

<p><b>Institution: University of Bedfordshire</b></p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment: 3 - Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy</b></p>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The submission to UoA3 incorporates researchers from three main groups (health, health psychology and biomedicine) drawn from three research institutes, Institute for Health Research (IHR), Institute of Diabetes for Older People (IDOP) and Institute for Biomedical and Environmental Science and Technology (iBEST). Each of the areas has benefited from significant investment in additional staff and research students to enable the research leads to continue their focus on both internal and external research impact activities.</p> <p>Each research grouping engages in applied research that informs policy and practice at local, national, and international level. Our approach is to work in partnership with policy makers in setting the research agenda as well as undertaking high profile, high quality commissioned research. For example, our work on organ donation, based on input from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities and faith communities, led to the Department of Health establishing a National Black and Minority Ethnic Transplant Alliance (NBTA) in 2012 as well as playing a major role in having the needs of BME communities specifically recognised by the <i>Transplant 2020</i> strategy published earlier this year as a joint initiative between the four national Departments of Health in the UK. Our research is also used at international level, for example IDOP's work has led to the creation of European guidelines for clinicians outlining better standards of diabetes care of older people.</p> <p>The collective submission underlines the commitment of the University to ensuring service users are at heart of the research process informing the shape of future policy and service configuration.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>The University has supported academics to undertake research that directly impacts on policy and practice affecting healthcare staff and patients. This is reflected in the nature of the research publications, research grants, and policy documents that the academics within this submission have contributed to. The University supports staff with both flexibility with workloads and training to contribute fully to national and international policy and practice at several levels. There are 4 themes within our strategy to support impact:</p> <p><b>(1) Shaping new research agendas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDOP, through Professor Sinclair, has worked in partnership with the Department of Health and Europe-wide governments in ensuring the needs of older people with diabetes are now part of the mainstream research agenda in diabetes;</li> <li>• IHR, via Professor Randhawa, has worked in partnership with the Department of Health, NHS Blood and Transplant, NICE, and a House of Lords Select Committee to ensure equity in organ donation and transplantation is now a central theme of the research commissioning agenda in this subject area.</li> </ul> <p><b>(2) Appointment to International and National Working Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Sinclair is the National Clinical Lead for Diabetes in Older People and Co-Lead of an International Diabetes Federation Working Group to develop International Guidelines on Diabetes for Older People;</li> <li>• Professor Randhawa was Chairman of various NHS Primary Care Trust Boards within Bedfordshire and Luton; as well as serving as an Authority Member of the Human Tissue Authority; NICE Guidelines Member; UK Donation Ethics Committee Member; Co-Chair of the European Working Party on Public issues in organ donation; serving on the Ministerial Commissioned Organ Donation Taskforce; and most recently being invited by the 4 UK Governments to serve as Chairman of the Transplant 2020 Stakeholder Group.</li> <li>• Dr Reynolds is the Chairman of the Renal Scientists Working Party, and the Scientific Representative on the National Executive Committee, the Education and Training Committee and the Research Committee of The Renal Association.</li> </ul> <p><b>(3) Shaping policy at national and international level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Kinman's work on occupational health and wellbeing has been used by the House of Commons Education and Skills Select Committee;</li> <li>• The work of Dr Erica Cook and Professor Randhawa commissioned nationally by NHS Direct in examining the equity of use in tele-health services is informing the roll-out of the</li> </ul>

national 111 telephone service. NHS Luton was used as a pilot site for the 111 service by the Department of Health in recognition of Professor Randhawa's unique role as Chairman of the Primary Care Trust and a leading research authority in the use of telephone-based services in diverse population settings;

- Professor Sinclair has led the development of UK and Europe-wide Guidelines for Standards of Care for Diabetes in Older People;
- Professor Randhawa has contributed to the development of *NICE Guidelines in Organ Donation*; a series of policy documents published by the UK Donation Ethics Committee; contributing to and implementing the Organ Donation Taskforce recommendations; and co-editing the first worldwide authoritative text on Public Issues in Organ Donation via his role as co-chair of the European Working Party.

**(4) Stimulating innovation and enterprise**

The University encourages Institutes to develop enterprise activities, examples of this include:

- Professor Domin and Dr Maytum have generated proof-of-principle data to allow Freewave, a small start-up company, to secure a UK patent on clinical application of short-range high frequency electromagnetic radio fields ([www.ipo.gov.uk/pipsum/Case/PublicationNumber/GB2486853](http://www.ipo.gov.uk/pipsum/Case/PublicationNumber/GB2486853)). Both are named as co-inventors on the patent and sit on the board of directors.
- Health Psychology's Consultancy and Training Unit (PCTU) provides specialist consultancy and training to several local authorities, Bedfordshire Probation Trust, Child and Adult Social Care Services, researchers, academics, and local businesses.

IHR, IDOP, iBEST and RCAP all provide training in research grant writing, writing for publication for a range of audiences, and supporting staff to present at national and international level to academic, professional and policy audiences. The IHR is also a co-host for the East of England's National Institute for Health Research's (NIHR) Research Design Service providing health-related research staff with a wide range of short courses and training in developing health research for patient and service benefit. The University provides institution-level support to Research Institutes to support impact. UoB has its own local radio station and provides media training for staff appearing on television or radio. Academic staff also make an active contribution to outreach activities among non-academic communities involving local community groups, business sector and voluntary sector, and schools to ensure effective dissemination of research findings.

**c. Strategy and plans**

Our health-related impact strategy has been developed to ensure continuous relevant research and dissemination activities with a focus upon policy and practice both nationally and internationally. As such the strategy for the next 5 years continues to emphasise the following 4 themes referred to section B. This is being achieved by working in partnership with key health research partners representing both service providers as well as patients. For example, Professor Randhawa's written submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on organ donation resulted in an invitation to provide oral evidence to the Committee which subsequently informed a range of recommendations relating to public engagement in organ donation. Within IHR and IDOP, the majority of research activities have been undertaken in partnership with national policymakers such as the Department of Health, NHS Blood & Transplant, and NHS Direct contributing to evidence-based policy changes. Professor Sinclair's research standing in his field has led to his appointment as National Clinical Lead for Diabetes in Older People; whilst Professor Randhawa has recently been appointed by the 4 UK (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland) Departments of Health as Chairman of the Transplant 2020 Stakeholder Group to take forward public engagement activities related to organ donation with the different sectors – business, voluntary, education and health – in recognition of his international expertise in organ donation and transplantation.

At international level, Professor Sinclair and his IDOP colleagues are leading the development of European Guidelines for standards in care for older people with diabetes. Professor Randhawa and his IHR colleagues have led the work to produce the first authoritative text on 'Public issues in organ donation and transplantation' published earlier this year. The book was commissioned by a European Union funded project on organ donation and was written for transplant policy makers and government bodies. 1,000 copies of the book have already been sold.

## Impact template (REF3a)

As the IHR's work in Kidney Health audit and qualitative research grew, the university (in 2010) made a strategic decision to stimulate investment in Life Sciences research to develop a complementary research programme in laboratory-based kidney research. It has grown the staffing base in this research area to a team of 17 academic staff and has restructured the Life Sciences research institute. iBEST was launched in 2011 with an emphasis on biomedical and environmental science research. To date, iBEST has received investment in excess of £1.2 million to develop its laboratories with an additional £0.5million committed for 2014. All academic staff hold PhD degrees and are expected to evidence a portfolio of outputs in research and enterprise. iBEST is continuing to build through the recruitment of post-doctoral research staff and the development of core facilities to support our research labs. Funds are available for staff to attend national and international research meetings to stimulate collaboration and we are using schemes such as Erasmus to promote the exchange of students and staff with research centres overseas.

This strategy is complemented by direct investment in additional staff and research students across the unit. By developing a national and international reputation in key research areas, the University has been successful in recruiting research-active staff from institutions such as Imperial College, York Medical School, Leeds Medical School, and Health Protection Agency. Our *Research Institutes* have secured funding for Research Studentships from organisations such as NHS Blood and Transplant, NHS Direct, and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Such investment in staffing enables our research teams to work in partnership with practitioners and policymakers and to promote greater collaboration with external stakeholders.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The commitment, strategy and resources to supporting research staff to undertake research-related activities that impact upon policy and practice directly affecting healthcare staff and patients is evidenced within our case studies:

Professor Randhawa's work [**organ transplants case study**] has informed both policy and practice and has also led to his appointment to a significant number of key national and international working groups reflecting both the research impact and collaborative approach to his work. Professor Randhawa's co-edited book published earlier this year was commissioned by a European Union funded project that seeks to bring together best practice in public engagement in organ donation. It is testimony to Professor Randhawa's collaborative links worldwide that he was asked to co-edit the book and he was able to elicit contributions from many countries within Europe. Professor Randhawa's work has been specifically cited in the Transplant 2020 strategy published earlier this year by the 4 UK Departments of Health (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland respectively) to reflect the fact that public engagement in organ donation and transplantation will be a key strand of the strategy.

The creation of the Older People's Diabetes Network in England by IDOP/NHS Diabetes (DH) led by Prof Alan Sinclair as National Clinical Lead for Diabetes in Older People [**diabetes case study**] has stimulated regional activity in multiple areas such as care home educational strategies, hypoglycaemia avoidance, enhanced medication reviews in the community, and audits of diabetes care. The work around the mini-cog assessment tools may lead to national implementation of this in routine diabetes care and the work around hypoglycaemia avoidance is leading towards the development of a national recommendation in this area. (2010 – ongoing). This work has been made possible with the University investment in additional staff to support IDOP activities.

Kinman's research [**wellbeing case study**] was also quoted extensively in a report commissioned by Universities UK on the extent and impact of the changes experienced in the academic profession in recent years. The findings have also been used by the Universities and Colleges Union over the last 15 years to campaign to improve terms and conditions for members and cited in international working papers for international reform in the sector. The findings of her research were also instrumental in the UK Health and Safety Executive targeting the HE sector in the UK as an area of high risk and a campaign to implement their management standards for work-related well-being. Since 2008, her research has monitored the extent to which the UK HE sector is complying with the HSE management standards on a biennial basis. In terms of impact outputs, the research findings have been featured in a leader in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and in other newspapers.