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# P-254: Health improvement & health promotion education of undergraduate radiographers in a Scottish HEI

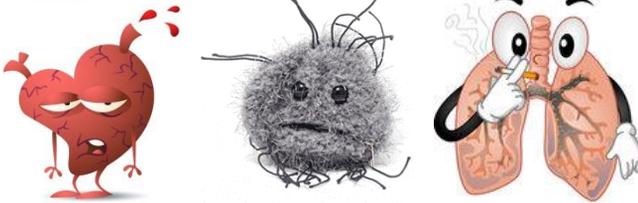


Wareing, A.K<sup>[1][2]</sup> & Howard, M. <sup>[1]</sup> 2016.  
 [1] Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. [2] Lancaster University.

## Background

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) (including radiographers) have been identified as a key workforce to improve and promote the health and wellbeing of the UK population by 'Making Every Contact Count (MECC)' [1][2][3].

## Why?



The Scottish population has the highest rates of lifestyle related deaths from heart disease and cancer in the UK [4]

## How?

Raise the issue [5] – encourage patients.



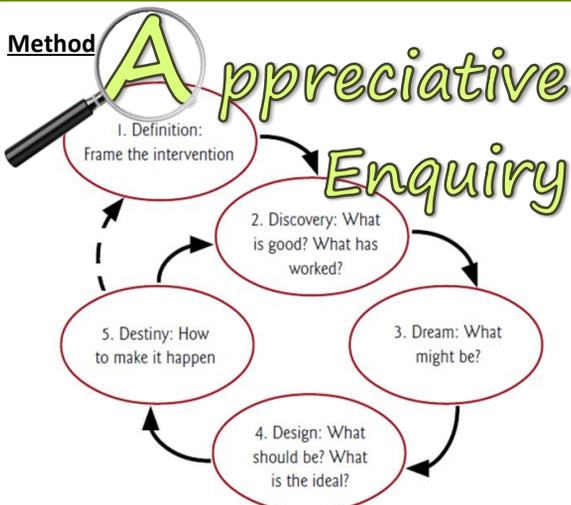
## Research Question

What are the perceptions of diagnostic radiography:

- Students
- Academics

regarding health promotion / health improvement education?

## Method



## Findings

Students were generally much more positive about their experiences of health promotion / health improvement than academic staff. They had many examples from practice placements and envisioned clear goals regarding their role improving health for the future population.

"Somebody came in for an ultrasound, a woman, and they said if you get a letter through for your smear test make sure that you follow that up. They pointed people to do things like that."

"I saw that too in mammography when they were doing the images they asked the patients when they last had a smear test. If they hadn't had one for a while they said 'you know get in touch with your GP, it's an important test to get done.'"



"I think that we are bound by our profession, 'oh I'm just the photographer, I'm not supposed to say anything just take the image' type of thing, stereotype. ...I agree it's much broader than health promotion it's about radiographers becoming empowered to talk about anything of relevance with patients that might be useful, that's the barrier."

## What now?

**M**ake & follow guidelines for radiographic health promotion practice

**E**mpower radiographers to become holistic health practitioners

**C**ourses and training for academic staff & practitioners

**C**olaborate and share practice into the wider health profession



## References:

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- [4] Office for National Statistics 2010. Available from <https://www.ons.gov.uk> last accessed 18-05-2016.
- [5] Elder, D. & Little, E. 2010. Raising the issue of physical activity and healthy weight. PAHA Conference 2010 Available from: <http://www.paha.org.uk/Resource/raising-the-issue-of-physical-activity-healthy-weight-and-obesity>