

10.5 Developing clinical academic careers for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals

In the last year the group have won the contract from the Health Education East Midlands to deliver the ICA Silver Scholar programme over the next three years. This will allow up to 7 clinicians the chance to undertake a piece of research which will support a PhD proposal. The training will be provided by both academics and clinicians. Although it is across all research groups as the scheme is hosted in the Division of Rehabilitation and Ageing it is hoped that older peoples research will benefit. Professor Pip Logan leads this initiative.

11 Medical Crises in Older People programme

The Medical Crises in Older People (MCOP) research programme was a major milestone in the development of our research group. It gave the group its first large, sustained, funding stream, and attracted many talented researchers and collaborators. It was funded by the NIHR’s Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) programme. Planning began in 2006, the core funding was for £2m, and the programme ran for 5 years from 2008 to 2013. The overall idea behind this research (and much that has followed) is that application of the principles of “comprehensive geriatric assessment” – a framework that typifies services for older people of proven benefit – to new settings is likely to be helpful. We chose three groups of patients who might benefit from this approach: older people using urgent care services in hospital; people with delirium and dementia in hospital; and the residents of care homes. We describe some of the work from this programme in other sections of this brochure.

The larger scale and longer duration of funding than we had received hitherto gave us the opportunity to develop our group. As well as producing 62 research papers (with more still to come) we:

- Supported seven PhD students, two of whom have won senior academic posts and are now research leaders in the group (Gordon, Goldberg)
Development of a Patient and Public Involvement in Research forum, which continues to advise on our research and provide individuals to act as co-investigators in our study teams.

Developed productive links with Dr Simon Conroy in the University of Leicester. Dr Conroy led the acute care workstream of MCOP, and was appointed to an academic post as the programme began. This allowed us to strengthen the acute care work by conducting it in two sites (Nottingham and Leicester) and the legacy has been on-going collaboration, such as working with research trainees in Leicester.

Developed productive links with, and obtained great support from, local NHS research networks, which hold us in good stead still.

Developed productive links with the voluntary sector such as the Alzheimer’s Society and Age UK, which also hold us in good stead still.

Innovated in terms of non-academic dissemination through the production of the “Today is Monday” documentary about the specialist hospital ward we developed and trialled as part of our research. This powerful and moving documentary is now being used in two on-going projects to use it as an educational resource, one of which is described here.

Produced our own on-line journal the Medical Crises in Older People Discussion Paper series, which has published 16 papers. The website hosting this series also allows us to document the activities that lead to the impact of our research.

Were invited to develop an older people research theme in a NIHR regional research organisation CLAHRC for Nottingham, Derby and Lincolnshire (2008 to 2013) and to lead the Caring for Older People and Stroke Survivors theme of CLAHRC East Midlands (2014-2018).

The Medical Crises in Older People programme was led by Professor John Gladman.

See our web page at: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mcop/impact/journals.aspx

12 Patient and public involvement in our research

It is now an accepted truth that the quality of applied research is often improved where there is involvement of patient or people who represent them in the research team, alongside clinical and non-clinical researchers, and the service-level stakeholders who are also affected by the research. By “patients and public involvement” in research we do not simply use patients or the public as the subjects or participants of research. We mean involving them to help in all stages of the research process: choosing and explain research priorities; designing studies that will work in practice and respect the altruism of those who agree to participate; and helping in the conduct, analysis and dissemination of studies. They bring their own skills and resources from their lives and experiences, they require academics to avoid the jargon that can undermine rigorous thought, and many have a wide experience across many fields of research that can be illuminating.

Our research group has considerable skill in the art of recruiting very frail patients and their families into research projects. But this group of people is usually very frail, and there are limits to how much they can truly contribute to the research process and how much is ethical to ask them to do so. What we have found is that amongst those who have cared, and do care, for them are knowledgeable and powerful advocates who welcome an opportunity to get involved in research quite simply to make the world a better place. Two areas illustrate how we have developed public, patient and carer involvement in our research: our PPCI group and our use of lay members on research teams.

12.1 Patient, Public and Carer Involvement in Research group

We have a wide network of patients and members of the public as we link into many local PPI groups and systems, such as CLAHRC-East Midlands and local NHS.
organisations. But in 2008 when we started our Medical Crises in Older People programme there were few such organisations and most were both overwhelmed and not focussed upon the care of older people. So we developed our own group. We used the contacts we already had and the group grew organically. We found that there were many people who wanted to engage in research but did not know how to, and they gradually coalesced around our group. The initial focus of the group was dementia care. We were fortunate to have a number of innovative research staff who led this work (in particular Associate Professor Sarah Goldberg, Nadia Frowd and Pippa Foster) and for us to continue to have staff to maintain the working of the group (Reena Devi, Kristian Pollock and Sarah Goldberg). The group’s main role is to be consulted at the early stages of research grant preparation – or later stages as required. Another role is to identify members of the group who would like to play a more significant role than mere consultation in each study. The group has and continues make a considerable contribution. Not only at the regular meetings reviewing and discussing papers but from this forum embracing every aspect of the studies where there is a required public interface. Other significant roles group members have been actively involved in include presentations, writing published articles, recruitment of research staff, delivering lectures to medical students, lobbying on behalf of the department and trialling and helping formulate interventions. It is a strong team which wherever possible uses its enthusiasm to effectively recruit others to help underpin the research.

12.2 Lay members on research teams

It is often not sufficient for patient and public involvement in research to be limited to consultation, and in our work we welcome patient and public contributors to our research studies as co-applicants. We are pleased to have Kate Sartain as a co-investigator on our communication in dementia study, Margaret Kerr as a co-investigator on our hypertension in dementia (HIND) studies, and Maureen Godfrey as a co-investigator on our falls in dementia studies.

13 Research capacity building

The world needs a larger and sustainable research base related to the care of older people: the need for research is not going to go away anytime or anywhere soon! The process of developing the clinical academics of the future begins with giving undergraduates and young clinicians a taste of research, but starts in earnest with the development of post graduate researchers, usually through Masters and PhD programmes. We need clinical academics (people jointly trained as clinical practitioners and also as researchers) to perform applied health research, but clinicians have to undertake post-graduate clinical training to become expert in their discipline, as well as arduous research training, and this can be difficult. Historically the main opportunities to combine clinical practice and research have been available only to medical doctors, but clearly we need clinical academics drawn from across the range of clinical disciplines such as nursing and the allied health professions. Getting a PhD is not enough: the professional development of clinical academics, whatever their professional disciplines, after they have completed a PhD is also not simple. We have considerable expertise in identifying and supporting doctors, nurses and allied health professionals in this process. We describe here our Centre for Doctoral Training, designed specifically for supporting PhD students coming from a range of health care disciplines.

Professor Pip Logan and Associate Professor Sarah Goldberg lead in research capacity development for the group

13.1 Centre for Doctoral Training in Rehabilitation and Healthcare Research

We are proud of the Centre for Doctoral Training in Rehabilitation and Healthcare Research (CDT RHR). It is an unusual unit in that it provides PhD training for clinicians.
who seek part-time doctoral study alongside a clinical role. The CDT RHR host research in several areas, not only in the health of older people but also in translational and applied clinical research in stroke rehabilitation, long term conditions, and community rehabilitation. It offers tailored training suitable for people with a clinical background doing work in clinical settings. We provide access to clinical placements during the PhD studies, career development support during and – importantly – after graduation. The CDT RHR is a joint initiative between the Schools of Medicine and Health Sciences in the University of Nottingham.

13.2 Current research fellows and students

- **Fellowship:** Alzheimer’s Society Post-doctoral Fellowship. Scaling the Peaks; Understanding the barriers and drivers to providing and using dementia friendly community services in rural areas: the impact of location, cultures and community in the Peak District National Park on sustaining service innovations. Dr Fiona Marshall.
- **Fellowship:** Alzheimer’s Society PhD Fellowship. Developing a programme to reduce the risk of falls in people with dementia. Victoria Booth
- **Fellowship:** Dunhill Medical Trust PhD Fellowship. Management of osteoporotic vertebral fractures – Dr Terence Ong
- **PhD:** End of life for people with dementia in care homes – Dr Gillian Garden
- **PhD:** Developing a chair based exercise programme for older people in community settings. Katie Robinson
- **PhD:** Rehabilitation for Outdoor Activity and Mobility: the ROAM study. Amanda King
- **PhD:** Does improved adherence to long-term exercise in older people reduce the rate of falls? Kevin Anthony
- **PhD:** Volunteers working with patients with dementia in the hospital. Liz Charalambous
- **PhD:** Communication and Dementia. Becca O’Brien
- **PhD:** Prevalence and natural history of patients with dementia who call out in the hospital. Jessica Beaver
- **PhD:** Development of an intervention to encourage the continuation of physical activity following a structured exercise programme for falls prevention. Sarah Audsley
- **PhD:** Non-invasive measurement of muscle mass, synthesis and breakdown. Jessica Cegielksi
- **PhD:** Use of hip precautions after hip replacement. Courtney Lightfoot.
- **PhD:** The role of professions in implementation of self-referral physiotherapy in musculoskeletal primary care patients. Rob Goodwin
14 External research links

Research in the care of frail older people is complex, and requires a wide range of skills and perspectives. Our core research group subdends a range of clinical disciplines, and in previous sections we have described some of our core partners such as the Dementia Centre in the Institute of Mental Health (University of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust) and Professor Simon Conroy and his team in the University of Leicester, and we have described how we bring the patient and public perspective into our research.

In this section we briefly acknowledge other key local, regional, national and international linkages that help us to undertake research or to disseminate the findings and put them into practice.

14.1 The University of Nottingham Musculoskeletal Ageing Research Priority Area

In 2016, the University of Nottingham completed a strategic review of its research and chose to develop and resource a number of cross-cutting Research Priority Areas, one of which is in Musculoskeletal Ageing. Our research group provides the main bulk of the applied health researchers in this group. The presence of this group emphasises the University’s recognition of its research strength in this field.

14.2 The Birmingham / Nottingham MRC/ARUK Centre for Musculoskeletal Research (CMAR)

The Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham have world-renown research expertise in the ageing process, and with Medical Research Council and Arthritis Research UK support formed the CMAR. Professor John Gladman was part of the successful bid to these bodies. Whilst the strength of our research group is in applied clinical research into the care of older people, rather than in the ageing process itself which requires a life-course approach, this has enabled us to provide a translational research pathway for the findings of the CMAR into applied clinical research. The studies in our aged musculoskeletal research topic section demonstrate our potential to translate findings from bioscience into clinical science and practice.

14.3 NIHR CLAHRC East Midlands

CLAHRCs are regional research collaborations between NIHR-funded research groups and the universities, trusts and clinical commissioning groups in each region. They conduct applied health research. Professor Gladman leads the Caring for Older People theme, which is one of five themes in CLAHRC East Midlands, and which supports two studies listed here (SOPRANO and PHISICAL) and several PhDs.

14.4 East Midlands Academic Health Sciences Network (AHSN)

AHSNs are regional collaborations of trusts and clinical commissioning groups aiming to develop and improve the quality of health services, in particular through facilitating the application of research knowledge. Professor Gladman led the Older People Living with Frailty programme, which ended in July 2016, ensured that all acute NHS trusts in the East Midlands participated in the NHS Benchmarking study of urgent care of older people, and use their findings to guide future service development and commissioning. Patient Safety Collaboratives (PSC) are NHS bodies linked to AHSNs, also with a regional organisation, to enhance patient safety. Professor Gordon’s LaUnCH study works with the East Midlands PSC to put an internationally-developed quality assurance system into place in local care homes.
14.5 East Midlands Research into Ageing Network (EMRAN)

Launched and lead by Professor Gladman, and supported by CLAHRC East Midlands, this network aims to promote collaboration in the field of applied health research into older people across the East Midlands. EMRAN has also developed its own on-line journal the East Midlands Research into Ageing Network Discussion Paper Series, and Professor John Gladman, Associate Professor Adam Gordon, and Associate Professor Sarah Goldberg are among its editors.

EMRAN has run a number of successful seminars to put researchers together across the region. For more information see the EMRAN website (http://www.clahrc-em.nihr.ac.uk/clahrc-em-nihr/emran.aspx).

The EMRAN on line discussion paper journal is publishing a steady stream of work from regional research teams. For more information, see the EMRAN Discussion paper site (http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/emran/index.aspx)

14.6 Overseas universities

We value the insights afforded by our friends working in universities in similar fields elsewhere. Examples are:

- Professors Jos Schols and Ruud Halfens from the University of Maastricht, Netherlands, who work with Associate Professor Adam Gordon on the LAUNCH study
- Professors Marcel Olde Rikkerts and Rene Melis from the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands, who work with Professor Gladman on the SOPRANO study
- Professor Rene Melis also works with Neil Chadborn and Professor Gladman in a Knowledge Exchange initiative between Nottingham and Nijmegen, funded by both the UK and Dutch Alzheimer’s Societies.
- Associate Prof Maw Pin Tan from the University of Malaysia, who is working with Associate Professors Adrian Blundell and Adam Gordon on developing curricula in geriatric medicine for Malaysian doctors
- Professor Tahir Masud holds a visiting professorship in geriatric medicine at the University of Southern Denmark from which some of his collaborative studies on bone health and falls have emerged. Collaborators include Dr Jesper Rygg, Dr Lars Matzen, Dr Stig Anderson, Dr Martin Jorgenson
- Professor Drummond went to universities of Sydney and Melbourne earlier this year on the Australia Visiting Scholar programme and did some work with Australian falls expert Prof Lindy Clemson (Visiting Professor in the School of Health Sciences, University of Nottingham)
15 Acknowledgments

The core staff listed in this document could not have achieved so much without the collaboration of many other people and organisations. There are so many people that it is impossible to list them all, but some members of our research teams we would like to mention other than those already mentioned elsewhere are:

- University of Nottingham, School of Medicine: Mrs Gail Arnold, Dr Neil Chadborn, Dr Gina Sands, Dr Tomas Welsh, Dr Reena Devi, Dr Sam Taylor, Professor Marion Walker, Professor Sarah Lewis, Professor Anthony Avery, Professor Denise Kendrick, Associate Professor Elizabeth Orton, Prof Amanda Griffiths, Dr Miriam Stanyon, Mrs Gail Arnold
- University of Nottingham, School of Health Sciences: Associate Professor Kristian Pollock, Dr Catherine Vass, Dr Victoria Hood, Dr Philip Clissett
- University of Nottingham, School of Pharmacy: Professor Rachel Elliott, Dr Lukasz Tanajewski
- Institute of Mental Health: Associate Professor Rob Jones
- Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust: Dr Fiona Kearney, Dr Aamer Ali, Dr Rob Morris
- Nottingham City Care: Mrs Marie Ward
- Alzheimer’s Society: Mrs Pippa Foster
- University of Leicester: Professor Simon Conroy, Dr Jay Banerjee
- PPI: Margaret Kerr, Kate Sartain, Maureen Godfrey, Alan Caswell, Elizabeth Thraves, Kate Hodgett, Andy and Moira Findlay, Jo Smith, (and many others!)
- East Midlands Research into Ageing Network (EMRAN): Yvonne Simpson, Chris Craig
- Centre for Musculoskeletal Ageing Research (CMAR) Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham: Associate Professor Philip Atherton, Professor Paul Greenhaff, Professor Janet Lord, Associate Professor Carolyn Grieg
- Enabling Research in Care Homes (EnRICH) Network – Jo Greenwood, Claire Litherland, Kaela Stephenson, Amy Shuttlewood
- Care homes: Anita Astle MBE, Zimran Alam, Verity Hallam
16 Appendix – summary of our current portfolio of work

More information about all of these studies (except those marked with *) can be found on our website:
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/healthofolderpeople/projects/index.aspx

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<tr>
<td><strong>Student</strong></td>
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<td>Gillian Garden</td>
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**Post-doctoral fellows**

| Fiona Marshall | Alzheimer’s Society | Scaling the Peaks; Understanding the barriers and drivers to providing and using dementia friendly community services in rural areas | Gladman |

**Research grants**

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<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gladman</td>
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<td>SOPRANO (Supporting Older People’s Resilience through Assessment of Needs and Outcomes)</td>
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<td>PrAISED (Promoting Activity, Independence and Stability in Early Dementia)</td>
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<td>Drummond</td>
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