



## **Practitioner Research Network Meeting**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014, 12.30 – 2.30pm**

**Room B129, QMC**

**‘Caring for frail older people in acute hospital wards: a  
report of research into end of life care for patients with  
and without dementia’**

**Dr Kristian Pollock, Professor Rowan Harwood, Dr  
Glenys Caswell**



**Open to all, but ideally, confirm your attendance by emailing  
[Julie.corden@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Julie.corden@nottingham.ac.uk)**



## **Sue Ryder Care Centre**

### **Practitioner Research Network Seminar**

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Room B129**

Medical School, QMC

#### **12:30- Lunch**

#### **13:00- Caring for frail older people on acute hospital wards: a report of research into end of life care for patients with and without dementia.**

Dr Kristian Pollock, Professor Rowan Harwood, Dr Glenys Caswell

This paper will discuss findings from a study which explored end of life care for frail older people with and without dementia in an acute hospital setting, and whether there were any differences between these two groups of patients. The research focused on the ways in which medical and nursing staff came to recognise that someone was dying, how this was communicated between staff and with relatives, family carers' experiences of the hospital care of their dying relative, and the environment of the acute hospital ward as a place of death. To do this the researchers spent 245 hours observing care on four hospital wards, talked to 38 members of hospital staff including doctors and nurses who worked on the wards, interviewed 13 family carers whose relatives had died on the wards, and reviewed the medical and nursing notes of 42 patients. In this study, no differences were found between the end of life care for patients with or without dementia. However, the findings highlight the difficulties of prognostic uncertainty in relation to frail older patients, the consequences for communication between staff and families, and the challenges of providing care for dying patients on acute wards. The hospital will remain the most common place of death in the foreseeable future. Consequently, it is important to improve the ward environment and also the resources and support available for staff to provide excellent care for dying patients and their families.

**After presentation: time for discussion and networking until 14:30**