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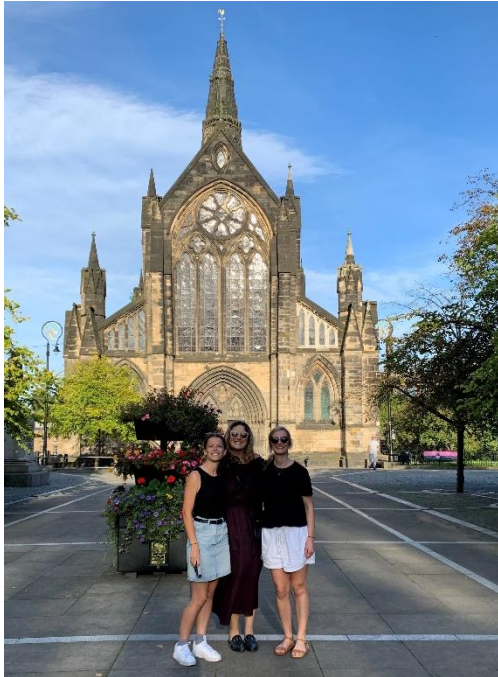
Full Reference: Smith J, Dodd R, Naganathan V, Wallis K, Cvejic E, Jansen J, McCaffery K. *General practitioners' approaches to cancer screening in older adults: A qualitative interview study*

Conference/Meeting Name: International Conference on Communication in Healthcare 2022

Location: Glasgow, Scotland

Dates: 6th-9th September

Presentation Type: Oral



Caption: This is Olivia Mac, Tessa Copp (colleagues from the Sydney Health Literacy Lab) and me in front of the Glasgow Cathedral the day before the conference started.

On the day of the conference dinner, Thursday the 8th of September, we were waiting in the rain for an Uber to drive from Glasgow Caledonian University to the Science Centre. Whilst waiting, we heard the news that Queen Elizabeth II had died. Will always remember where I was for that moment in history!

Thanks to funding from Sydney Cancer Partners, I attended the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare in September at Glasgow Caledonian University. It was great to both be able to attend alongside my colleagues from the Sydney Health Literacy Lab (Prof Kirsten McCaffery, Dr Tessa Copp, Dr Julie Ayre & Olivia Mac) and also meet many health communication researchers, clinicians and teachers I otherwise would not have been able to meet. I am very grateful for the funding from Sydney Cancer Partners!

During the conference, I was fortunate enough to deliver an oral presentation on one of my PhD studies – a qualitative study with general practitioners. I presented in the 'Communication about risk and uncertainty' parallel session on the information older adults receive about cancer screening. Audience members were interested in the practical implications of my work, particularly whether it is up to older people to seek out this information, or up to general practitioners or screening providers to provide such information. In Australia, older people currently receive little informational support when transitioning out of the national screening programs. Screening providers seem to be a key source of communication and information for older people, and general practitioners have varied approaches in their discussions (recommending screening within or beyond guidelines, proactively discussing screening or not) and also encounter particular challenges explaining the benefits/harms of screening in older age. After many discussions across the conference about my work, I have now developed the next steps of my work. My final PhD study will test how providing information to older women about breast screening (through the BreastScreen

reminder letters) impacts their ability to make an informed choice when transitioning out of the national breast screening program.

As a result of attending the ICCH, I was also able to establish an international collaboration opportunity that relates to my final PhD study and my team's research methods. After attending a workshop on 'Developing a methodological reporting guideline for reporting experimental vignette studies', I connected with researchers from the Netherlands and United States. This is method of research that we commonly employ in the Sydney Health Literacy Lab, so it was fantastic to meet with other health communication researchers who use similar methods in their countries (e.g., Dr Marij Hillen, Prof Ellen Smets, Dr Leonie Visser). We use vignettes to depict scenarios to participants and test communication strategies, in which we can ensure the scenario is controlled across randomised groups, with a manipulation that can then be determined as causative for any differences in outcomes identified. This collaboration will directly benefit me by working internationally to develop and publish a reporting guideline for experimental vignette studies. It also relates to my final PhD study in which I will present three scenarios and manipulate the type of information older women receive about breast screening.

I also had the opportunity to chair a session on remote consulting. This work was very interesting and very pertinent given the importance of virtual visits and ensuring optimal communication through these types of visits in a post COVID-19 era. The research presented was initial work in non-cancer contexts highlighting the importance of gaining patient perspectives on their preferences for virtual care. What was clear is that our assumptions about what patients would prefer may not align with what they actually prefer. This may be a nice potential avenue of research I could propose in future grants that would be of particular importance in cancer care in Australia. This also aligned with one of the keynote speakers who spoke about transforming the model of general practice to digitally enabled models of care (in the UK context) – a really interesting and timely presentation given that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of digital tools, use of triage and remote consultations in general practice.

Thank you again to the SCP for funding my attendance to ICCH 2022. I am deeply grateful for the many opportunities I was able to have and knowledge I was able to gain through attending this conference in person.