



RESEARCH MATTERS

NEWSLETTER

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**"Somewhere,
something incredible
is waiting to be
known."**

- Sharon Begley (1977)



Trainee Advanced Nurse Practitioners: Julie Wilkinson & Mags Ward are in their final year of a Masters at Sheffield Hallam University, undertaking their dissertations. They're researching particularly interesting subjects and we're excited to hear about the results later this year.

HOSPICE MAGIC

The views of hospice staff on the non-clinical benefits of hospice care.

This study will explore the anecdotal witnessed phenomenon; 'Hospice Magic', whereby a patient will dramatically improve in condition following admission to a hospice, despite minimal intervention taking place.

There's a consensus within literature that hospice admission is beneficial, but this is largely focused on measurable outcomes - there's a gap in current literature in what the essence of hospice care is.

There's only a small amount of literature conceptualizing the smaller, often unseen or overlooked care practices that occur in a hospice environment; something that is often difficult to put into words. These small studies demonstrate that the benefits of hospice admission transcend the traditional tick box elements of symptom management, psychological distress, or social/carer crisis,

PALLIATIVE MEDICINE & ASSISTED DYING

Comparing the attitudes and perceptions of nurses and healthcare professionals working in Palliative medicine in countries where assisted dying has been implemented.

This study aims to scope the literature whilst ascertaining the attitudes and perceptions of the palliative care workforce in countries who have already introduced assisted dying/assisted suicide into their constitution.

The rationale behind this scoping review is to discover potential themes which might be revealed in the literature and could help to enrich the palliative care practitioner's reflection on issues, and possibly alleviate some of the contention between assisted dying and palliative care.

EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH

- To support our workforce and influence the Research agenda and pioneering value, the People team have added the following to the St Luke's employee job description:

- *'Participate in the undertaking of surveys, audit, quality improvement and research'*

- *'Promote clinically effective monitoring compliance with evidence-based practice'*

Should you need any clarity on this, please contact the Research & Innovation Office at ERS.

DID YOU KNOW?

ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS MAY BE LINKED TO EARLY DEATH

A study conducted in 8 countries suggests that people who eat lots of ultra-processed foods may be at greater risk of dying early.

The study looked at surveys of people's diets and data on deaths. The report estimated that in the UK and US, 14% of early deaths may be linked to ultra-processed foods.

Read the full article here: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm30kwvv17o



SUPPORTED STUDY

Improve the quality and sustainability of homecare towards the end of life.

For the past 2 years, our Head of Research has been leading a work package for the SUPPORTED study, alongside the team at the Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre in Hull.

This study is aimed at improving the delivery of end-of-life care by homecare workers. The research involved interviewing over a hundred people, including: homecare workers, healthcare professionals, managers, individuals receiving care at home, their families and carers.

The work has generated a number of publications and resources to help improve support to this professional group, and care for those at home.

We plan to lead on further research in this area.

More information on the study can be found here:

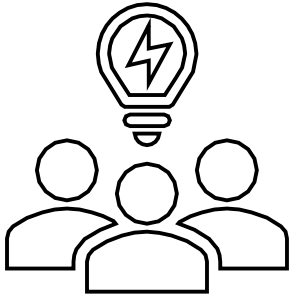
<https://www.hyms.ac.uk/research/research-centres-and-groups/wolfson/projects/supported>



Come and work in the Research Office!

Are you a staff member that is currently undertaking postgraduate study? If so, contact Clare to arrange to spend some time working on your assignments or dissertation in the Research Office at Eccleall Road South (ERS). A chat in this environment might be just what you need to resolve any challenges you are facing! Email Clare on c.pye@hospicesheffield.co.uk.

**BECAUSE
RESEARCH
MATTERS**



DID YOU KNOW?

Dogs can sniff Parkinson's disease years before symptoms develop - with up to 98% accuracy!

In a July 2025 study, trained dogs identified Parkinson's disease from skin swabs with remarkable accuracy - up to 98% specificity and 80% sensitivity.

This breakthrough could lead to simple, non-invasive tests for earlier detection, long before clinical signs develop. This will potentially allow for earlier treatment and slowed disease progression, sniffing out early disease markers that humans can't detect.

You can read the full article here:
<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2025/july/detection-dogs.html>

PAPERS TO PATIENTS: COME AND GET INVOLVED!

This multi-disciplinary group will continue to meet monthly on: Thursday mornings 9:45am – 10:45am to facilitate wider engagement. We will meet both online and in the Research Office at ERS for those who want to meet in person.



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

Thank you for being part of our research community! Please provide your valuable insights and recommendations to enhance the quality of this newsletter.

For more information, please email us on research@hospicesheffied.co.uk