

# Safer together? Exploring collective learning for safer patient care

Thursday 25th February 2010  
University of Glasgow

*A one day symposium exploring collective learning and patient safety providing an opportunity for knowledge exchange and sharing views from practice, management, education and research.*

Teamwork and learning together for improvement are an increasing focus for the NHS and work undertaken in Scottish Primary Care Teams has shown that collective learning is a process that highlights the relationships within teams and is as important as the content of education. Working in a team is not the same as working as a team. Patient safety is not only a contemporary issue for the NHS, but one which poses challenges for teams working together to learn and improve care.

With a balance of presentations and discussions, this event created an opportunity for those interested in collective learning and patient safety to share knowledge, exchange views and generate discussion and debate. Together we explored whether collective learning can contribute to patient safety, if so, in what ways, and considered what the implications of this approach might be for staff and patients.

## Speakers included:

- **Professor Brendan McCormack** University of Ulster and **Dr Donna Brown** The Royal Hospitals Trust, Belfast. Learning to improve. Psychological safety of staff as a feature of learning to change practice
- **Ms Lucy Mitchell** Industrial Psychology Research Centre, University of Aberdeen. Communication, leadership and teamwork. Non-technical skills in operating theatres and their role in patient safety
- **Dr Justin Waring** University of Nottingham. Who's learning or whose learning? Tensions between risk management and situated learning
- **Dr Suzanne Bunniss** NHS Education for Scotland. Collective learning, change and improvement: learning together in primary and secondary healthcare teams
- **Dr Paul Bowie** and **Dr Carl de Wet** NHS Education for Scotland (Searching for harm in primary healthcare records: benefits and challenges)
- **Professor Brendan McCormack** University of Ulster - plenary