

## Research in the news



Rushton AB, Fawkes CA, Carnes D, Moore AP. A modified Delphi consensus study to identify UK osteopathic profession research priorities. *Man Ther.* 2014 May 9. E-Pub. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24855956>

Many osteopaths participated in the Delphi consensus study led by Dr Alison Rushton from Birmingham University.

The study involved consulting osteopaths on their opinions about research priorities during three rounds of the consensus process. The study identified 20 research priority topic areas covering four themes: effectiveness of osteopathic treatment, role of osteopathy: the management of four conditions were prioritised, risks with osteopathic treatment, and outcomes of osteopathic treatment.

Updated NICE guidelines on atrial fibrillation have just been published. Atrial fibrillation is the most common sustained cardiac arrhythmia, and many of us will have encountered this in our patients. NICE states that "estimates suggest its prevalence is increasing. If left untreated atrial fibrillation is a significant risk factor for stroke and other morbidities. Men are more commonly affected than women and the prevalence increases with age." Current management includes pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions. Pharmacological management via anticoagulants is aimed to reduce the risk of stroke occurring, while anti-arrhythmic medication is aimed to either restore or maintain normal heart rhythm. The full guidance can be found at <http://publications.nice.org.uk/atrial-fibrillation-the-management-of-atrial-fibrillation-cg180>.



**Need some help making sense of the papers? Visit:**

<http://www.ncor.org.uk/learning-online/critical-appraisal/> for some help with how to critically review a paper.

## Using Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in osteopathic practice – volunteer practices wanted

Many osteopaths will be aware that NCOR is undertaking work on PROMs including developing an electronic data capture facility specifically for **outcome** data. This has been developed by undertaking a systematic review of selected PROMs and qualitative work involving both osteopaths and patients.

### What do patients think about PROMs?

Thank you to those osteopaths who have recruited patients to take part in the short (30 minute) interviews about PROMs. We have been asking patients what they think about completing PROMs in private practice and using either the Internet (web app) or a mobile phone app to do this. **We would like to hear from more patients.** If you think any of your patients might be interested, the participant information sheet can be found at <http://www.ncor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Participant-information-sheet-patient-interviews.pdf> Alternatively, please contact Carol Fawkes at [c.fawkes@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.fawkes@qmul.ac.uk) or by telephone on 07732178308.



## Using PROMs in osteopathic practice

PROM data is being required increasingly from a variety of different sources. To support osteopaths an electronic PROM data collection facility has been developed for private practitioners. It has been tested during development in one

private practice, and is now ready for a larger pilot in private practices.

### **Volunteer practices wanted**

We are looking for more volunteers who may be interested in using this in their practices to collect data from fifteen current patients. We will be piloting the app during July, August and September. If you are interested in finding out more about what this would involve, please contact Carol Fawkes at [c.fawkes@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.fawkes@qmul.ac.uk) or by telephone on 07732178308.

More information about this project and other work contributing to the PROM data collection project can be found at Stages 4 and 5 at <http://www.ncor.org.uk/practitioners/patient-reported-outcomes/patient-reported-outcome-measures-in-osteopathy/>.

### **Austin Plunkett NCOR's New Research Assistant**

We are delighted to welcome Austin Plunkett to the NCOR team.

Austin has worked in several osteopathy clinics, and is a founding partner at Body Foundation Osteopaths in Paddington, London. His particular interest is how therapists of all disciplines can best apply theory to practical treatment.

Austin joined NCOR in June 2014 to work as a research assistant. His role involves developing and managing the website, and expanding NCOR's presence on social media alongside other means of disseminating relevant research to the osteopathic community.

### **Keeping up to date**



Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NCORnews](http://www.facebook.com/NCORnews)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/NCOR\\_UK](http://www.twitter.com/NCOR_UK)

LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com/company/national-council-for-osteopathic-research](http://www.linkedin.com/company/national-council-for-osteopathic-research)

### **Research hubs**

Information about forthcoming research hub meetings can be found at: [www.ncor.org.uk/getting-involved/hubs/](http://www.ncor.org.uk/getting-involved/hubs/)

If you would like to attend a hub meeting, please get in touch with us: [www.ncor.org.uk/contact-us/](http://www.ncor.org.uk/contact-us/)