

# SDO Network annual summary 2010

The SDO Network, hosted by the NHS Confederation, is funded by the National Institute of Health Research Service Delivery and Organisation research programme (NIHR SDO) to support managers to access and use research evidence more effectively in planning the services they manage. Membership of the network is free to all NHS organisations and all members can access a range of services including:

- themed learning events and publications
- academic and management placement fellowships
- chief executives' forums
- expertise on connecting the NHS management and research communities
- opportunities to influence future NIHR SDO commissioning plans.

## Highlights of 2009/10

In 2009/10, members have benefitted from a range of new initiatives, our funding has been extended, we welcomed 13 new member organisations and the team has expanded to support members with additional services over the coming year.

### Themed events and conferences

We joined forces with the Health Services Research Network (HSRN) in June 2009 to deliver our second

joint annual conference **Delivering better health services**. Over 350 delegates heard from leading academics in international health services research and had the opportunity to learn from current NIHR SDO funded researchers and HSRN members about the relevance of their research to the NHS.

Other highlights include two regional seminars co-hosted with the NHS Confederation's Mental Health Network looking at how the most recent research and policy initiatives can help to improve experiences in the acute mental health sector. With Google, we delivered sessions on innovation culture at both the NHS Confederation and NHS Employers 2009 annual conferences and led sessions on evidence based management practice at the King's Fund annual conference.

### Chief executives' forums

We successfully launched our new regional chief executives forums. These evening meetings bring CEOs from the NHS and health services researchers together twice a year to examine current research around a topical theme. The forums provide the most senior managers in the NHS with an opportunity to learn about current research and to influence the future research commissioning priorities for the NIHR SDO.

### Academic placement fellowships

Run jointly with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and NIHR SDO, these fellowships bring academic expertise and insight directly into the heart of the NHS. In 2009/10, we facilitated three fellows to start work with their host NHS organisation to undertake health services research relevant to the needs of the host organisation and develop the research skills of NHS staff.

### Keeping you connected

We worked hard in 2009/10 to improve the quality and quantity of intelligence that we share with our members. We expanded our quarterly bulletins so that they now include news of recently published NIHR SDO reports, links to relevant peer reviewed journal articles from SDO research projects, and opportunities for member organisations to get more involved in research.

Between bulletins, members can now keep up to date with the latest news on our website ([www.nhsconfed.org/SDONetwork](http://www.nhsconfed.org/SDONetwork)). And we now also highlight our work through the full range of NHS Confederation bulletins and our new Twitter page ([www.twitter.com/NHSC\\_SDONetwork](http://www.twitter.com/NHSC_SDONetwork)).

In 2009/10 we met regularly with the director of NIHR SDO and we now have a seat on the NIHR SDO programme executive group and knowledge mobilisation expert advisory group, to represent members' views on both the way in which research is commissioned and how the findings are most effectively shared with the NHS.

### NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs)

Collaborative partnerships between universities and surrounding NHS organisations, the CLAHRCs were set up to undertake high-quality applied health research focused on the needs of patients and to support the translation of research evidence into practice in the NHS. We started a new programme of work in 2009/10 to support the effective sharing of information, methodologies and findings across the nine regional CLAHRCs. We hosted three 'learning together' events, each helping the CLAHRCs to learn more about the work of the other collaborations and work more effectively together in the future.

### Looking forward to 2010/11

Over the coming year we will expand our programme of learning events and plan to support and complement them with a series of research digest publications, providing an insight into the latest evidence from SDO-funded and other health service research on current or emerging policy and practice-related themes.

We will join forces with other NHS Confederation networks and stakeholders to highlight NIHR SDO research findings as part of their events and conferences and will explore other ways to share research knowledge with members both on and offline.

We look forward to increasing our work with the CLAHRCs in 2010/11 to ensure that CLAHRC experiences and research findings are shared beyond the boundaries of their current NHS partnerships.

We will build on the success of the chief executives' forums to develop a new directors forum, enabling senior managers and future NHS leaders to benefit from the latest research knowledge around current operational challenges.

We are already working with four members to develop academic research fellowships next year and will look to expand this programme further, drawing on the experiences of current fellows and those of NHS managers joining research teams as part of the NIHR SDO management fellows programme.

Finally, we will continue to support our members in navigating their way through the UK's research and innovation landscape, visually mapping out where research units, networks, CLAHRCs and other research bodies are located, helping you to understand their roles and identify opportunities where you can get involved in research projects.

### Further information

To find out more about how membership of the SDO Network can benefit your organisation, please contact Tom Barker, SDO Network manager on 020 7074 3438, email [sdonetwork@nhsconfed.org](mailto:sdonetwork@nhsconfed.org) or visit our website at [www.nhsconfed.org/sdonetwork](http://www.nhsconfed.org/sdonetwork).