GCU's research also brings together a range of social science expertise, including from psychology, sociology, nursing and social anthropology, to examine a range of issues relating to sexual health and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Our expertise in this area includes rigorous exploratory work for intervention development, theory-testing and advancement across a range of psychological and sociological theories, surveys and the developmental stage of randomised controlled trials (RCTs).

Professors Sharon Hutchinson and David Goldberg lead a broad translational research programme on the epidemiology of blood borne viruses (BBVs), in association with Health Protection Scotland (the national centre which monitors communicable diseases). Their research included the development of models to estimate the impact of antiviral therapy on the future burden of hepatitis C related liver disease, which provided the key evidence to guide a public health response to this epidemic and culminated in Scottish Government investing significantly (£43 million during 2008–2011) in improving prevention, testing, and treatment services as part of their now globally recognised Action Plan on Hepatitis C. Beyond the UK, they have reviewed the evidence for and advised on the development of European guidance for the prevention of infectious diseases among people who inject drugs; and recently WHO guidance for the screening, care and treatment of Hepatitis C.

Sexual health researchers, led by Dr Karen Lorimer and including Professor Paul Flowers, Dr...
Christina Knussen, Dr Barbara Duncan and Dr Jamie Frankis, have helped to shape health policy at the World Health Organisation (WHO) and at the National Institute for Health and Care (NICE) Excellence related to testing among vulnerable populations across Europe, and in particular Scotland. Recent projects include, Chief Scientist Office funded work to explore how prevailing constructions of masculinity in the most socio-economically deprived areas of Scotland are related to sexual health attitudes and behaviours in adult heterosexual men; whether/how these are related to adverse sexual, physical or mental health outcomes for men, their sexual contacts and partners, and other women; and to use the findings to inform the development of interventions to improve sexual health outcomes for those in areas of high deprivation. Cutting edge research has examined socio-sexual networking and engagement with digital media amongst men who have sex with men.

Recent funding awards include those from the National Institute for Health Research which are researching upon the feasibility and acceptability of home sampling kits to increase the uptake of HIV testing among black Africans in the UK. GCU is leading on a systematic review into the clinical effectiveness of behaviour change interventions to reduce risky sexual behaviour after a negative HIV test in men who have sex with men (MSM). GCU is also leading the development of a Sexual Health Research Network for the UK – more information can be found at www.sexualhealthnetwork.org.uk

At Glasgow Caledonian University, we work with industry and public sector partners to ensure our expertise responds to the need for real world innovation. GCU’s strategic business development and knowledge transfer teams work with academic experts in our Schools and Research Institutes to support businesses with a problem-solving approach.

Contact us to find out more about building a brighter future with GCU at www.gcu.ac.uk/business.

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