From: Mohn Centre for Children"s Health and Well-being
To: Mohn Centre for Children"s Health and Well-being
Subject: The Mohn Centre Memo - Issue 1 - September 2023
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Imperial College London

Mohn Centre

for Children's Health and Wellbeing

The Mohn Centre Memo
Quarterly Newsletter
Issue 1 - September 2023

Welcome from Professor Mireille B Toledano, Director of the Mohn Centre for Children's Health and Wellbeing and Chair in Population Child Health.

Dear colleague,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I write to you through our first Mohn Centre newsletter 'The Mohn Centre Memo'. With a shared passion for enhancing the lives of our youngest generation, I believe that this platform will foster a spirit of collaboration among likeminded researchers devoted to promoting the lifelong health of children and young people.

In today's rapidly evolving world, the importance of focused research in children's health and wellbeing cannot be overstated. Our centre's mission is to create a community-led, transdisciplinary research centre at the leading-edge of addressing childhood physical and mental health challenges and inequalities in urban environments. We want to drive innovation, understanding, and policy advancements in this crucial arena.

We have been working closely with community partners, listening to the views of children and young people in North West London to ensure we are building a centre that is representative of the people it serves. This involvement work has been very insightful, and I'm pleased to invite you to a film screening on 21 September where we will be showcasing the outputs of this work. More details of the event can be found in this newsletter, along with the drawings from a year 5 class at Old Oak Primary School dispersed within.

Through this newsletter, we aim to create a vibrant exchange of knowledge, ideas, and insights that will not only strengthen our individual endeavours but also amplify the collective impact of our research. I invite you all to engage actively, contribute your invaluable expertise, and seize the opportunities to collaborate on projects that will shape the future of children's health and wellbeing. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of the next generation and inspire positive change on a global scale.

Warm regards,
Professor Mireille Toledano

Research updates

Linked Local Data on Children and Young People in North West London project reaches next step for data sharing

There are serious challenges facing social care, education and health services for children and young people in England. Beyond high profile cases of avoidable child deaths, the social costs of poor outcomes experienced by children in the care system are estimated to be £23 billion per year.

ADR UK has recognised that a joined-up strategy is necessary to tackle these challenges to understand the links between different sectors and identify the most effective interventions to improve children's outcomes.

Led by Dr Dougal Hargreaves, the team aims to create a research-ready dataset linking data held on children by local authorities, including education and social care, with data held by health services. This new resource will enable researchers to build evidence to support local and national strategies that improve outcomes for children.

The team have secured provisional approval from three North West London boroughs to share children's social care data which will be used alongside the Whole System Integrated Care (WSIC) dataset.

Pathfinder work has been underway to analyse the Invasive Group A Streptococcus outbreak last year with preliminary results and abstract planned for Autumn 2023.

Dr Dougal Hargreaves, project lead, said;

"Young people tell us that the challenges they face in physical/mental health, education/employment, and the families/communities where they live are all linked. This project offers an exciting opportunity to study those links in a new way, which we hope will lead to

more effective and joined up support for them."

Find out more about the Linked Local Data on Children and Young People project on the ADR UK website.

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SCAMP invites Research Challenge students to Imperial for data analysis training.

The Study of Cognition, Adolescents and Mobile Phones (SCAMP) team were recently joined by some of the Research Challenge pupils they have been working with for a data analysis day. These pupils have been providing fresh insights to SCAMP and leading research within each of their schools.

We hear from Catherine James, sixth form student, on her experience with the team at Imperial.

"On Thursday 17th August I attended a data analysis session for research challenge students and medical student interns at Imperial College, led by Dr Rhiannon Thompson, Nicole Curtis, and Sara Larsen from the SCAMP research team.

It was a fascinating day in which we learned principles of statistics, epidemiology, modelling, and data analysis, and how to apply these using the programming language R, to data from an Indonesian study on psychological distress in university students, from the Harvard Dataverse.

The opportunity to interact with expert researchers in such a world-class research institution was incredible, providing unique insights into epidemiological research. Specialist support with R-Studio was invaluable, maximising our skills with multiple linear regression analyses whilst providing comprehensive guidance and efficient troubleshooting tips.

Exposure to real-world data was fascinating, and learning statistical theories alongside their practical application deepened our understanding of the concepts enormously.

It was an immense privilege to visit the St Mary's Campus of Imperial College, and I am hugely grateful to all the SCAMP team for this wonderful learning opportunity. Seeing first-hand the importance of public health research to our community, locally, nationally, and internationally, has been truly inspirational, and I look forward to learning more about this exciting discipline in the future."

Latest news

Mohn Centre affiliation

As colleagues across Imperial continue to make contributions on research that will benefit children and young people, we kindly request that you include the affiliation of the Mohn Centre in any future work that you publish. By doing so, you not only acknowledge our collaborative effort but also help us in disseminating and communicating your research outputs effectively.

In your author affiliation:

Mohn Centre for Children's Health and Wellbeing, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom

Upcoming events

Mohn Centre Community Film Screening
Thursday 21 September 16:30 – 18:30

The Mohn Centre for Children's Health and Wellbeing invites you to a special screening of our short film made with the White City community.

The Mohn Centre have been working with children and young people from across White City to gain their views on topics relating to their health and wellbeing. Together, we have collected photographs, videos, audio clips and drawings which we have transformed into a short film we will be showcasing at the event.

You will also be able to hear from researchers at Imperial College London and how the themes we have been discussing throughout the project are informing the Mohn Centre strategy and future research topics.

We hope you can join us on 21 September for drinks, snacks and the premiere of our film.

https://www.imperial.ac.uk/events/164501/mohn-centre-community-film-screening/

Mohn Centre Monthly Academic Research and Networking meeting

Tuesday 31 October 15:00 – 16:00

We are excited to invite you to our monthly networking and research sharing meetings hosted by the Mohn Centre. These informal gatherings aim to bring together academics from all levels and backgrounds to collaboratively discuss ideas and explore ways to improve the health and well-being of children and young people in urban environments.

The session will also feature lightning talks for those wanting to present a concise overview of their research project or facilitate a quick exchange of ideas. These meetings will occur on the last Tuesday of every month.

Why attend?

1. Cross-collaboration: Connect with fellow, passionate academics across the College. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to expand your network and form valuable interdisciplinary partnerships.
2. Research exposure: Present your ongoing research or projects related to the theme, gaining valuable insights and feedback from your peers. Alternatively, offer your expertise to help others fine-tune their work.
3. Knowledge exchange: Stay updated on the latest research trends, opportunities, projects, and calls for grant funding.
4. Networking: Enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits, and fresh fruit while mingling with like-minded individuals. These informal interactions often lead to meaningful discussions and collaborations.
5. Supportive environment: We encourage a welcoming and constructive atmosphere. No matter where you are in your research career, you'll find an environment that nurtures your growth and development.

For more details email mohncentre@imperial.ac.uk

Mohn Centre and PaeCH Seminar Series: Dr Meredith O'Connor – The Melbourne Children's LifeCourse Initiative: A treasure trove of cohorts for understanding health across the life span
Tuesday 17 October 14:00 – 15:30

The Melbourne Children's Campus is a global leader in longitudinal and life course data. LifeCourse serves as a collaborative hub encompassing over 20 core longitudinal cohort studies, spanning conception to adulthood, and involving over 40,000 participants. Join us at the Cockburn Lecture Theatre (St Mary's Campus) or online, to find out how researchers can harness these data to increase understanding of early life health and its impact throughout the life span.

https://www.imperial.ac.uk/events/164533/mohn-paech-seminar-series-present-meredith-oconnor-the-melbourne-childrens-lifecourse-initiative-a-treasure-trove-of-cohorts-for-understanding-health-across-the-life-span/

The fourth call for UKRI Impact Acceleration Account (UKRI IAA) is open

UKRI IAA is institutional funding supporting translational activities to develop academic outputs which maximise the impact to end-user communities. Imperial's UKRI IAA is structured around four themes which align to the College's Academic Strategy, innovation for a healthy society, resilient society, smart society, and sustainable society.

Projects must be limited to six months, with an estimated cost between £30K - £50K.

Applications close 9 October 2023.

Find out more information about the call on the Imperial website.

Applications open for Imperial's Engagement Academy 2023/24

Open to all Imperial staff, develop your engagement practice with the Engagement Academy. Build your confidence, leadership skills, and professional identity among a supportive cohort of colleagues.

This unique opportunity is delivered in partnership between Imperial's Science Communication Unit and Public Engagement team. The aim of the Academy, with monthly training sessions over the course of seven months, is to foster the development of a community of staff for whom societal engagement is an integral, supported, and valued part of their professional identity and practice.

Deadline for applications is midnight Friday 15 September 2023.

Find out more information and how to apply on the Engagement Academy web page.

Wellcome Early-Career Awards

Providing funding for early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, they will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health and wellbeing. By the end of the award, they will be ready to lead their own independent research programme.

Applications close 5 October 2023.

Find out more on the Wellcome site.

UKRI Creating Opportunities Trial Accelerator Fund

Apply for funding to test and rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of interventions aimed at spreading opportunities and reducing disparities in economic, health and social outcomes for people and places across the UK.

Deadline for applications 31 October 2023.

Find out more on the UKRI website.

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If you have any suggestions on content for the Mohn Memo from opportunities to research updates, resources or news articles please contact Charlotte Gredal, Mohn Centre Scientific Manager c.gredal@ic.ac.uk

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