

## Health & Work – Academic Forum 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

### *In attendance:*

Prof Ewan Macdonald; Dr Finola Ryan; Professor Anne Harriss. Professor Kim Burton, Glykeria Skamagki, Lia Demou, , Dr Sarah Connelly, Tina Woods; Prof Drushca Laloo, Kevin Daniels, Elaine Wainwright, Martie Van Tongeren, Kirstin Whiting Sajda Khan, Luke Pickard – work and health unit  
Nick Pahl – CEO, SOM  
Apologies Dr Michael Whitmore, Dr Nathan Baker

### **1 Notes of previous meeting**

Agreed

### **2 Matters arising**

Centre for work and health advisory group. Minutes of the meeting were shared - overleaf

3 The [PROTECT COVID-19 National Core Study](#) on transmission and environment will continue for another year, taking the programme until March 2023; that will enable researchers to continue improving understanding of how the COVID-19 virus is transmitted, responding dynamically to the new questions and challenges posed by the ever-changing 'on the ground' situation of the pandemic. The extension will also help ensure the knowledge, research methods and networks are preserved to improve future pandemic preparedness. To help inform this next stage of the programme, industry stakeholders with a role to play in controlling transmission of the COVID-19 virus in the UK are being asked about what knowledge gaps could be addressed to support your work. [Visit the PROTECT website to find out more and take the survey](#). Survey closes 7 February and will be followed by opportunities to take part in more in-depth roundtable discussions.

### **4 SOM /FOM conference – 23/4<sup>th</sup> June; Edinburgh.**

Abstracts call [Abstracts – Occupational Health \(occupationalhealthconferences.com\)](#) plus forum face to face meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June lunchtime – all welcome

### **5 Funding opportunities:**

#### **Golden Jubilee Travelling Fellowship - Up to £4000 for an occupational health research project abroad**

The Golden Jubilee Travelling Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to undertake research or study an aspect of occupational health abroad and then share your findings with colleagues in the UK. Worth up to £4,000, the Fellowship is open to any member of the SOM who wishes to further investigate occupational health practice or a particular area outside the UK. Applications are particularly welcome from members in training. The successful applicant(s) will be required to complete a report of their study within a year of the award, which will be published in the SOM's journal *Occupational Medicine* and/or in the SOM e-News and on the website. Applications will be reviewed by SOM Trustees. Application forms, together with the Rules of the Fellowship are available in the members' section of the SOM website at [www.som.org.uk](http://www.som.org.uk) The closing date is 1 April 2022

- healthy ageing: [http://zinc-19602412.hs-sites.com/en/expression-of-interest-resources-catalyst-awards?utm\\_campaign=Catalyst%20Recruitment%20III&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=200509955&hsenc=p2ANqtz-CqfMxMnSqD6NfEURsHdkdRdz0jBkPA1ZetXXnXhiJWMIi9WuK1Jqghke1cAmG1iaoEIWfF0B0fk1luWoYKncutSE\\_jw&utm\\_content=200509955&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](http://zinc-19602412.hs-sites.com/en/expression-of-interest-resources-catalyst-awards?utm_campaign=Catalyst%20Recruitment%20III&utm_medium=email&hsmi=200509955&hsenc=p2ANqtz-CqfMxMnSqD6NfEURsHdkdRdz0jBkPA1ZetXXnXhiJWMIi9WuK1Jqghke1cAmG1iaoEIWfF0B0fk1luWoYKncutSE_jw&utm_content=200509955&utm_source=hs_email)

**- The Nuffield Foundation, in partnership with Versus Arthritis, has launched a new £4 million funding opportunity to improve the social and economic well-being of people living musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions.**

Musculoskeletal conditions – including arthritis and back pain – affect over 20 million people in the UK and are the single biggest cause of pain and disability. Despite almost one in three (32%) people living with musculoskeletal conditions, there is a lack of evidence on the impact of these conditions on people's well-being and life chances and how to improve policy and practice interventions. We are looking for applicants to develop interdisciplinary research proposals that can help identify, develop, and enhance non-clinical policy and practice interventions. These interventions might benefit people at greater risk of developing musculoskeletal conditions or aim to reduce the negative consequences and improve the quality of life for those who have them. We are keen to fund evaluations of interventions outside of the healthcare system. We welcome applicants from wider fields, as well as those with existing musculoskeletal expertise. Applicants should clearly demonstrate how people living with, supporting, and treating, musculoskeletal conditions will be meaningfully involved throughout the duration of the project. Funding for the call comes from the Foundation's Oliver Bird Fund, bequeathed by Captain Oliver Bird, of Bird's Custard Fame, in 1948. In 2018 we launched the first call for research into musculoskeletal conditions and we awarded funding to six projects which are currently underway **Application process**

- Applicants must be based in a UK institution and submit an outline proposal by 14 March 2022. Short-listed applicants will be invited to submit a full application by July 2022.
- We expect most successful applications to be in the range of £50k-300k, for a duration of up to three years, but we will also consider applications for larger or smaller grants.

**Full criteria and details of how to apply are available**

**at <http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/OBF>** Any questions relating to applications to the Oliver Bird Fund should be sent to [applications@nuffieldfoundation.org](mailto:applications@nuffieldfoundation.org)

**AOB**

- Business for health – role of business in wider health and bringing health into ESGs
- Climate change - discussion as a future area of research
- UEA research [How to improve frontline work – 4 Boosts for frontline workers \(propelhub.org\)](https://propelhub.org)
- Impact of Covid on OH research - occurring by Aberdeen
- Manchester - HSE funding for THOR reporting schemes limited to Sword and Epiderm. Not funding of OPRA and GP THOR – planning to get funding from other sources; Also research on platform workers in delivery sector
- Glasgow – research on leadership and management framework and equality and diversity
- Inclusivity project [The Inclusivity Project Events | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)
- Kim Burton - Norway RCT of individual placement support for MSK people out for work for a considerable period. Based on UK pilot study

## **Centre for work and health – initial advisory group meeting**

**14<sup>th</sup> Jan**

In attendance:

- Ewan MacDonald – Chair Independent Academic Forum for work and health
- Rachel Suff CIPD
- Richard Heron BP
- David Finch Health Foundation
- Nick Davison John Lewis
- Prof Trevor M Jones CBE FMedSci
- Tina Woods, Business for health
- Nick Pahl, SOM
- Shelly Asquith, TUC
- Ian Spouse
- Amy Edens, Work and Health Unit
- Richard Caddis, BT

Apologies Louise Aston, BITC ; Owen Tudor, ITUC , Emma Reader, work and health unit  
Steve Iley, Jaguar Land Rover

### **1 Welcome and introductions**

**2 Purpose of the centre** – a presentation was provided

Participants supported the concept of the centre.

Views from participants as “customers” as to what you would want from the centre were that the centre should be future focused and be clear as to its value to support Government and Society as to:

- a) How the workplace is changing e.g. use of AI; outsourcing etc
- b) Who it is targeting e.g. disability employment gap and preventing people falling out of work due to ill health.
- c) Its outputs e.g. support fitness to work; research into practice, case studies; aim to improve productivity; and make the case for prevention

Agreed further detailed business case development was required.

Participants also wanted to understand more the complexity / overlap with other areas e.g. the What Works for Wellbeing Centre.

### **3 Other members of the advisory group**

Agreed further members from a business and public perspective would be useful. Also agreed should contact trade associations and BEIS.

### **4 AOB**

Noted that the WHU were tbc re funds from the Comprehensive Spending Review for the proposed centre.

