

COMPASS postdoctoral research fellow and statistician progress report

Name: Kate Absolom

Period covered by report: August 2008- September 2008

Date report submitted: September 2008

Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report): N/A

Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):

- During my first month in post with the COMPASS collaborative my main progress has been:
 - Familiarization with the relevant emotional distress literature
 - Obtaining outstanding R&D/honorary contracts for QSS2 qualitative study of health care professionals experiences of detecting and managing emotional distress in daily practice
 - Piloting of QSS2 interview schedule
 - Establishing links with London and Edinburgh based COMPASS research fellows

Objectives for next reporting period (6 months):

- Obtain R&D approval at remaining centres for QSS-S study (Bradford/Huddersfield)
- Begin/complete data collection for QSS2 qualitative study data and determine feasibility of national survey of health care professionals
- Examine feasibility of qualitative analysis of POG consultation transcripts with focus on the routine management/detection of emotional distress
- Continue to liaise with fellows in London/Edinburgh- along with attendance at COMPASS scientific meetings/conferences we plan to hold regular update meetings via telephone/video conferencing
- Organise Strand 2 telephone/video conferencing for discussion of QSS2 study

Training

- NVivo workshop, University of Leeds, 31st October 2008
- Advanced Communication Skills for Doctors, Scarborough, 20-21st November 2008
- Teach the teachers: The Maguire Communication Skills Training Unit, Christie Hospital, Manchester 26th-28th November

Progress report from Post Docs/Statisticians

Strand 3: Implementation of effective interventions, staff training and long term sustainability

Names: Louise Atkins & Clare Miles

Period covered by report: 7 Jul – 4 Sept

Date report submitted: 5 September 2008

Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report):

- This is the first progress report as Louise and Clare came in to post in July and August 2008 respectively.

Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):

- Project plans for two systematic reviews to be conducted in the next reporting period have been produced. The first review, to be led by Clare Miles, is the Mental Health of Doctors, Nurses & Allied Health Professionals: Prevalence, Risk Factors and Outcomes. The second review, to be led by Louise Atkins, will focus on the effectiveness of training non-mental health professionals to deliver psychological interventions. Following a meeting of the six COMPASS post doctoral research fellows, it was agreed that London and Edinburgh would collaborate on conducting the training systematic review.
- As part of the Strand Three aim to investigate the impact of changes in service organization such as multidisciplinary team working and the complaints procedure on the working lives of health professionals, we are currently involved in two projects: The first is a multi-centre qualitative study looking at the impact of receiving a complaint on hospital doctors. The second is the development and validation of an observational measure to assess team working within cancer multidisciplinary meetings.
- In order to keep up to date with the relevant literature concerning the mental health of health professionals and multidisciplinary team working, a system of automatic searches and citation alerts has been implemented.

Objectives for next reporting period (6 months):

- We aim to develop systematic reviews as an area of expertise within the COMPASS Collaborative. We will lead on two reviews:
 - 1) A systematic review of the mental health of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. This will lead in to a national survey of the mental health of hospital doctors, nurses and allied health professionals which follows on from previous national surveys of the mental health of hospital consultants in 1994 and 2002.

- 2) A systematic review to determine the effectiveness of training non-mental health professionals to deliver psychological interventions. The aim is that the review will lead to the development of primary research (in collaboration with Edinburgh) in testing models of training and supervision for non-mental health professionals to deliver psychological interventions in order to determine what the core elements are.
- A wider non-systematic review of quality assurance for the delivery of a psychological intervention by non-mental health professionals will also be conducted.
 - Data collection, analysis and write up of the qualitative study of the impact of complaints on hospital doctors will be completed within the next reporting period.
 - An outcome of the post doctoral fellows meeting was to increase the visibility of the collaborative at scientific meetings. This will be achieved with the promotion of the collaborative at the NCRI conference in October 2008 with the dissemination of the recent COMPASS newsletter and by submitting abstracts to the British Psychosocial Oncology Society conference in December 2008 where we plan to present data from the study developing an observational measure to assess team working.
 - We will be organising the Strand Three scientific meeting to be held in London in January 2009.

Training and development:

- Training courses in systematic reviews and reference manager in October and November 2008, respectively, will facilitate our work with the systematic reviews.
- Training in assessment and outcome measures will be undertaken at the Strand One scientific session in Leeds (September 2008).
- Training in supportive and palliative care issues (specifically multidisciplinary team working) by attendance at the NCRI conference in October 2008.
 - In commencing this work over the next six months we plan to reflect on our work programme in terms of defining our own roles, responsibilities and areas of individual work.

Progress report from Post Docs/Statisticians

Stats Progress Report

Author: Julia Brown

Regular teleconferences of the group are on-going.

Peer review of submitted manuscripts within the statistics group has been undertaken.

The group is planning a meeting with invited speakers to cover the subject of adjustment for therapist effect in sample size and analysis in individual randomized trials.

Progress report from Post Docs/Statisticians

Name: Laura Hodges

Period covered by report: June 08 – August 08

Date report submitted: 5th Sep 08

Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in last progress report):

General:

- Training: Complete user-involvement training.
- Continue organising and participating in local meetings, seminars and Masterclasses.
- Users: Attend local user groups to get feedback on current projects.

Strand 2: Interventions for psychological distress

- Systematic Review: Draft of systematic review completed.
- GP survey: Submit for publication as a short report.
- Current practice survey: Liaise with new post-doctoral research fellow in Leeds.
- Intervention development work: Ethical approval obtained.

Strand 3: RTN training evaluation project

- Recruitment: Have commenced the written report.
- Observation of ongoing training and supervision.
- Health economics costing completed.
- Training evaluation: 3-months post-training interviews in progress.
- Training systematic review: Draft of proposal prepared, consider if funding needed.

Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):

NB Objectives were originally set for 6-months, below is 3-months progress.

General:

- Training: Completed. Met with Marilyn Kendall. User form established.
- Masterclasses: Ongoing.
- Users: User involvement planned for new studies. Still to attend local user groups.

Strand 2:

- Systematic review: First draft completed. Sent to collaborators for feedback.
- GP survey: Ready for submission for publication as a short report.
- Current practice survey: Discussed progress with Kate Absolom in Leeds.
- Oncologist and nurse attitudes to distress: Supervision of medical student project.
- Intervention development: Protocol for prospective study completed.

Strand 3: RTN Training evaluation project

- Recruitment: Written report at early draft stage.
- Observation of ongoing training and supervision.
- Health economics costing now complete.
- Evaluation interviews: Data collection on target.
- Training systematic review: Collaborating with Louise Atkins and Clare Miles.

Objectives for next reporting period (6 months):

General:

- Training: Submit abstract for BPOS conference. Attend presentation skills course.
- Masterclasses: Continue organising and participating in local meetings.
- Users: Contact user forum for assistance with current projects.

Strand 2:

- Systematic review: Have meeting with collaborators to progress the draft paper.
- GP survey: Submit for publication to Journal of Psychosomatic Research.
- Current practice survey: Discuss possible collaboration with Leeds.
- Oncologist and nurse attitudes to distress: Medical student project completed.
- Intervention development: Ethical approval obtained. Prospective study commenced.

Strand 3:

- Written report of recruitment, training and supervision progressed.
- Training evaluation: Post-training interviews completed.
- Training systematic review: Review team established. Review protocol begun.

Progress report from Post Docs/Statisticians

Name: Annet Kleiboer

Period covered by report: June 2008- September 2008 (3 months)

Date report submitted: 3rd September 2008

Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report):

Please note that the period covered by this report is only 3 months whereas the objectives were written having a 6 month period in mind.

Training

- Continue organizing and attending Edinburgh masterclasses, and local research seminars and receive training in user-involvement

Collaboration communication

- Continue working together with S2 collaborators, collaborators in Leeds on the review and IT goals, the Edinburgh Compass group and other post-docs.

Research

- Finalize and submit thematic review on 'psychological distress'
- Continue involvement in Edinburgh Symptom Monitoring System (SMS) to meet IT goals
- Analyze existing data (collected in 2005) to evaluate the SMS in Edinburgh.
- Present work on concerns of cancer patients at the Compass Annual Scientific Meeting 2008 and submit for publication.
- Liaise with new Post Doc in Leeds on the current practice survey study
- Obtain ethical and R&D approval and commence the two development studies (prospective study of distress and interview study of patient desire/preference for treatment) that will inform the development of an intervention for psychological distress

Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):

Training

- All training goals were achieved; a masterclass on 'realistic evaluation' by Nick Tilley was held in June and received excellent feedback. User involvement training has started, lead by Dr Marilyn Kendall.

Collaboration communication

- Meetings with S2 collaborators, collaborators in Leeds, the Edinburgh Compass group are ongoing. All post-docs have met in Leeds in August. Regular meetings between the post-docs have been planned.

Research

- The thematic review on 'psychological distress' is progressing and will be finished in November.
- IT goals: An IVR system was developed and should be up and running in October. An IVR pilot (testing different voice modalities) is delayed due to leave of absence of one of the key collaborators and is now

planned for January 2009. Involvement in the Symptom Monitoring System in Edinburgh is continuing.

- A qualitative study on problems of cancer patients suffering from depression is finished. The study results were presented at the Compass ASM and will be submitted for publication in October.
- The current practice survey study is discussed with the new post-doc in Leeds. Further collaboration between Edinburgh and Leeds will be explored in the next months.
- Intervention development work: A protocol has been written for a prospective study on the persistence of psychological distress and the desire and preferences for treatment in distressed patients. This study will be conducted without additional funding and ethical approval will be obtained within the next few months.

Objectives for next reporting period (6 months):

Training

- Course: An Introduction to Qualitative Methods for Health Professionals (Nov 2008; 1 day)
- Conference: BPOS (December 2008; 2 days)
- Ongoing: User-involvement training

Collaboration

- Continue working together with S2 collaborators, collaborators in Leeds on the review and IT goals, the Edinburgh Compass group and other post-docs.

Research

- A paper on problems of cancer patients suffering from depression will be submitted for publication
- Thematic review on the term 'psychological distress' will be finalized and submitted for publication.
- Ethical and R&D approval for the prospective study on the persistence of psychological distress will be obtained and data collection will commence.
- IT goals: IVR system up and running in Edinburgh. Continue involvement in Edinburgh Symptom Monitoring System (SMS). Existing data on the evaluation of the screening system in Edinburgh analyzed and written up for publication.

COMPASS postdoctoral research fellow and statistician progress report

Name: Gao Wei

Period covered by report: 7 Jun 2008-6 Sep 2008

Date report submitted: 6 Sep 2008

Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report):

- ✓ Finalizing analysis, drafting manuscripts (results from pooled Zarit);
- ✓ To develop analysis plan for GHQ shared data;
- ✓ Finish analysis of day care data and draft manuscripts;
- ✓ To strengthen the collaborations with external researchers;
- ✓ To explore more secondary research opportunities;
- ✓ To explore other potential shared datasets;
- ✓ Develop design and analysis plans for doing research with public data.
- ✓ Skill and knowledge development in:
 - Enhancing programming skills for analysis;
 - Methods of questionnaire reduction, including PCA and Rasch analysis
- ✓ Analysis of trials and quasi-experimental designs.

Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):

- ✓ Shared GHQ data analysis: a draft protocol and analysis plan has been developed, now is waiting for wider comments to improve it; we've got part of the initial datasets and once we get all we shall be able to start our analysis according to the plan straight away;
- ✓ Pooled Zarit data analysis: one paper is submitted and under review and another one is in draft being reviewed by investigators;
- ✓ Re-analysis of day care data: Extensive analyses have been finished and is heading for writing up;
- ✓ Through exploring the opportunities of secondary data analysis to develop/establish more wider collaborations with internal and external researchers (Strand I researchers, COMPASS statisticians) through participating regular teleconference, seminar, scientific meetings etc.;
- ✓ Learning the theory of palliative care, familiarize and update relevant statistical methodologies (eg. missing data and longitudinal data analysis) in the areas of palliative care and cancer studies;
- ✓ Analysis of trials and quasi-experimental designs: Finishing of analysis, waiting for comments and preparing for any further request for the statistical analysis;

Objectives for next reporting period:

- ✓ See current drafts and submitted papers through to next steps towards publication, making revising and submitted papers/revising as appropriate;
- ✓ Shared GHQ data analysis: Finalizing research protocol, proceeding to the statistical analysis according to have planned;
- ✓ Pooled Zarit data analysis: finalizing analysis of the ZBI full scale manuscript;
- ✓ Analysis of day care data: finalizing analysis and starting writing up;
- ✓ Identify other potential opportunities for data analysis of measures and outcomes, contributing to COMPASS collaborative and Strand I objectives;

- ✓ Familiarize and update relevant statistical methodologies (eg. missing data and longitudinal data analysis) in the areas of palliative care and cancer studies;
- ✓ Contribute to conference calls and collaborative activities.

COMPASS postdoctoral research fellow and statistician progress report

Name: Lucy Ziegler

Period covered by report: June 2008- Sept 2008 (3 months)

Date report submitted: September 3rd 2008

Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report):

General Objectives set June 2008.

- Systematic review comparing self-report measures to gold-standard interview to be completed by end of 2008
- Delphi methodology to be explored further and full protocol written by end of 2008.
- To consider the preliminary review findings in the context of the next stage of work – a longitudinal study of distress in oncology.
- Develop and maintain active user involvement links.
- Meet other research fellows and gain understanding of how the research currently being undertaken in Edinburgh and London fits with review and proposed Delphi study.
- Explore ways of establishing and maintaining close collaborative working with other research fellows across COMPASS
- Consult with others with relevant expertise both within COMPASS and from the wider academic and clinical areas to inform both the current and proposed research within Strand 1.

Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):

- Systematic Review; all full text papers obtained and reviewed, most data now extracted and preliminary findings reported in poster for presentation at Strand 1 Scientific Session on 16th September 2008. Abstract written, to be submitted for BPOS conference.
- Delphi explored in detail through literature and discussion with colleagues with previous experience of methodology - provisional protocol written for consultation at Strand 1 Scientific Session.
- Future primary research; systematic review provides evidence of self-report measure performance by cancer site and stage in trajectory. This can inform selection of measure for longitudinal study of distress in palliative/end stage cancer. Self-report measure may be administered alongside measure of pain.

- Met with research fellows in Edinburgh and London. System for regular contact established. Consulted user mentors on proposed Delphi methodology.

Objectives for next reporting period (6 months):

- Complete data extraction and analysis on systematic review. December 2008
- Prepare paper for publication on systematic review January 2009
- Explore further the QUADAS quality appraisal system and apply in order to quality appraise eligible measures prior to Delphi. January 2009
- Prepare background measure information packs for Delphi. January 2009
- Delphi methodology to be agreed and full protocol written January 2009.