

Enhancing the Impact of Health Psychology on Policy and Practice

Moderator: Professor Marion Campbell (University of Aberdeen)

Introduction: Professor Marijn de Bruin (University of Aberdeen)

Many of our research studies evaluate behavioural interventions to improve health, but very few of these change health care policy and services. What are the reasons for this; are health psychology interventions not very effective? Are the primary outcomes in trials not relevant to policymakers, practitioners and the public? Are our research grants too small to run large, influential trials? Are key results not disseminated effectively? Or perhaps there is a strong enough science, but the problem lies elsewhere: the absence of a system of professionals adequately trained in delivering high-quality health psychology interventions. Indeed, why are health psychology practitioners still such a scarce resource?

This roundtable will focus on these and related questions, and aims to formulate an agenda for health psychologists, policymakers, patient organisations, and practitioners: what can be done to enhance the impact of health psychology on policy, practice, and people's health and well-being?

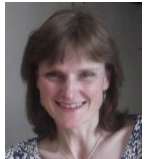


Professor Julie Barnett (University of Bath)

Julie is a Professor of Health Psychology and part of the leadership team of the Institute of Policy Research at the University of Bath. She is particularly interested in the policy challenges for using evidence from qualitative research and the importance for researchers of understanding the policy context.

Dr Ann Gold (NHS Grampian)

Ann is the Clinical Lead for diabetes at NHS Grampian and has chaired the Scottish Diabetes Group psychology subgroup. She is interested in, and has been actively involved with, the development and roll-out of psychological services and training for health professionals in diabetes care, both locally and nationally.



Professor Mike Kelly (University of Cambridge)

Mike was Director of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK until 2014, where he led on the production of all public health guidelines, including those related to behaviour change. Mike will focus on getting policymakers to take account of the evidence base, and the predilection of policymakers to seek simple solutions to complex problems.

Professor Gerjo Kok (Maastricht University)

Gerjo is Professor of Applied Psychology at Maastricht University since 1998. From 1984 to 1998, he was Professor of Health Education. His main interests are applying psychological theories to behaviour change interventions: health promotion, energy conservation, and stigma reduction.



Professor Brian Oldenburg (University of Melbourne)

Brian is a Professor of Non-Communicable Disease Control and Director of the Centre for Health Equity at the University of Melbourne. He is particularly interested in the challenges around implementing behaviour change principles into programmes and policies in resource-poor settings and countries.

Mr Eric Sinclair (Stroke Association; NHS Grampian)

Eric is a non-executive member on the Board of NHS Grampian. He is also a member of the Stroke Association's Scotland committee and a writer, blogger, whippet owner, and stroke survivor, with a very personal stake in helping to translate high quality research into high quality patient care.



Dr Vivien Swanson (NHS Education for Scotland (NES); University of Stirling)

Vivien is Programme Director for the internationally-renowned NES Health Psychology Specialist Practice training programme. Also a Reader in Health Psychology, Vivien is responsible for pioneering work developing a unique programme of health psychology practitioner training in the NHS, and other projects related to behaviour change training and patient safety.