

Press release  
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08/08/2013

The Association of  
**UK University Hospitals**



service  
research  
teaching

## **Recommendations for a new clinical academic pathway for nursing, midwifery and allied health professions**

The Association of UK University Hospitals has today published a report on the creation of a clinical academic pathway for nursing, midwifery and allied health professions.

The report has been produced by the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Clinical Academic Careers Group of the Association of UK University Hospitals. It identifies the current good practice and existing strengths on which to build quality improvement science.

Clinical academics work in both the healthcare and university setting to develop and undertake research and innovation to improve patient care and safety. They are highly valued in medicine and dentistry, among other areas, and the same focus on research within nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions will be of huge value to patient care and in turn to the whole health system.

Nurses, midwives and allied health professionals currently make an important contribution to the quality, safety and the care and compassion agenda. They spend a significant amount of face-to-face time with patients and so research and innovation coming from these roles makes a meaningful difference to the patient experience. As well as the broader benefit to patients across the NHS, it has been shown that patients in research-active healthcare settings are monitored more effectively and have a greater range of treatment options.

The report specifically highlights the role and contribution of a clinical academic, identifies what training is currently available and most importantly what needs to be built on in order to ensure that nurses, midwives and allied health professionals can contribute to improving patient care through research and innovation. The planned work includes the development of resources to assist in the creation of sustainable joint posts and to create a network of research leaders to share best practice and experience.

Dr Debbie Carrick-Sen, Chair of the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Group, said:

'It is of huge importance to develop research leaders for the future, and we as a group are committed to working together with Health Education England and NHS England, as well as leaders in the Devolved Administrations, to achieve this aim.

'The report is timely and we know the development is important and an aspiration of both Health Education England and NHS England. Nurses, midwives and allied health professionals can and do make a pivotal contribution to healthcare. Building a valued and sustainable clinical academic training and career pathway will further increase this contribution through research activity, and, more importantly, it will attract and retain the best candidates to become nurses, midwives and allied health professionals for the NHS.'

The report, *The Nurse and Midwife Research Clinical Academic: Development, Progress and Challenges*, can be accessed [here](#).

-ENDS-

**Notes:**

1. The Association of UK University Hospitals (AUKUH) is the key leadership body across the UK promoting the unique interests of UK University Hospital Trusts in the tripartite mission of service, teaching and research. For further information about the work of the Association of UK University Hospitals please see [www.aukuh.org.uk](http://www.aukuh.org.uk).

2. The AUKUH National Clinical Academic Careers Development Group for Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals was set up in July 2011 to lead the development and implementation of clinical academic careers. The group was initially established to advise on how to develop nursing and midwifery clinical academia, but has since expanded its scope to include the Allied Health Professions. The group works in close partnership with the Departments of Health, and Health Education England, to deliver and contribute to the Department of Health NMAHP Clinical Academic Careers Strategy. Membership is drawn from across the health service and academia across the UK.

3. For more information regarding this press release or the work of the group, please contact Edward Knight, Communications and Website Officer, on 020 7419 5427 or [admin@aukuh.org.uk](mailto:admin@aukuh.org.uk).