Janice Murray and Liz Moulam (Chair of Communication Matters UK) are beginning a new project to run between 2008 and 2010 about on the job training and development. The study involves appraising and supporting the training needs of an adult VOCA user who has been invited into a leadership role in a national charitable organisation and is funded by Communication Matters, UK.

Dave Smith has two studies examining muscle strength and low back pain and two imagery studies currently underway, with a study examining steroid use completed and soon to be written up.

Julie Marshall is starting a small pilot study to investigate the ideas of speech and language therapists, health visitors and other early years practitioners about the influence of the child’s environment on his/her speech and language development and on speech, language and communication difficulties.

HRP was again well represented at this year’s RIHSC conference with presentations and posters from both staff and students and a HRP member won the poster prize. Sue Ralph, Julie Marshall and Juliet Goldbart organized the JORSEN (Journal of Research Special Educational Needs) invited seminar, in July. It was entitled ‘Social and environmental influences on childhood speech, language and communication difficulties’. The event was well attended, with around 60 delegates and speakers.

Dr. Nickolas Smith is part of the development team that produced the BASES Guide to Careers in Sport and Exercise Sciences [www.bases.org.uk/newsite/pdf/BASES%20Careers%20Guide.pdf].

Dr. Janice Murray has been awarded a Faculty Enterprise fellowship to further develop a business plan for the ICON research portfolio. Partnership activity relating to Give Us Back Our Game! has been initiated with the University of Gloucestershire.

Welcome to Carol Haigh our new Professor of Nursing.

Dr Janice Murray was invited to represent Communication Matters by attending a reception at Downing Street to raise awareness of people who use AAC.

Congratulations: Dr. Dave Day awarded his PhD from DeMonfort University (with no corrections) over summer.

The HRP Project is progressing well. Data collection for the project has occurred and analysis is ongoing. The Department of Exercise and Sport Science Research Seminar Series 2008-2009 has presentation slots booked up to April 2009 [see RHSC website http://www.rhsc.mmu.ac.uk/event_news/index.php].

There is still an opportunity to invite one or two external speakers to present seminars in the HRP seminar programme, in the spring or summer terms. If you have a research colleague from outside of MMU, who you would like to invite, please contact Julie Marshall. Also contact Julie if you’d like to present either formal or informal seminars to the staff group here and/or to external colleagues [j.e.marshall@mmu.ac.uk].

Congratulations to Bill Taylor and ex-MMU students, Liz Mallabon and Helen Hooper (now at University of Cumbria). The team have secured competitive funding (>£22,000) to undertake a coaching workforce audit on behalf of England Hockey. The audit will provide England Hockey with a database on current coaching activity and data relating to the views, perceptions and feelings of coaches as the NGB transfer its coaching scheme to a UKCC aligned system.

Julie Marshall has submitted a small research grant application to the British Academy, for a project entitled ‘Improving speech and language therapy with ‘hard to reach’ families - an exploration of practitioners’ experiences and perceptions of family engagement where pre-school children have speech, language and communication difficulties.’

Darren Chadwick and Juliet Goldbart in collaboration with Jane Jolliffe (SLT in the Manchester Learning Disability Partnership) have applied for a grant from the Manchester PCT R&D Small Grant Scheme 2008/9 for £7,956 to study parents’ insights into the impact of communication on the diagnosis, treatment and management of health problems in adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities.
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Fenoglio, R. & Cooper, P. The Give Us Back Our Game campaign. The Health, Well-being and Happiness Conference, University of Teeside, Middlesbrough, June 2008
Hewson, T.; Moulam, L; Scott J & Murray, J. Leadership training in the Boardroom  pilot project to support people who use AAC into a leadership role. International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication Biennial conference (ISACC), Montreal, Canada, 4th-7th Aug 2008
McEwan, I.M. & Taylor, W.G. When do I get to run on with the magic sponge?: The twin illusions of meritocracy and democracy in the professions of sports medicine & physiotherapy. Postgraduate Research in Science Medicine (PRISM), Liverpool University, 19 Sept. 2008.
Williams, A.G. Molecular Exercise Physiology Interest Group report. BASES Annual Conference, Brunel University, 2008.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES, BOOKS & CHAPTERS

BOOKS, CHAPTERS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

INVITED PRESENTATIONS
Murray, J. NW SIG in AAC invited to present "Communication aid performance and measurement study - November 2008.

Contact
If you have any other ideas regarding what sort of information you’d like the Health, Rehabilitation & Psychology Newsletter to contain, please get in touch with Darren Chadwick (d.d.chadwick@mmu.ac.uk).
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