

Reflections from the Pitchers

Carole

Pitched on the need to be recognized as a 'whole person' when you have multiple conditions.

"I had a meeting with researchers from the Centre in June. Whilst they were all very positive about my pitch, there is a lot of similar work going on at the moment in the Department and so they thought that it would be better for me to be involved with some of those ideas, in particular a HealthTalk On-Line module and projects within the Multi-Morbidity theme rather than starting a new project. So I will be involved in some of those, and looking at people taking a more holistic approach to health management (maybe even thinking of it as health management rather than condition management) particularly for people with various multiple conditions.

So, although my pitch itself won't necessarily bring about a new research project, I feel that my thoughts will hopefully be taken on board, and that I will have some input that way. I am more than happy with that, especially because the department is doing a lot about Multi-Morbidity anyway, so it seems sensible to link into that. Things might come about more quickly that way too."

Henri

Pitched on the need for better support for ethnic minority carers.

"I am afraid nothing materialised which is a shame, coincidentally I found 'other' academic institutions had initiated similar research projects in North Manchester, a little dis-heartening.

I also have found through this experience that current academic researchers have a far greater opportunity to take forward a potential project, maybe because there is far more ease between interested parties, as I have witnessed research that is 'weak' in context but is deemed worthy to do, I think it's who you know, not what you know, academics are very reluctant to allow outside disciplines and diverse possibilities to occur.

The university is scared to integrate its methods and processes with the larger community and population, its stuck in a bygone age, I've seen, it experienced it and input into that specific environment and I don't think it wants to change, I know I certainly have no impact."

Simon

Pitched on the need for better transition between young people and adult services.

"Although I haven't moved the project on as of yet, there has been progress in terms of support and looking at a long-term goal..

- I am attending a new steering group meeting with EULAR in Zurich this October, led by Dr Helen Foster, Paed. Rheumatologist and big in transition - we are going to discuss the project there and how best she and this project will feed into my proposal;
- I will be applying for an PhD Fellowship for 2016 entry - the 'Hack Day' was the final push I needed to go for this, and spurred me on that the idea is valid and has a potential 'huge impact' on the community.

I am really grateful to everyone who organised the Hack Day and to all of PRIMER who said they'll support the PhD application, it really does mean a lot!"