UNHEALTHY PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES? WORKING TOGETHER IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Interdisciplinary research is a radical departure from the more traditional, silo-based disciplinary approach to health and social care research which the US National Institutes of Health recently described as “a series of cottage industries, lumping researchers into broad areas of scientific interest and then grouping them into distinct, departmentally based specialties.” Moreover, they concluded that these “traditional divisions impede the pace of scientific discovery,” particularly given the widespread recognition that “the study of human biology and behaviour is complex.” To lower these artificial institutional barriers and advance interdisciplinary and interprofessional research, we sought to promote and support interdisciplinary— an approach which draws on the expertise and perspectives of different physical, natural, and social sciences disciplines to generate new insights into the aetiology of disease and the effective organisation of health and social care services.

At the same time that health and social care researchers were recognising the importance of adopting an interdisciplinary approach to health and social care delivery is to provide a service that has greater coherence and continuity for service users, and whose needs are often complex and require input from more than one practitioner.

However, there are a number of challenges facing health and social care researchers and professionals when working together, and there is much to be learnt about how these challenges might be overcome. With this in mind, the Interprofessional Research at the South West Academic Health Network (a tripartite strategic alliance between King's College, St George's and Royal Holloway at the University of London) has organised this conference in collaboration with the Goodenough College, the UK BioSocial Society and the Trust-funded REGGIR project. Goodenough College

The Conference includes plenary presentations from 8 international speakers working at the forefront of interprofessional research into health and social care, and 24 parallel sessions of proffered papers and related workshops on specific areas of health and social care practice to discuss how challenges to interprofessional practice might be overcome. The conference will appeal to

• health and social care practitioners, managers and policy makers
• researchers, academics and students interested in interdisciplinary research

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS - GOODENOUGH COLLEGE

Goodenough College is an independent college for international postgraduate students. As a distinctive academic and professional community of over 600 members from 90 countries, the College encourages intellectual exchange through workshops, seminars, conferences and cultural, artistic and sporting activities. Positioned in the academic heart of London, the College is an ideal environment for international networking.

The College’s mission is to be the residence of first choice in London for outstanding postgraduate students by offering a unique experience through stimulating intellectual debate, fostering cross-cultural activity and providing an exceptional social environment.

For further details of future Goodenough conferences please contact:
Roger Llewellyn - Development Director, Goodenough College, Mecklenburg Square, London WC1N 2AZ
Tel: + 44 (020) 7837 8888 ext 2024, email: roger@goodenough.ac.uk; www.goodenough.ac.uk/conferences.html
Unhealthy Professional Boundaries?
Working together in Health and Social Care

Goodenough College • 4th & 5th December 2007
Preliminary Programme and Second Call for Abstracts

www.goodenough.ac.uk/conferences.html