



Showcasing Keele/LMIC Collaboration in Implementation Research

30th June 2025



Summary



The event 'Showcasing Keele/LMIC Collaboration in Implementation Research' took place at Keele Hall, Keele University on 30th June 2025. This was an afternoon event that was arranged by Professor Saeed Farooq (CONTROL and TRANSLATE lead) and members of his global mental health research team within the School of Medicine at Keele University. Overall, over 40 people attended the event. The event hosted guests from a variety of national and international organisations including NIHR, MPFT, and Khyber Medical University. There were 15 speakers across the afternoon, presenting on a range of topics including implementation of research in LMICs, PhD presentations, leadership skills, translating evidence into practice, progress reporting and impact, and capacity development. The event was an overarching success. Guests and speakers actively participated in the sessions, with fruitful discussions taking place after each session. We received very positive feedback for the event: guests said that the showcase was an impactful insight into global health research, and it highlighted our international collaborations. We look forward to arranging a similar event in the future with our partners in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



Keele/MPUFT Senior Leadership Team



The senior leadership team at Keele University and the Midlands Partnership University Foundation Trust (MPUFT) extended their full support and ensured active participation. They shared their insights on global mental health research and current/future collaborations. The speakers included **Professor Antonius Raghubansie** (Pro VC International, Keele University) and **Professor Krysia Dziedzic** (Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research and Impact). Guests included **Neil Carr OBE** (Chief Executive Officer, MPUFT), **Professor Abid Khan** (Chief Medical Officer, MPFT), and **Dr Muhammad Gul** (Associate Medical Director).

Chairs of the Sessions



We are thankful to both **Dr Tom Shepherd** (Dean of Research and Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Primary Care, Keele University) and **Professor Danielle Van der Windt** (Professor of Primary Care Epidemiology, Keele University) for chairing both insightful sessions: ‘Implementation Research in Action’ and ‘Building Capacity for Implementation Research in LMICs’. The event was concluded by **Professor Krysia Dziedzic** (Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research and Impact). Her comments were insightful and reflected the positive work that the Global Mental Health Research team.

Khyber Medical University Senior Leadership



We were pleased that **Dr Jalil Khan** (Head of Family Medicine Department, Khyber Medical University) joined us and offered his support for the programme. He shared unique insights into the collaborations between Keele and Khyber Medical University, whilst also offering an interesting talk around converting evidence into practice with an overview of both The HOPE programme and TRANSLATE programme.

Keynote Speakers



Professor Saeed Farooq (Global Research Professor, NIHR; Professor of Psychiatry, Keele University) was the first keynote speaker at the event. He presented on the topic of ‘Implementation of research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries – Lessons from Keele, LMIC Collaborations’. He emphasised the importance of capacity building and the collaborations with Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka.



Toni Adebayo-Oke (Research Manager (Global Health), NIHR) was the next keynote speaker at the event. She presented on the topic ‘Progress Reporting and Impact’, focusing on the importance and value of disseminating research findings to a wider audience.

Keynote Speakers



Dr Nishani Fonseka (Postdoc Research Associate, Global Mental Health Research, Keele University) was the next keynote speaker. She presented the topic 'Capacity Development in Implementation Research (Highlights)'. Nishani discussed CONTROL's capacity building schemes as well as the SPARC award holders' experiences.



Dr Nalinda Wellappuli (Postdoc Research Associate, Global Mental Health Research, Keele University) was the next keynote speaker. He presented on the topic 'Service Users and Care Providers Perspectives on Providing Service for Post-Partum Psychosis in Pakistan – A Qualitative Study'. Nalinda discussed the new branch of TRANSLATE, TRANSLATE-PPP.

Keynote Speakers



Professor Martyn Lewis (Professor of Biostatistics, Keele University) was the next keynote speaker. He presented on ‘Building Capacity in Data Management and Analysis: Keele-LMIC Collaboration’.



Dr Ghasem Yadegarfar (Lecturer in Medical Statistics, Keele University) was the next keynote speaker. He presented on ‘Training in Critical Appraisal Skills – Experience of a Journal Club in Global Health Research’.

CONTROL PhD Student Presentations

As part of the CONTROL programme and in collaboration with Khyber Medical University, five students were selected to be enrolled to undertake PhD projects as part of CONTROL capacity building in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Students presented their PhD topics and progress.



Ms Aliya Durrani presented on ‘An Evidence-Based Approach for the Management of Postnatal Depression in LMICs: Adapting and Implementing Clinical Practice Guidelines’. Aliya discussed the current clinical practice guidelines available for managing postnatal depression, and the potential adaptation of these guidelines for LMICs.

CONTROL PhD Student Presentations



Mr Abdul Latif presented on 'From Evidence to Action: A Care Package for Severe Mental Illness in Lower and Middle-Income Countries with Lessons from Pakistan'. Latif discussed in detail how care packages can have cost effective intervention in LMICs as well as discussing his systematic review findings.



Mr Safat Ullah presented on 'Culturally Grounded Care: A Multi-Phase Implementation Study of Adapted CBT for Cannabis Use Disorder in Peshawar'. Safat discussed the need for effective care treatments for cannabis use disorder and how CBT can be culturally adapted using Pakistan as a case study.

CONTROL PhD Student Presentations



Miss Huma Mughal presented on 'Developing a Feasibility Testing a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in HIV Routine Care Services in Pakistan: A Mixed Method CHERISH Study'. She discussed the three work packages that she is working on for her PhD to improve HIV-treatment adherence and how CBT can be adapted to reduce depression and anxiety in patients.



Mr Muhammad Sohaib presented on 'Stigma in TB and Depression Comorbidity in LMIC Setting: Generating Evidence to Inform Culturally Relevant Implementation Strategies'. He discussed how the implementation can be culturally adapted to help combat TB.

CONTROL PhD Student Presentations

All the PhD presentations were followed by a 10-minute Q&A afterwards.

