**Physiotherapy Impact**

In September 2015 the Physiotherapy programme team will reflect on the arrival of the first cohort of physiotherapy students at BU 10 years ago. In 2005 there were 3.2 FTE staff none of whom had doctorates or any publications. This **Impact series** gives us an opportunity to reflect on the impact the programme has had from an **education**, **practice** and **research** perspective.

Dr Carol Clark and Dr Jon Williams will present a narrative snap shot of the journey the physiotherapy team have taken over the last 10 years and will challenge colleagues to explore how this impact might be measured.

**Practice** - The Bournemouth University Physiotherapy programme was commissioned by NHS Health Education Wessex and South West. Commissioners in 2000 in Wessex and South West England found that over 50% of practicing Physiotherapists (PTs) in the Dorset and Somerset NHS were over 50 years old – many of whom were educated to diploma level. This led to the commissioning of the current BSc (Hons) course which opened in 2005 for a cohort of 25 students.

**Impact-** In the last 7 years the average age of PTs in the Dorset and Somerset region has reduced (now mid 30’s) and almost all PTs have a degree qualification with a significant proportion made up of BU alumni.

**Education** – The PT programme team are in the process of rolling out their third curriculum. They have tried various models starting initially with Problem Based Learning (PBL); moving to less reliance on PBL and to a more structured programme addressing the core areas. The third iteration of the curriculum addresses the core areas in a more integrated approach using a spiral approach. Practice partners, commissioners and service users from across Somerset and Dorset have been involved in shaping this curriculum to produce physiotherapists who are fit for practice in an ever changing NHS. The curriculum has been validated by the national body (HCPC) with input from the professional body (CSP). The team were commended on the student experience.

**Impact** - Over 175 physiotherapists have qualified from BU since 2005 – over 95% have their first job in the NHS and last year 100% were in employment by the time they attended their graduation.

Staff (5.7 FTE - 9 altogether) have continued with their education and 3 have doctorates and 6 are on the doctoral track.

**Research** – As a group our research interests are diverse ranging from condition specific, Rheumatology, neurology, oncology, sports, biomechanics; to different methodologies, qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods with a variety of outcome measures and tools. Resulting in Professional Doctorates, Educational doctorates and PhDs.

**Impact** - Between us we have submitted more than 100 papers for publication or to international and national conferences, submitted bids internally and externally and currently supervise > 10 PhD students.