**REPORT of PPA Research Officer Dr P Roche: September 2015**

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The past year’s continuation of the Research Corner’s informal question and answer section in *Pain and Rehabilitation* has brought a total of 5 PhD or Masters physiotherapy projects on pain, to the initial attention of readers.

Three of the projects were qualitative in nature: Joanne Etherton’s M.Sc highlighted students’ preparedness to manage patients with complex pain and dysfunction. Cassandra McGregor’s M.Sc evaluated an acceptance-based Pain Management Programme. Linda Knott’s Clinical Doctorate explored the clinical utility of the Impact of Symptoms Questionnaire in patients with complex pain

Two PhD projects explored TENS using mixed research methods: Dr Chris Seenan obtained quantitative pain and psychosocial data following application of TENS in healthy volunteers exercised with experimentally induced lower limb pain, and patients with peripheral arterial disease. Focus group yielded qualitative data. Dr Peter Gladwell examined how PROMS might be selected to reflect reported benefits from TENS in patients with chronic musculoskeletal pain.

In this summer’s edition of *Pain and Rehabilitation*  I reflected on what the Q & A section may have achieved. It provides an initial stepping stone and encourages post -MSc and post-doctorate physiotherapy researchers to prepare and submit their complete research results for peer-reviewed publication.

However, I have critiqued the current climate of loading post MSc and post –doc researchers with such huge teaching and / or clinical loads that they cannot get adequate time or thinking space to write-up their large research projects for publication.

Scientifically acceptable publications **cannot** be produced and delivered in a physiotherapist’s spare time – or even during an occasional half day allocated for ‘research’. Post graduate research physiotherapists can hardly fail to lose heart in such a climate. Their right to a post-graduate research path of publication, on-going research and career development can easily get stymied. In order to benefit the scientific, health professional and patient communities, clinical and academic managers are asked to ensure sufficient time for post graduate researchers to prepare and submit their work to scientific journals and sources of funding.

Recently graduated MSc or PhD physiotherapists who would like to contribute to the Q & A session in the PPA journal are welcome to contact Pat Roche, PPA Research Officer.

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