



NIHR Global Health Research Group Update

October - December 2020

Project Updates

- The teams in all partner countries continue to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and data analysis and write up is proceeding well:
 - The first publication of GLOBE results, *Experiences and outcomes of group volunteer befriending with patients with severe mental illness: an exploratory mixed-methods study in Colombia*, was submitted to BMC Psychiatry on 02 December 2020. This is a great achievement, and we congratulate everyone involved.
 - The first publication in Pakistan, *A mixed methods exploration of structured patient-clinician communication with a solution focused approach (DIALOG+) in community treatment of patients with common mental health disorders in Pakistan*, is with the authors for approval for submission to PLOS ONE. A second paper, on Family Involvement, is nearing completion.
 - Bosnia and Uganda are working on busy finalising their analysis and drafting papers.
 - Peru has completed research activities and has produced a case study report and a fieldwork/implementation report on their experiences.
 - Argentina has approval to recruit participants with anxiety disorders, and will restart their study soon.
- We were successful in winning a grant from the Newton-Caldas Fund with our Colombian collaborators: *Adapting DIALOG+ and building capacity in schools to support mental wellbeing and resilience in post-conflict Colombia during the COVID-19 pandemic* (SMART; PIs Prof C Gómez-Restrepo and Dr F van Loggerenberg). Activities in Colombia start immediately, and the QMUL portion will start on 1st February 2021.
- In November, the Unit for Social and Community Psychiatry, QMUL, received the good news that it was redesignated for another four years, for the second time, as a WHO collaborating Centre - the only one specifically for mental health service development in the world.
- Two new staff members have been hired in Bosnia for the DIALOG+ in Primary Care study - Nejra Selak and Meliha Kiseljakovic, welcome to the team!
- After COVID-19 delays, recruitment for the DIALOG+ in Primary Care study is expected to commence early in the new year. The QMUL team has submitted all three countries' protocols and consent forms for review, the Colombian team is awaiting ethics approval and Uganda has submitted to the National Council for approval.
- The QMUL team will send out the templates for the quarterly report this week as the information is required back by 15 January 2021 to submit to the NIHR by the end of January. Please be aware that closures may make this deadline a bit tighter than usual.

Important Note: Queen Mary University of London will close for the Christmas / New Year period on Friday 18th December, and our offices will open again on the 4th of January 2021. We wanted to take this opportunity wish you and your friends and family and wonderful holiday break, and look forward to a much happier and a productive 2021!

If there are any items that you would like to include in the next newsletter please contact: m.mcgrath@qmul.ac.uk