

Research Project on the Role of Allied Health Professionals in Health Promotion

*** *Request for information* ***

City University's Centre for Allied Health Professions Research has been awarded a major grant by the NIHR Service Delivery and Organisation Programme to examine the nature and extent of allied health professionals' involvement in health promotion across the UK.

The aim of the research is to assist planners and providers in developing services, improving health and reducing health inequalities. This is an important project and should help raise the profile of the AHPs, which are currently an under-researched group in comparison with medicine and nursing.

The main component of this 18-month project is a systematic literature review. An expert panel will then identify priorities for developing AHPs' role in health promotion. Summaries of the project are available at <http://www.sdo.lshtm.ac.uk/sdo2052007.html>.

The systematic review will include the published journal literature on health promoting activities by prosthetists and orthotists, however we recognise that much relevant material will probably be missed by restricting our search to such sources.

We are therefore very keen to receive details of any of the following:

- Published or unpublished material (e.g. in books, reports, news articles or dissertations) describing or evaluating recent health promotion activities, such as initiatives, trials or general health promotion practice, with which prosthetists and orthotists have been involved.
- Information (e.g. policy documents, opinion pieces, surveys) which might provide useful background material for the review.
- Specific individuals, groups or organisations whom we might approach for further information.

Health promotion is a difficult concept to define, however we view it as *strategies, such as health education, advice, advocacy, empowerment and community development, that enable individuals and communities to increase control over and improve their health*. Health promoting interventions therefore cover a wide spectrum, from providing health and lifestyle advice to individual patients (primary or secondary prevention), to involvement in mass media campaigns and advising policymakers.

Finally, if you have any questions or would like to find out more about this project, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks in advance for your help. Any information you can provide will be enormously helpful to our research.

Dr Justin Needle

Lecturer in Health Services Research & Policy

City University

Room C315, Tait Building, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB

Email: justin.needle.1@city.ac.uk

Tel: 020 7040 3240

WWW: <http://www.city.ac.uk/communityandhealth/cahpr/>