

Research Assessment Exercise 2020

Impact Overview Statement

University: |The Chinese University of Hong Kong |

Unit of Assessment (UoA): 5 |

Total number of eligible staff of the university in the UoA: |17 |

(1) Context - context for the individual case study(ies)

The UoA-5 is a multidisciplinary unit encompassing two schools, i.e. the Nethersole School of Nursing (NSN) and School of Pharmacy (PHARM), at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Both Schools share similar directions of research development and public service that draws from the University mission to promote/facilitate the discovery, application and dissemination of health related knowledge to populations/communities in need. Therefore, the research activities span from bench to bedside and go further with experimental research that targets to improve health outcomes for individuals and communities, locally, regionally and globally. However, due to high staff volatility and only few staff from the PHARM are eligible for the assessment, the two impact cases for UoA-5 are selected from the NSN's research groups. These two selected cases demonstrate successful pathways to impact through collaboration with healthcare professionals and services, community engagement and empowerment approaches for the public and networks, building capacity and competence of healthcare workers, and facilitating accessibility and penetration to healthcare services. Despite the two impact cases are selected from the NSN, both cases involve a wide range of inter-school research collaborations such as the underpinned research CU_CHAMPION on medication management and prevention/management of cerebro-cardiovascular diseases (CCVD) to promote well-being of hidden elders.

The NSN's research has focused/produced high impacts on prevention and management of major disease groups (cardiovascular diseases, cancer and mental disorders) and chronic illnesses of older populations, and the research outputs have contributed to reducing the very high socio-economic burden globally. The two impact cases are selected from the NSN's major research theme groups, including "Preventing and managing cerebro-cardiovascular diseases (CCVD)" from Cardiovascular, Stroke and Metabolic Care research group; and "Improving the uptake of cervical cancer screening by minority communities" from Cancer and Palliative Care research group. Both impact cases have responded to important global health concerns for prevention/management of CCVD and cervical cancer by facilitating public and community engagement in collaboration with healthcare and government/non-governmental organisations. |

(2) Approach to impact - the unit's approach to impact during the assessment period for impact

The unit's approach to impact is supported by the NSN's focus on applied research that seeks to maximise improvements in health and wellbeing for individuals and communities. The NSN provides well-structured manpower (skills and expertise) and resources (facilities and funding) to facilitate knowledge transfer and pathways to impact. The two case studies represent the leadership of nurse researchers in collaboration with experts in basic, behavioural and social sciences, and with stakeholders/partners from health/social care organisations. These multi- and inter-disciplinary perspectives enrich the depth and breadth of the studies and increase networks to influence policy and practice. Multifaceted approaches to building impact from research in both cases comprise knowledge transfer, dissemination of advanced practice, implementation of improvements in healthcare delivery, policy influence, and catalysing effective professional development. To achieve these benefits, we have deployed different impact methods to communicate research-informed health-related knowledge. Our research teams have collaborated with local and overseas academic and healthcare institutions to design and evaluate innovative evidence-based interventions through staff and service users' training, and disseminated evidence to inform the development of best practice guidelines. We have also tailored innovative approaches such as interactive multi-media platforms to ensure reliable, authentic and accessible health messages to stakeholders and beneficiaries, such as service users, health professionals and policymakers, in the healthcare system. |

(3) Strategy and plans - strategy and plans for supporting impact

The unit invests in, promotes and supports a research intensive environment, focusing on at least four research themes (CCVD, cancer, mental health, and palliative/chronic illness care) according to the research expertise of our academic staff. Our strategy focuses on tailoring research outputs and outcomes to best fit the context to maximise the health/social care benefits locally and internationally. Major strategic activities include community engagement, designing bespoke interventions to promote dissemination of evidence via e-health platforms and/or inter-disciplinary collaborative networks, and deployment of communication experts to disseminate/publicise research evidence through multiple channels/media. In the first impact case, multi-media e-health platforms on CCVD risk reduction were jointly developed by our research team, community partners, health professionals from the Hospital Authority, and service users. Several nurse-led, evidence-based guidelines have facilitated transitional care and empowerment-based models applied to rehabilitation service for people with CCVD. With train-to-trainer approach in the 2nd impact case, continually increasing number of community health workers from our community partners have been trained in breast/cervical cancer screening via a multi-media training programme to widen the reach to beneficiaries in HK and South Asia (SA), and much increase in its uptake and delivery rate. The unit ensures a vibrant and research intensive environment to enhance, support, sustain, and monitor the impacts through, for example, career development for expert and junior research roles, internal investment to support research teams to build impact pathways, and establishing a repository to archive impact evidence across multiple pathways (regional and international). The unit has been seeking funding from the University (e.g. Impact Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme and Project Impact Enhancement Fund) to support impact development and to train doctoral students and junior research staff for establishing impactful research and research evidence.

(4) Relationship to case studies - the relationship between the unit's approach to impact and the submitted case studies

In line with the Carnegie Foundation defined scholarship, the unit's research focuses on integration and application of research evidence through engagement, communication and facilitation with diverse audiences and beneficiaries. The 1st impact case has successfully established nurse-led, multi-disciplinary self-management programmes for people with CCVD and their families, spanning from disease prevention, acute to rehabilitation stage. The pathway to impact involves engagement of stroke patients to improve self-management knowledge and skills; in collaboration with research/service networks, development, testing and dissemination of self-management programmes in public/private healthcare organisations; and development of evidence-based guidelines for empowerment-based CCVD care, particularly in Chinese populations. These protocols have been adopted by the Healthy Community Network (US) and Hospital Authority (HK) in their clinical guidelines, inducing significant improvements in stroke patient/family outcomes and rehabilitation service. The 2nd impact case captures community engagement and education of the largest SA minority groups in HK and the community health workers to enhance accessibility/uptake of cancer screening. Approaches to impact include co-design of training for community health workers to facilitate cancer screening uptake for SAs, and collaborating with community partners to develop an **Intergrative Multimedia Programme for South Asians' Cancer Screening upTake (IMPACT)** to improve their screening knowledge/uptake. Reach has been extended to wider beneficiaries of ethnic minorities and healthcare workers in SA (Nepal and India). Our research funded by external competitive grants in these two impact cases is highly rated by the key-users such as CCVD patients and their caregivers, and SA minority groups. Its impacts are achieved by drawing on inter-disciplinary collaboration and community engagement initiated by our researchers using their expertise. The case studies showcase how the unit's research approaches facilitate knowledge transfer on policymaking, and advance professional practice and healthcare delivery, thus indicating benefits to local, regional and global communities and adding value for money. These also reveal that the unit is keen on preparing key-users and health professionals for illness prevention/management, using the evidence-based protocols developed by our researchers.