

**Supporting statement for Dr. Veronica Swallow, Professor in Child and Family Health,  
School of Healthcare, University of Leeds, UK: achievements**

**Nominated by Dr. Joanna Smith**

Veronica brings her extensive clinical, leadership, teaching and applied research expertise and experiences to her recent appointment as Professor in the School of Healthcare. As co-lead of the Maternal, Child & Family Health Research Group and lead of the Child and Family Research Strand in the School, Veronica utilizes her breadth of research knowledge and skills, which have focused on the care of children, young people and their families, to add depth to her research, teaching and scholarship and is ideally positioned to lead the child and family research in Leeds. Veronica has established a national (UK) and international network of research active colleagues, across universities, healthcare organizations, clinical nurses and parent and family groups to develop a robust programme of research addressing real world health issues for children, young people and their families, and practitioners.

With a longstanding interest in evidence to guide nursing practice Veronica moved into health-care research midway through her nursing career, culminating in being awarded her PhD in 2006 (*Learning to Manage Kidney Disease: Experiences of Children & Families*) and continues to work closely with colleagues in the National Health Service (NHS). Veronica combines leading and collaborating on multidisciplinary international research on the way families and professionals share clinical management of long-term conditions, with teaching nurses and other professionals about the application of research evidence into their practice. Veronica is passionate about Family Nursing and enjoys contributing through research and education, to improved clinical outcomes for children and young people and a positive health-care experience for their families, as well as nurturing the development of the next generation of research-led family nurses. Since 2007, because the discipline of Family Nursing is embryonic in the UK, Veronica has focused on cultivating an ethos of Family Nursing within the UK healthcare system. With an increasingly ethnically diverse UK population of 66 million, she recognises the challenge of identifying and harnessing existing expertise in family-centered care, and moving the discipline of Family Nursing forward in a meaningful way that is achievable and sustainable. Veronica was elected to the IFNA Board of Directors in 2016 and through this is able to help enrich the work of IFNA and progress the work to promote and facilitate Family Nursing in the UK.;

With a cumulative research income of £1.8 million Veronica has an established national and international reputation in the field of family management of long term conditions, and has an excellent track record in establishing and leading highly productive multidisciplinary, national and international collaborative projects. She successfully established the Child and Family Health-Learning Research Programme at University of Manchester and has transferred this work to her new role at the University of Leeds. She has particular expertise in applying theories of learning to development and evaluation of complex interventions to facilitate home-based management of long-term conditions in 0-25 year olds: outputs scored 3\* and 4\* in the 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) and 2008 and 2001 Research Assessment Exercises. She is Research Impact Lead in the School of Healthcare for the 2021 REF.

Veronica values the benefits of collaboration which are evident in many of her national and international successes, recent examples include: leading a White Rose Collaboration funded project to integrate international family nursing expertise and promote family focussed care across life-course in long-term and chronic condition management in the UK; British Renal Society funding to explore children's needs and preferences for a digital self-management app to support living with chronic kidney disease; and National Institute of Health Research to develop and evaluate the novel online parent and family information and support (OPIS) application to facilitate home-based management of kidney conditions. These projects brought together children, young people and families living with long-term conditions, with

international leaders in the field of family management (Professors Kathleen Knafelz and Sheila Santacroce, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA), and multidisciplinary teams from several UK children's kidney units. The high impact papers from these studies are outlined in the accompanying CV. Veronica recently led the team in a successful Stage 1 application for an NIHR Programme Grant (£1.54 million) building on this work and is currently leading development of a Stage 2 application for this work. Longer term plans include exploring the scope for development/evaluation of a combined UK/US/Australian Family Information and Support app. Veronica was recently appointed Adjunct Professor at the Charles Sturt University where she collaborates with Professor Linda Shields on Family Centred Care work.

Veronica initiated and chairs the (ChEKids) Children, young people and families' Experiences & Views of Kidney Conditions group, demonstrating an ability to provide academic leadership both in her own work and through the encouragement and stimulation of colleagues to increase research capacity and capability. This multidisciplinary, psychosocial research development and priority setting group works collaboratively with families. For example, she has created opportunities for patients and parents to be co-researchers, and mentored three Specialist Nurses to be co-applicants on successful grants and co-author academic papers. This work relates directly to national research strategies to increase research capacity/capability, and thereby contributing to optimum patient outcomes. She secured competitive funding, and support from the UK Nephrology Community for the Pan-Britain, *Teaching Parents Study*. This study involved one of the first focused ethnographic studies undertaken in an acute paediatric UK setting.

Veronica initiated and leads a Research Development Group with parents, patients, research and clinical colleagues in paediatric rheumatology, and recently led two successful applications for Pump Priming Awards to develop a new, international, interdisciplinary research programme on mobile technologies for young people with long term conditions to promote optimum disease management. The projects have laid the foundations for a series of grant applications to take this work forward in a robust and strategic manner similar to that which Veronica successfully adopted in the areas of chronic kidney disease and life limiting conditions. So far a systematic review of the effectiveness of mobile apps for children and young people with long-term conditions has been completed and a grant application submitted for funding to undertake a qualitative study of young peoples' views of mobile apps to support rheumatoid arthritis

Veronica is lead coordinator of the IFNA Country Liaisons for IFNC13 and is a member of the IFNA Conference Planning Committee and the Research Committee. She was invited to be the first international member of the Editorial Board of the US Journal of Pediatric Nursing, was guest editor for a special issue 'Long Term Conditions in Children and Young People', and is Lead Guest Editor for a forthcoming Special Issue 'The Experiences of Living with Kidney Disease, in BMC Nephrology. She is an invited member of the Irish Health Research Board Grant awarding panel (2013) and National Children's Hospital Foundation HRB review panel (2017) to allocate significant research grants, and was recently co-applicant on a successful grant (led by Dr Veronica Lambert) to the Irish Health Research Board, and is regularly invited to contribute expertise to the wider community. As a member of INVOLVE, the NIHR Advisory group on patient and public involvement, she proactively encourages researchers to involve family members as co-applicants, co-authors and consultants. Veronica regularly peer reviews for high impact journals, and leading national and international grant awarding bodies.

In summary, Veronica's ability to work across subject areas, linking appropriately with other disciplines and research groups, and of effective team working and collaborative development means that as a direct result her leadership and through her various achievements she can demonstrate excellent organisational and communication skills. She demonstrates an ability to motivate and inspire others to help meet healthcare challenges for families in a productive way that will optimise the support offered to patients of all ages and their carers. Outputs from the work Veronica leads are used by clinical colleagues to shape practice and are now being adapted and refined internationally (e.g. in Holland) to develop interventions for families; furthermore the study designs and methodologies that Veronica initiated are being adopted in other specialist academic and clinical areas thus increasing the value of the investment in her work.

Veronica is using her extensive clinical, research, teaching and leadership experience as a solid platform on which to build in order to further promote and develop the discipline of Family Nursing in the UK.