

## Academic Forum - 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Chair – Nick Pahl in place of Ewan Apologies - Professor *Ewan Macdonald*; *University of Glasgow Prof Neil Greenberg*; *Kings College London*

### 1 Updates:

*Dr Damien Mcelvenny, Institute of Occupational Medicine*

Working on HSE funded project on Long Covid – to be finished by end of March.

LSHTM /HSE project looking at risk of transmission in workplaces;

Rapid evidence reviews of respiratory health surveillance; exposure control system; industry funded project too.

*Dr Elaine Wainwright Bath Spa University*

- 3 phase longitudinal study on nature of stress and qualitative study on front line experiences
- Experience of front of neck access – barriers – cognition
- With Ira Madan and Vaughan Parsons – why people disclose if have RA – PhD systematic review.

*Prof Kim Burton University of Huddersfield*

Work with University of Deby on return to work needs after covid infection. Survey being processed -to journal end of this month – specifically about key workers and needs.

Long Covid – knowledge transfer partnership with Swiss Re . Smart return to work package for those on income protection insurance

*Laurie Magowan – University of Exeter*

NIHR working age population bid - not successful. Looking an inclusive ageing bid

*Professor Martie van Tongeren- University of Manchester*

- Covid protect project with HSE. Looking at Mortality data sounds
- Deep dive in public transport sectors about risk and perception of risk of transmission and effectiveness of interventions; also looking at food processing industry.
- Modelling of delivery drives and impact of testing and impact of presenteeism

In negotiation with HSE about next THOR contract

*Dr Vaughan Parsons – Kings College*

Looking at sickness absence about NHS workers. Papers looking at patterns of sickness absence in NHS workforce and broken down by ethnic groups and for mental health.

Involved in NHS check study looking at psychosocial impact of covid.

Wave trail – led by Keele University – recruitment challenges.

Setting up stammering network

Looking at role of accredited specialists within OH and role during Covid period and how OH can work in non-OH environments in the future.

*Dr Finola Ryan – Kings College*

Study on use of substitutes for virucidal activity and use in health care workers. To be tested on skin. Picked up by the Guardian. Peer review tbc

Sounds exposure – in Journal of Voice and MSC thesis

*Dr Jean Engela – Academic GP fellow at Cardiff University.*

Taking up higher specialist training post in RoI starting in July. Interested in PHD.

*Dr Tash Hyedon – Colt Foundation*

All encouraged to review information on website.

### *DWP/DHSC work and health unit*

Sue Carey – work alongside on OH policy – exploring potential for health and work research as proposed in health is everyone's business consultation.

Michael Oldridge – Economist– supports OH and fit note policy making.

Lyndon Clews - looking at work and health research priorities.

### *SOM – Professor Anne Harriss*

Interested in consultant to support short workforce planning and modelling of scale up piece of work.

Met with Health Minister retesting and Sir Keir Starmer re Universal access to OH.

Hosting with University of Glasgow, a long covid summit looking at research gaps

### *Dr Malachy Abah – trainee representative*

Interested in occupational health research looking at pattern of weight gain about DVLA licence holders.

## **2 Minutes of the last meeting were noted.**

All encouraged to apply for call for experts from Cochrane – see

<https://work.cochrane.org/about-us/our-priority-topics>:

- Workplace interventions to reduce exposure to SARS-CoV-2 VACANT
- Interventions to improve return to work in people diagnosed with COVID-19 VACANT.
- Experiences and needs of people after COVID-19 that impact return to work (qualitative evidence synthesis review) VACANT.
- Interventions to prevent exposure to SARS-CoV-2 aerosols in healthcare workers due to aerosol generating procedures VACANT.

## **3 Centre for work and health – slide deck attached and update.**

Slide deck noted. Slide 8. Add Monash. Note professorial role there been advertised.

UKRI support for process but dependent on long term funding from Government

## **4 Leadership seminar series**

Including on academic leadership from Prof Karen Walker Bone on 25<sup>th</sup> March- Noted

## **5 Survey on OEM medical education**

Professor Johannes Siegrist is chairing a Task group linked to the ILO and that deals with the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into educational programmes at Universities. Specifically, by dealing with SDG 8 –to promote decent, healthy, sustainable work and employment – they are interested in programmes on occupational (and environmental) health in medical schools as well as in postgraduate training programmes of future specialist physicians in OEM, with the idea that shaping knowledge and attitudes of tomorrow's leading professional groups in the world of work might make a difference. To this end, they plan to conduct a small online survey on SDG 8-related aims and content in these educational programmes, and the UK is one of the countries selected for this survey. The two attachments provide more detailed information. The Forum is asking to endorse his request and agrees to forward the link to his survey in due course to Academic Forum members. "The online questionnaire will be ready second half of March, and the Survey is scheduled for April".

## **6 AOB**

Call for experts from MQ to support mental health at work research – SOM to suggest Professor Neil Greenberg and Gail Kinman.