

contact Military Mental Health Collaboration

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Contact Lead for Research

22 Jun Cardiff Conference and Workshop

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Contact Research Associate Membership Programme

enables Research Associates to keep up to date with ongoing work
enables Research Associates to identify and explain Research relevant to Contact's work

Research Associate Membership Process

by invitation, approved by Contact Members
Academic Institutions
Statutory Bodies eg MoD
Others eg OVA, FiMT, Centre for Mental Health, AFCFT

Research Sub group of 8-12 elected Associate Members

annual rotating membership
2 year elected chair
meets quarterly

Aims of Research Sub Group

to identify and explain research relevant to Contact work
to identify and present perceived gaps in research and propose where future research proposals relevant to
Contact's wider work may be needed

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Gaps in military mental health research identified:

Minorities' access to healthcare

Ageing veterans (especially women) and dementia

Bereaved military communities, including the needs of service widow/ers (as distinct from war widow/ers) and other groups

The scope and nature of ongoing research into families and children

Complex grief, including that as a result of violent or traumatic death

The impact of Covid on military mental health clinical practice

The impact of the Afghanistan withdrawal on military (veterans' and families') mental health

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Two 'deep dives' conducted:

Ageing veterans (especially women) and dementia

identified follow up:

Planned research to look at experiences in the forces and early onset dementia will be monitored

Potential links between PTSD and Parkinson's disease and between MTBI, PTSD and dementia

The issue of how we care for veterans with dementia and/or PTSD in care home settings

The issue of caring for elderly relatives with dementia whilst also serving

Bereaved military communities, including the needs of service widow/ers (as distinct from war widow/ers) and other groups

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Other Sub group Initiatives:

Facilitation of a Postgraduate Research Conference in Apr 24, recently endorsed by the Contact Membership

Outcomes:

A database of complete and ongoing MMH PhD research for future reference by both Contact and the wider sector

A database of MMH PhD researchers, other researchers/academics and other sector professionals interested in MMH PhD research, for engaging in future work/activities in this area

A better networked and informed MMH PhD cohort

A UK MMH sector that is better networked into and has an enhanced understanding of MMH PhD research - this knowledge may influence other research and/or practice in specific areas over time

Potential for NICE/SIGN/Cochrane guideline development in identified gap areas is also being investigated within the group.

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Questions for Workshop Discussion:

Does your organisation routinely access or use Military Mental Health Research in the course of its work?

What type/aspect of Military Mental Health Research would your organisation find most useful?

Do you have a view on how the work of the Contact Research Sub Group could further assist the work of your organisation?

Thank you