

Introducing Dr Claire Wakefield Diamond Jubilee International Visiting Fellow 2016

Dr Claire Wakefield is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, at the University of New South Wales in Australia. She leads the Behavioural Sciences Unit (BSU) at the Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital. She was awarded a three year Diamond Jubilee International Visiting Fellowship in 2016 which will be hosted by Prof Claire Foster and Associate Professor Anne-Sophie Darlington in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

As a psychologist, A/Prof Wakefield's research focuses on addressing the impact of hereditary cancer on families including developing decision aids to improve patient outcomes, as well as research on the impact of paediatric cancer on the family. Since 2004, she has been the Principal Investigator on 32 grants worth >£8 million and is the author of 85 peer-reviewed publications. She established the world's first International Early Career Professionals in Psycho-oncology Committee, which now has >130 members around the globe.



Children with cancer

A/Prof Wakefield has built a large programme of work around interventions for children with cancer and their families. The aim of the International Fellowship is to develop a sustainable programme of collaborative work focusing on interventions for these families, together with A/Prof Darlington. A/Prof Wakefield has extensive expertise in conducting and embedding research in a clinical setting and this expertise aligns with the Southampton Children's Hospital strategy development around research focused on children, and becoming a centre of excellence in Child Health research. The planned outcomes of this Fellowship in relation to paediatric oncology are 1) a shared programme of work focusing on development and testing of interventions for families with a child or parent with cancer and 2) consolidation of work on interventions for children and younger adults with cancer in developing a suite of interventions that can be implemented in the health system.

Young women with breast cancer

A/Prof Wakefield has existing relationships with the Macmillan Survivorship Research Group, supporting the design and implementation of a decision aid to support young (<50 yrs) women diagnosed with breast cancer deciding whether or not to have genetic testing. Together with Prof Foster, A/Prof Wakefield will build on this work by continuing to share expertise and develop and prepare interventions for testing, to support treatment related decision making in young women with breast cancer. In addition, work will focus on experiences, recovery and health and wellbeing of younger cancer patients (<50 years) through the Macmillan HORIZONS cohort studies. Understanding patterns of recovery and enhancing health and wellbeing of younger women diagnosed with breast cancer is essential in order to support this specific group of patients.

For further information contact Dr Anne-Sophie Darlington: A.Darlington@soton.ac.uk or Prof Claire Foster: C.L.Foster@soton.ac.uk