



Annual report

2024

Foreword

This year has been incredibly busy. We launched our new name the 'Community for Allied Health Professions Research', revealed our new Vision and Mission statements and crucially published our new website (www.CHAPR.org.uk).

The new website contains a wealth of new resources for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) interested in research as well as the new Directory of Professors. Our national network of consortia and hub pages now have all the information necessary for AHPs to contact and engage with hub activities. Any AHP can join a hub and they are a real opportunity to; find out what is going on locally, receive support, signposting and mentoring for all from the research curious to professors.

Our monthly webinars, organised by our hubs have been very successful during 2024 attracting over 2,300 subscriptions, with one webinar reaching 180 delegates.

In October, we organised a CAHPR conference – Growing our Allied Health Research Community. We had over 600 registrations with around half attending on the day. The feedback was good with delegates saying they found it both informative and inspiring.

In addition, we are grateful to NHS England for providing funds to enable 3 projects to: identify and assess funding opportunities, survey the allied health professions to map AHP 'reach' and to review campaign strategies and priorities.

This year we registered as Community Interest Company with a longer term aim to become a charity. These changes involved recruiting seven members of an oversight committee (eventually to be trustees) and three new Directors.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the hard work given by our outgoing Hub Forum Chair, Harriet Shannon who steps down, and welcome Ruth Strudwick as Chair and Rebecca Smith as the new Vice Chair. We also welcomed Gemma Clunie to her new role as Chair to the Strategy Committee in January 2025.

Sincere thanks as ever must go to all the people who volunteer to make CAHPR the resource it is. This includes the consortia and hub leads, the strategy committee, the research champions and of course thanks are extended to our current hosts the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Professor Dawn Carnes (Outgoing Chair CAHPR Strategy Committee and CAHPR Director)

CAHPR Director Corrina Grimes (August to November - resigned)

CAHPR Strategy Committee Chair Professor Dawn Carnes

Vice Chair Strategy Committee Dr Gillian Ward

Vice Chair Strategy Committee Dr Gemma Clunie

Research Leaders Network and Professoriate Lead Professor Kate Grafton

Hub Forum Leads

Chair Dr Harriet Shannon

Vice Chair Professor Ruth Strudwick

Oversight board

Chair Hazel Roddam

Vice Chair Vimal Sriram

- Adina Adonis
- Charikleia Sinani
- Helen Watson
- Nick Downing
- Yat Tsang

CAHPR professional body members

- British and Irish Orthoptic Society
- British Association of Art Therapists
- British Association of Drama Therapists
- British Association for Music Therapy
- British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists
- British Dietetic Association
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- College of Paramedics
- Institute of Osteopathy
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists
- Royal College of Podiatry
- Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists
- Society of Radiographers

CAHPR Representation

- Consultant Practitioners
- Service Managers

Background

CAHPR is the representative voice of 14 allied health professional bodies (listed above) on research matters.

The **CAHPR vision** is to improve the health and care of the UK through Allied Health Professions (AHP) research, evidence-based practice, evaluation, and innovation.

Together, the **CAHPR mission** is to promote excellence and inclusive engagement in research, evidence-based practice, evaluation, and innovation in all allied health professions. We seek to raise our profile and influence, and improve the experiences, well-being, and outcomes of the diverse communities we work with.

CAHPR comprises a Strategy Committee, a UK-wide regional hub network, a network of AHP Professors and CAHPR/NIHR Research Champions. The Strategy Committee is the overarching committee of the CAHPR, with responsibility for overseeing its outward-facing activity, its operations and continued development.

CAHPR primarily works through its regional hub network to provide opportunities for learning, sharing, networking, collaborations and access to advice and support. Each hub identifies its own activities according to local need and expertise (<https://cahpr.csp.org.uk/about-cahpr>).

This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by CAHPR in 2024 to support its strategic aims. It is divided into seven sections:

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1. Central CAHPR Activity

We focused on seven main areas for development in 2024 to:

- finalise CAHPR's vision and mission (see previous section),
- launch the new website for CAHPR (CAHPR.org.uk)
- publish online a directory of AHP Professors in allied health professions ([Directory of Professors and Research Leaders Network - CAHPR](#))
- become a legal entity, we first submitted an application to the Charities Commission and developed and implemented a new operating model for CAHPR. This application was rejected so we submitted an application to become a Community Interest Company [CAHPR becomes a Community Interest Company \(CIC\) - CAHPR](#)
- continue monitor the diversity of CAHPR and strive to acknowledge and seek the voices of those under-represented
- continue the webinar series
and
- conduct the CAHPR Accelerator Project 2024 funded by NHS England (led by RCOT)

Our aim in 2024 was to apply to the Charities commission to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This involved recruiting trustees and a Director. The Charities commission reviewed our application and determined that we were not ready to become a charity yet as CAHPR needs to improve its governance. We have taken this on board and set up as a Community Interest Company (CIC) to address our governance and operations, with a longer term view of becoming a Charity. We retain our trustees to act as an oversight board for CAHPR. The Director recruited to lead the Charity, unfortunately stepped down in November. As a CIC, CAHPR are required to have Directors who are legally responsible, they are: Dawn Carnes (Operational Director), Gemma Clunie and Vimal Sriram representing the Strategy Committee and the Trustees respectively.

Particular successes in 2024 have been the launch of the new website www.CAHPR.org.uk and the continued success of the monthly webinar series open to all. In addition we launched the Directory of Professors on the website (for mentoring opportunities and collaborations) and a host of new resources around free e-learning opportunities and funding opportunities: these resources are open and accessible to all AHPs ([Resources - CAHPR](#)).

NHS England kindly funded three projects to:

- identify and assess funding opportunities,
- survey the allied health professions to map AHP 'reach' and
- review campaign strategies and priorities

Dawn Carnes (Chair of the Strategy Committee) and Harriet Shannon (Chair of the Hub Forum) who have both completed their maximum of two terms of office stood down at the end of 2024. Kate Grafton also stood down as the lead for Research Leaders Network initiative. We would like to thank all for their contribution to the success of CAHPR.

We welcome, Gemma Clunie as the new CAHPR strategy committee Chair, Ruth Strudwick as the new Chair of the Hub Forum and Rebecca Smith as the new Vice Chair of the hub forum.

2. Networking and Collaboration

CAHPR conference October 2024 [[CAHPR Conference a resounding success - CAHPR](#)]

We held a half day online conference entitled Growing our Allied health community. Guest speakers included NHS England) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) who updated delegates about new initiatives in their organisations particularly relevant to AHPs. We had 603 registrants and maintained an average attendance of 234 participants per session

In addition, CAHPR were represented at the following:

- Workforce Retention Task and Finish Group
- Council of Deans for Health and CARINS
- Public Health
- CAHPR also supported 4 incubator applications, contributed to the judging panel for the AHP awards and
- circulated bulletins advertising opportunities and events for AHPs interested in research.

AHPs can also find relevant news and information on the website ([News - CAHPR](#)) and information about events ([Upcoming Events - CAHPR](#)).

We continue our presence on X with nearly 6,000 followers, representing around 4% of AHPs.

NHSE Funded CAHPR Accelerator Project (CAP24 Project)

In March 2024, the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) was awarded £100K to host a project on behalf of CAHPR to accelerate the pace of transformational change needed to assure achievement of the highest quality research and reputation for the collective allied health research and innovation community across the United Kingdom. This 12-month project is divided into 2 workstreams:

Workstream 1 Objective - To identify specific opportunities for shared (cross-AHP) initiatives to support increased research capability building across all disciplines, with a focus on equity of access for all the AHP disciplines to research funding.

Workstream 2 Objective To create a dynamic and influential AHP professoriate and senior research leadership network with a strong emphasis on community engagement, leadership mapping and defining the clinical academic workforce. The primary focus will be on fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and active involvement with the community.

Dr Hazel Roddam and Dr Jen Sutton were appointed to lead the work. Key deliverables include creation of a resource bank and funding directory on the CAHPR website, a campaign plan for equitable access to research funding for AHPs, a survey mapping the UK AHP clinical practitioner academic workforce and an AHP leadership map and strategy engagement plan.

Thanks to all CAHPR members and stakeholders that supported the work.

3. CAHPR hub activity

CAHPR summary of consortium reports

Consortia consist of either a single hub (such as CAHPR London, CAHPR Cymru, CAHPR Scotland and CAHPR Northern Island) or several hubs located within a geographical region (such as CAHPR North West England and the CAHPR East of England). There are 12 consortia and 23 active hubs. Both hubs and consortia organised a range of events during 2024, which included both on-line and face-to-face activities.

- We delivered National webinars, which were led by different CAHPR consortia. These are reported on separately (Table 1).
- All consortia reported running on-line seminars and webinars
- Most consortia offer a CAHPR bursary scheme to support research activities, including conference attendance.
- Most consortia reported holding an email list of those AHPs with an interest in research. These were sent regular updates regarding local events and the CAHPR Bulletin.
- One-to-one support
- Sign-posting to research active individuals, events, funding bodies or special interest groups.

The key challenges reported by consortia were in acknowledging the voluntary nature of CAHPR regional hubs, whereby the 'day job' needs to take priority. Maintaining an active and enthusiastic facilitator group could also be challenging due to the varying commitments of volunteers. Succession planning was acknowledged as a necessity for those hoping to move on from CAHPR leadership roles.

Many of our CAHPR leads and facilitators have strategic roles and can use their influence to promote CAHPR.

Those in hub leadership and facilitator roles represent 9 of the allied health professions. We will actively encourage AHPs from Art therapy, Drama Therapy, Osteopathy, Prosthetists and Orthotists and Podiatry to take up positions of responsibility over the coming years.

We would like to thank all consortium and hub leads, facilitators and committee members for their hard work in 2023. We appreciate that much of this work is done in people's spare time and the significant number of activities being undertaken is testament to their passion for supporting and promoting AHP research.

Table 1. AHP professions in CAHPR consortium, hub leadership and facilitator roles

Consortium Leads/Co-leads and facilitators	Number
Physiotherapists	23
Dieticians	3
Radiographers	4
Paramedics	2
Occupational Therapists	4
Orthoptist	1
Speech and Language therapists	3
Operating Department practitioner	1
Music Therapist	1

Researcher	1
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National CAHPR Webinars

CAHPR launched a National monthly research webinar series in 2023, with the hubs taking it in turns to deliver different topics. The webinars are still going from strength to strength. The table below shows the webinars delivered during 2024. In 2024 we delivered 12 webinars, which were led by different consortia throughout the UK. In total, we had 1718 sign-ups to the webinar, ranging from 60 to 250 sign-ups. AHPs joined us from across all the 14 AHP professions, as well as nurses and midwives. The 'other' professions included primary researchers, healthcare scientists, librarians, sonographers, optometrists, physiologists and healthcare assistants.

(the list of webinars and attendees by profession can be found in the appendix)

Attendance at National CAHPR webinars.

The following lists each individual attendee's profession, where this is known (table 2). Each attendee was only counted once, even though some people attended several courses. Although we advertise the courses as being for AHPs, we do not have the capacity to check this at registration. We try to have an ethos of inclusivity and as a result, we do have some non-AHP attendees.

Table 3 Attendees at CAHPR webinars during 2024 by profession

Physiotherapists	499	
Radiographers	144	
Speech and language therapists	135	
Dieticians	127	
Occupational therapists	97	
Paramedics	26	
Podiatrists	24	
Operating department practitioners	11	
Art therapists	7	
Dramatherapists	8	
Music therapists	6	
Orthoptists	4	
Prosthetists and orthotists	4	
Osteopaths	3	
Nurses		73
Midwives		15
Paramedics	26	
Other		116
	TOTAL	1325

4. CAHPR/NIHR Research Champions

Our 34 champions represent nine professional bodies and are aligned to the clinical research network areas in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The CAHPR/NIHR research champions work alongside the CAHPR hubs. The champions are embedded in their regions and continue to develop relationships with key research stakeholders.

5. Research Leaders network / Directory of Professors

The directory of professors now houses 88 professors from all the allied health professions. The professors can be reached via the links on the website [[Directory of Professors and Research Leaders Network - CAHPR](#)]

6.Future

During 2025 we will see:

- CAHPR CIC governance and structure strengthened
- Dedicated Microsoft cloud function, enabling sharing of files, file security and CAHPR emails
- CAHPR Bank account and independent financing
- New campaigns
- Launch of funding resources

7. Finance

2024 saw a membership contribution of 36p, the professional body members and their CEOs agreed to increase this to 38p in 2025

Income

Professional body	Membership numbers 2024	Contribution £ (36p member)
The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists	600	216
The British Association of Drama Therapists	700	252
The British and Irish Orthoptic Society	1000	360
The British Association for Music Therapy	1100	396
The British Association of Art Therapists	2000	720
The Institute of Osteopathy	3,000	1080
The College of Operating Department Practitioners	3200	1152
The Association of UK Dietitians	8000	2880
The Royal College of Podiatrists	10,000	3600
The College of Paramedics	16000	5760
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists	18,000	6480
Royal College of Occupational Therapists	28,000	10080
The Society of Radiographers	30,500	10980
The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	60,000	21600
	182100	£65,556

Accounts 2024

Income (Actual)

£42,193.80 Membership subscriptions (CSP Host which represents a contribution of around £32,000)

Total £42,193.80

Expenditure

£2,060.38 Secretariat: Overtime payments to Administrator

£20,833.33 Hubs (admin and funds for training, conferences, grant writing, webinars)

£5,333 New Director / Management role (August to November) (Est £16000 pa 1 day pw)

£4,166.65 Social media

£6,635.78 Consultancy support for establishing CAHPR as a CIO and CIC

Total £ 35,950.48

Underspend £6,243.32

Reserves from previous years going forward £62,000

CSP provides hosting support for IT, finance, webpage management, HR resources and line management of the CAHPR administrator.

Budget 2025

Income

(£68,243.48 Carry over)

£43,956 Estimated Membership subscriptions

Total £43,956

Expenditure

£17,500 Secretariat: Administrator .5FTE (inc employment cost) 6 months

£24,000 Hubs (admin and funds for training, conferences, grant writing, webinars)

£5,333.33 4 months CIC project Management role (Jan 1st to April 31st) (Est £16000 pa 1 day pw)

£10,664 8 months Director / CEO (Est £16000 pa 1 day pw)

£436 Business insurance

£2000 Administrator laptop (one off)

£65 CIC registration

£216 Business 365 Microsoft licence and email (1 email 6 months, 2 emails 6 months)

£36.00 Web email (recovery email)

£22.00 Web domain
£500 Payroll administration
£1,500 Accounting and Audit

Total £62,203.33

Potential Overspend £18,247.33 - £23, 247.33

Director / CEO role may incur NI ER and Pension contribution, potential additional outgoing for 2025 £4-5,000

2026 Budget

Potential income

£65, 500

Operational costs

£150 IT Licences
£51 Web domain and email
£450 Insurance
£1,500 Accounts and Audit
£1000 Payroll administration
£35,000 Administrator
£21,000 Director
£24,000 Hubs

Potential costs £83,151 Potential overspend £17,651 Not sustainable long term.

Appendix 1

Date	Title (CAHPR hub)	Speakers	Credentials	Profession (where available)	Sign-ups	
07/02/2024	Discover research schemes and funding at Wellcome	Ben Murton Emily Wheater and Anna Myat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Early Career and Career Development Researchers, Discovery Research • Research Manager • Funding Manager 	physiotherapist	34	95
				epidemiologist	1	
				healthcare scientist	1	
				data scientist	1	
				dietician	5	
				biomedical scientist	3	
				clinical psychologist	4	
				OT	9	
				pharmacist	4	
				diagnostic radiographer	4	
				optometrist	2	
				SLT	11	
				paramedic	2	
				clinical scientist	1	
ODP	2					

13/02/2024	Introduction to qualitative methods (Oxford)	Dr Francine Toye	Qualitative research lead, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust	physiotherapist	67	229
				prosthetist/orthotist	2	
				music therapist	2	
				medic	6	
				SLT	16	
				nurse	23	
				radiographer	25	
				dietician	21	
				psychologist	13	
				OT	8	
				podiatrist	3	
social worker	1					
support worker	1					
paramedic	3					

13/03/2024	Using artificial intelligence (AI) in research (Lincolnshire)	Prof Michael Rowe	Associate Professor (Digital Innovation in Health & Social Care) at University of Lincoln.	physiotherapist 59 radiographer 22 nurse 14 SLT 16 dietician 10 OT 12 AHP manager 7 psychologist 6 research practitioner 4 data analyst 4 librarian 3 medic 3 Dentist 2 paramedic 2 midwife 2 audiologist 1 medical education 1 rehab assistant 1 biophysicist 1 MRI practice educator 1 RnD officer 1 orthoptics 1	208
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24/04/2024	Demonstrating Impact in Your Practice (Scotland)	Dr Judith Lane	https://www.qmu.ac.uk/schools-and-divisions/dnbsppr/physiotherapy/physio-staff/dr-judith-lane/	physiotherapist	44	232
				radiographer	24	
				SLT	22	
				nurse	15	
				dietician	13	
				OT	11	
				healthcare support	9	
				clin psychologist	9	
				medic	8	
				pharmacist	7	
				paramedic	6	
				AHP manager	4	
				clinical researcher	4	
				data scientist/analyst	4	
				social worker	2	
				osteopath	2	
				clinical practitioner	1	
				ODP	1	
				head of education	1	
				clinical scientist	1	
research manager	1					
drama therapist	1					
head of quality experience	1					
health research	1					
genetic counsellor	1					
podiatrist	1					
ophthalmologist	1					

14/05/2024	Implementation of evidence in real services (Midlands)	Dr Kristen Sorensen and Dr Sue Skidmore, University of Keele, School of Allied Health Professions.	https://www.kristinesorensen.net/bio https://www.keele.ac.uk/ahpp/ourpeople/sueskidmore/	physiotherapist 29 SLT 9 radiographer 7 OT 5 nurse 4 podiatrist 3 dietician 3 psychologist 3 HCA 2 digital transformation 1 health research 1 ICB member 1	76
12/06/2024	The Dos and Don'ts of starting to innovate in Health and Social Care (Lincolnshire)	Dr Fabian Seymour	The Health Innovation Expedition	Physiotherapist 33 SLT 9 Dietician 6 Nurse 5 Radiographer 4 OT 4 Midwife 2 Osteopath 2 Primary Care researcher 1 Medical Physicist 1 Research Fellow 1 Orthotist 1 Research Lead 1 Pharmacist 1 Medic 1 Transformation lead 1 Paramedic 1 Healthcare support worker 1	90

03/07/2024	Introduction to Literature Searching and Critical Appraisal (CAHPR Cymru)	Dr Judit Csontos (Wales Centre For Evidence-Based Care)	https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/csontosjk	Physiotherapist	72	250
				OT	18	
				SLT	16	
				Clinical psychologist	16	
				Radiographer	14	
				Nurse	13	
				Dietician	12	
				Podiatrist	9	
				researcher	3	
				Sonographer	3	
				Pharmacist	2	
				Dramatherapist	2	
				Art therapist	2	
				ODP	1	
				Audiologist	1	
				Data scientist	1	
				Medic	1	
Case manager	1					
Exercise physiologist	1					
R&D team	1					
Research associate	1					
Biomedical scientist	1					

10/09/2024	An introduction to VICTOR - making Visible the ImpaCT Of Research (CAHPR Yorkshire)	Dr Natalie Jones	Part of the VICTOR group.	Physiotherapy	28	123
				Radiographer	11	
				OT	10	
				Dietician	10	
				SLT	7	
				Nurse	7	
				Pharmacist	5	
				Psychologist	5	
				Podiatry	4	
				Midwife	3	
				Research Engagement Officer	2	
				Researcher Delivery Manager	2	
				Manager	1	
				Cognitive behaviour therapist	1	
				Social researcher	1	
				HCA	1	
				Orthoptist	1	
Paramedic	1					
ODP	1					
Implementation manager	1					
Physiologist	1					
Digital Systems	1					
Social worker	1					

23/09/2024	Your questions answers! Q&A for prospective NIHR fellowship applicants		A panel of experts including Professor Caroline Alexander, Dr Gita Ramdharry and Adine Adonis who have experience of supervising NIHR fellows or sitting on panels or reviewing applications.	<table border="0"> <tr><td>physiotherapist</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>radiographer</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>SLT</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>dietician</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>nurse</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>art</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>psychotherapist</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>OT</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>music therapist</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>equality officer</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>social worker</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>podiatrist</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>paramedic</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	physiotherapist	20	radiographer	8	SLT	5	dietician	4	nurse	4	art		psychotherapist	3	OT	3	music therapist	2	equality officer	1	social worker	1	podiatrist	1	paramedic	1	60
physiotherapist	20																														
radiographer	8																														
SLT	5																														
dietician	4																														
nurse	4																														
art																															
psychotherapist	3																														
OT	3																														
music therapist	2																														
equality officer	1																														
social worker	1																														
podiatrist	1																														
paramedic	1																														

13/11/2-24	Navigating NHS Ethics (Scotland)	Wendy Cohen	Vice Chair of an NHS Ethics Committee	Physiotherapist 46 Dietician 27 Radiographer 16 SLT 13 Psychologist 8 Midwife 7 Paramedic 6 OT 5 Nurse 5 Researcher 5 ODP 4 Pharmacist 3 Dramatherapy 3 Sonographer 2 Music therapist 2 Clinical biochemist 1 Librarian 1 Exercise physiologist 1 Medic 1 HCA 1 R&D officer 1 Orthopaedic practitioner 1 Clinical Scientist 1 Chiropractor 1 Orthoptist 1	178
	07/12/2024	Writing for publication, interactive webinar (London)	Harriet Shannon	Associate Editor of Elsevier Physiotherapy and the American Journal of Physical Therapy	Physio 34 Dietician 7 SLT 5 OT 5 Psychologist 4

				Radiographer 4 Nurse 2 Student 1 Midwife 1 Podiatrist 1 Drama therapist 1 Pharmacist 1 Art psychotherapist 1 Art therapist 1 Nurse 1 Clinical Site Manager 1 Orthoptist 1	
12/12/2024	Experiences of AHPs in predoctoral fellowships (North West)	Victoria Whiteley and Laura McGarrigle	Dietician and physiotherapist, both with recent lived experience of a predoctoral fellowship	Physiotherapist 33 Dietician 9 OT 7 SLT 6 Radiographer 5 Researcher 5 Paramedic 4 Nurse 3 ODP 2 Podiatrist 2 Orthoptist 1 Osteopath 1 Prosthetist 1 Biomedical scientist 1 Patient advocate 1 Drama therapist 1 Biochemist 1 Dental nurse 1	98

