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| Host department: UCLChoose an item. |
| Project Title: |
| Digital interventions to support care of complex neurodegenerative diseases |
| Proposed supervisory team: |
| Prof Greta Rait (Prof of Primary Care and Health Services Research, General Practitioner)  Prof Kate Walters (Director for the Centre for Ageing Population Studies, Professor of Primary Care and Epidemiology)  Ass Prof Nathan Davies (Deputy Director, CAPS)  Ms Jane Wilcock (Senior Research Fellow, CAPS)  The supervisors offer expertise in ageing, neurodegenerative diseases (Dementia and Parkinson’s) design and evaluation of complex interventions, co-design, qualitative and quantitative methodology, healthcare for vulnerable groups. Rait is Joint Director Priment Clinical Trials Unit (CTU). She is working with Wilcock on a programme of work around post diagnostic dementia care including Alzheimer’s Society funded grants: Pridem, and Forward with Dementia <https://www.forwardwithdementia.org/en/>, an international study to develop a resource to support people living with dementia after diagnosis. Walter’s research interests are in ageing, mental health, public health, primary care epidemiology and trials of complex intervention. Examples include developing and testing complex interventions to promote well-being and maintain independence in older people with complex needs in primary care and community settings (funded by MRC and the NIHR HTA) and an NIHR Programme Grant to improve personalised care for people with Parkinson's Disease. Davies’s main research interests are in the fields of ageing, dementia, palliative care, and clinical decision making. He has secured funding from various funders, including Marie Curie, The Alzheimer’s Society, ESRC and the NIHR. His recent work has developed a toolkit of rules-of-thumb for practitioners making end of life care decisions for people with dementia. He secured funding from the ESRC/UKRI Covid-19 fund to develop a decision guide to support carers of people with dementia who have Covid-19 making decisions about their care at the end of life. This guide is used in the NHS and was implemented in the national NHS England Dementia Covid-19 wellbeing care pathway. Wilcock’s interests focus on improving diagnosis and care for people living with dementia and their families and in supporting health and social care professionals. She is PI on an NIHR Three Schools dementia specific funded co-design study developing social care supports for the online guide Forward with dementia. |
| Potential for cross consortium networking and educational opportunities: |
| There are excellent opportunities for collaboration and learning:   * Leading multidisciplinary centre conducting ageing research and developing interventions for health concerns of later life * NIHR School for Primary Care Research (national links) * Links with NIHR School for Social Care through on-going research projects |
| Project description: |
| The supervisors will work with candidates to develop their own projects in the area of: digital interventions to support care of complex neurodegenerative diseases.  *Example:*  ****Improving post-diagnostic support for people with dementia and carers, and health and social care professionals in primary care****  Dementia remains a feared diagnosis and recent research reinforces that post-diagnostic dementia care is often fragmented in the United Kingdom, with great variation in provision. Forward with dementia was developed to provide a resource and toolkit for people with dementia, their carers and primary care professionals. The next step is to investigate how such a resources can be implemented in primary care and social care settings, and what areas need to be expanded on. The PhD will include qualitative interviews to develop the resources and implementation methods to evaluate how this can be incorporated into annual dementia reviews and care planning. |

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| Training and development provision by host: |
| *Formal training:*  All PhD students benefit from wide ranging training via the [**UCL Doctoral Training**](https://www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/) programme. PCPH hosts the highly respected UCL [Qualitative Research methods in Health](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/short-courses/search-courses/qualitative-research-methods-health) course. Additionally, there are modules from UCL Masters including ‘Introduction to Clinical Trial Designs’ and ‘Applying Clinical Trials Design Principles in Practice.’ PPIE training is available through UCL, and there are courses in behaviour change, statistics and co-production based at UCL. |
| *Informal training:*  Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health (PCPH) has a strong focus on multidisciplinary research and teaching, peer support and mentoring. There is an emphasis on developing PhD students to be independent researchers and to thrive in academic, and other environments. There is a large cohort of PhD students (both national and international) and many are funded on highly competitive fellowships. Students have access to a highly active departmental seminar series, and methodological seminars (including epidemiology, trials, statistics and health economics). There is expertise in a broad range of methodologies including a range of qualitative and quantitative methods (e.g. epidemiology, trials) for the PhD student to access. Students are supported by their supervisors, peers and staff to benefit from the wide range of opportunities available. |
| *PPIE:*  PPIE training is available through UCL and also at PCPH. PCPH has an Expert by Experience panel. There are departmental PPIE leads and support and training are provided to develop project specific PPIE, or to link into the other support at CAPS |