

# Beverley Beynon-Cobb - Renal Dietician/ MRes Student



I am a renal dietitian with 25 years clinical experience and an interest in research. In May 2016, I completed the Clinical Academic Internship Programme (CAIP) at Birmingham University. CAIP introduced me to the world of clinical research and enabled me to submit a successful application for a Masters in Clinical Research (MScR) studentship at Coventry University. The CAIP and MScR are the first components of this pathway and provide a platform to apply for additional components of the pathway or other clinical research programme grants.

I returned to my clinical dietetic role in November 2018 and graduated July 2019. Completing the MScR was challenging and at times required significant effort to continue moving forward. My most significant achievement was to win a prize in a Cochrane student competition. My prize was to attend the bi-annual Cochrane symposium which provided an opportunity to develop my 'research network', deepened my learning and inspired me to continue with my studies. My learning throughout my MScR was beyond my expectation. Perhaps one of the most valuable things I learnt is that research can be a 'moving target' and the need to be open minded. I now plan to use research methodologies which will integrate with my clinical practice to answer my research question. This will provide patient benefit whilst promoting practice development within my dietetic team. My MScR also supported the development of transferable skills e.g. critical analysis, data management. These skills have extended my clinical practice and enabled me to facilitate the development of skills of other members of the team.

I am keen to promote AHP engagement in research. Whilst such engagement may be achieved through mechanisms such as the HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme, it is also important to note that this may be achieved by increasing visibility of ongoing clinical research locally. I am a member of a very small team of dieticians, in the last five years approximately 30% of renal dietetic staff have been involved in an element of clinical research e.g. post-graduate study, research trials, NICE guidance production. These are all elements which contribute to the provision of high quality patient care and I am keen to contribute to such a forward thinking dietetic service.

