

Welcome to HaCIRIC News, an update about research, events and publications from the Health and Care Infrastructure and Innovation Centre.

At HaCIRIC we aim to improve health outcomes through innovative thinking about infrastructure and the built environment and make Britain a hub of world class research in this field. The Centre is a unique and innovative collaboration, funded by EPSRC, between leading research centres at Imperial College London and the universities of Loughborough, Reading and Salford. Partners from other universities, industry and the healthcare system are also involved in our research projects. Please get in touch and find out more.

Top stories

International Conference tackles key issues for healthcare infrastructure

→ HaCIRIC's Second International Conference on 22-24 September in Edinburgh brings together researchers and practitioners from across the world to focus on key challenges for healthcare infrastructure for the 21st century. 'HaCIRIC 2010' at the five-star Balmoral Hotel will include visits to the Royal Infirmary, a major PFI acute teaching hospital designed by Keppie, the Conan Doyle Medical Centre, a primary care facility designed by Richard Murphy Architects and the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy designed by BDP.



EPSRC awards funding to HaCIRIC to 2013

→ The Centre has secured continued funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) until 2013. This enables HaCIRIC to continue its full programme of activities. Professor Richard Baldwin, HaCIRIC's chairman, said: 'We are delighted with the EPSRC's decision, which represents an important vote of confidence in our research.'

New HaCIRIC/US research project on service redesign

→ A new HaCIRIC research project will explore the way in which hospitals undergoing major service and infrastructure changes manage the transition from the old model to the new model. The work will be carried out in collaboration with the US 'Pebble' programme, a national knowledge transfer programme on innovative healthcare facilities design. One of HaCIRIC's existing research sites, Pembury, was the first non-US and Canadian demonstration scheme, and we will be comparing the experiences here with two case studies in North America.

Featured staff

Professor Colin Gray, who recently retired as Head of School of Construction Management and Engineering at the University of Reading – has been appointed as HaCIRIC's Programme Director. Colin has been involved with HaCIRIC as the Principal Investigator at Reading since the inception of the project and is now taking on a fuller management role for the whole project.



Jack O'Sullivan, a former Associate Editor of the *Independent*, has joined the HaCIRIC team to help disseminate learning from the Centre. Jack is developing publications, HaCIRIC's internal communications and the website to make it a more accessible hub for everything HaCIRIC does.



Sameedha Mahadkar has been working on a three year HaCIRIC project aimed at developing a framework to support and improve strategic asset management and integrated service provision within the healthcare sector. Recent projects include: a review of service reconfiguration and stakeholder engagement with a local Primary Care Trust; and the development of models of care based on clinical specialities funded by the Department of Health in collaboration with MARU (Medical Architecture Research Unit), London South Bank University and the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. Her main research interests include healthcare infrastructure planning, design and strategic management.



John Rooke is a HaCIRIC research fellow in the Salford Centre for Research and Innovation at the University of Salford. His research interests are in organizational behaviour, management practices and methodology. John is currently working on the BeReal project, investigating the theoretical and methodological bases of benefits realisation.



Events

May conference focus on patient safety and infrastructure

→ Patient safety innovation in complex healthcare systems is the focus for a special London meeting on May 6, co-hosted by HaCIRIC alongside the Health and Safety Research Network and with the NHS Confederation. The event will include presentations from the French National Authority for Health, the HSRN and leading researchers on healthcare associated infections.

US healthcare chief highlights integration potential of NHS

→ The National Health Service offers opportunities for integrated health systems planning that are the envy of many in the United States, the leader of one the largest healthcare organisations in the US has told a HaCIRIC seminar.

Crisp leads discussion on post-crunch options for infrastructure

→ Lord Nigel Crisp, former Chief Executive of the National Health Service, led a HaCIRIC seminar on the options for developing healthcare infrastructure during a period of scarce public and private capital. Among the other speakers were Professor Will Hughes, Head of School and Professor in Construction Management and Economics in the School of Construction Management and Engineering, University of Reading.

Debate on planning high quality integrated healthcare services using simulation modelling

→ Professor Sally Brailsford (Southampton University) analysed the challenges for academics in producing simulation models which lead to implementation in healthcare settings. In his talk, Dr Nick Gaunt (NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement) reflected on simulation modelling in healthcare and in particular shared some insights from the roll-out of the scenario generator, a specialized healthcare simulation tool, to PCTs. David Todd (Symmetric SD) looked at one perceived barrier in more detail. He explained how the lack of data was not an absolute barrier to modelling and that instead modelling might help to focus data collection. The subsequent discussion explored some of the key factors preventing the wider uptake of simulation in healthcare and identified some ways to address these.

HaCIRIC has a say

→ Prof. James Barlow, HaCIRIC's principal investigator, was featured in 'The Pros and Cons of PFI hospitals,' an article by Victoria Lambert, published in the Daily Telegraph on 10 March.

Telegraph.co.uk

New publications

Incentivise innovation, says HaCIRIC as report finds PFI stifles new thinking

→ PFI hospitals have been less successful than earlier hospital building programmes in creating innovation and disseminating it throughout the NHS, according to a new report published by HaCIRIC with the Howard Goodman Fellowship.



Praise for HaCIRIC in latest Progress Report

→ Key figures in healthcare academia and delivery praise HaCIRIC's work in its latest Progress Report. 'Better Health Through Better Infrastructure' sets out goals for the next three years. HaCIRIC, says Patricia Leahy of the National Audit Office, is 'bringing innovative, rigorous analysis to the field'. Professor Duane Passman of Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, says the Centre is helping 'to take us back to being world class researchers in infrastructure and the built environment'.

