



A report about the new Parkinson's Excellence Network launched in the UK

A number of APPDE members attended the launch of the Parkinson's Excellence Network in London, UK on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015, including APPDE Vice President, Fiona Lindop and Membership Secretary, Bhanu Ramaswamy.

The aim of the network is to bring together health and social care professionals with an interest in Parkinson's in order to transform services and care for people with Parkinson's, and have a positive influence on the quality of the lives of people affected by the condition. This not only refers to people diagnosed with Parkinson's, but family members, formal and informal carers, health professionals and friends.

The Excellence Network has been described by the Clinical Director, Professor David Burn as a *"one-stop-shop for Parkinson's collaboration, evidence, education and resources to drive service improvement"*. It takes its impetus from the ParkinsonNet Community in The Netherlands.

The launch event in London was held in a theatre, using different dramatic art forms to present varied visions for the Excellence Network. Presentations were performed not only by the usual suspects of leads of the various Working Groups (Figure 1 & 2) that make up the network, but also included voiced and choreographed performances by people with Parkinson's – they were truly inspiring, and a reminder of why we were gathered together.



Figure 1: Flow diagram of Parkinson's Excellence Network working group structure

We were introduced to the six Working Group Chairs who were each allocated 2 minutes to get their message across as to the importance of their network in a fun manner. Professor Lynn Rochester, a well-known physiotherapy leader in the field of Parkinson's, is Chair of the Evidence-based Practice group, and Bhanu is Chair of the Service User Involvement Group.



Figure 2: On stage: Professor David Burn addressing the audience at the launch after introductions of working group leads. Back row left to right: Bhanu (Service User Involvement), Tom Foltynie (Research Engagement deputy), Robin Fackrell, Chris Johnson and Alison Leake (committee members of the Service User Involvement group), Lynn Rochester (Evidence-Based Practice), Peter Fletcher (Education), John Hindle (Service Development deputy) and Richard Walker (Underserved Groups)



Figure 3: Networking with physiotherapists who run classes for Parkinson's UK and people with Parkinson's – Jenny Smith, Venkata Potamsetti, Beccy Oliver and Bhanu.

The day also gave people LOTS of opportunities to understand the importance and benefits of networking, and to consider their interests and potential areas they could best contribute and learn.

The event rounded off with a call to action, and for people to sign up to the Network, and to encourage colleagues to do so too. It was a great day, bringing together health professionals who are passionate about improving services for people with Parkinson's.

The APPDE will continue to be well represented in the Network as, in addition to Bhanu's role, Fiona is a sub-committee member of the Service Development Group and has also been asked to be the Therapy Representative of the National Oversight Group.

On the External Advisory Group who provide an International overview, are two names also well known to APPDE members - Bastiaan Bloem (Nijmegen) and Alice Nieuwboer (Leuven)

So for now, you can read about the Excellence Network at [www.parkinsons.org.uk/content/uk-parkinsons-excellence-network](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/content/uk-parkinsons-excellence-network) and if in the UK, join up to contribute.....



Figure 4: Fiona with her Award Winning Derby team mates: Lisa Brown, Rob Skelly and Clare Johnson at the back; Caroline Bartliff and Fiona at the front