

Press Release



Outdoor views and natural lighting can lead to shorter stays in hospital

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Providing outdoor views and natural light can significantly cut length of patient stay in hospital, according to research published by the UK's Health and Care Infrastructure Research and Innovation Centre (HaCIRIC).

These findings are among a range of research results reported in 'Design and Decision Making to Improve Healthcare Infrastructure,' a summary of work conducted by HaCIRIC researchers at Loughborough University, one of the Centre's four university partners. HaCIRIC is the world's largest research programme in healthcare infrastructure.

It is hoped that modelling of lighting needs, particularly of elderly people by HaCIRIC at Loughborough University, will help reduce falls, support concentration and diminish depression as well as ameliorating behavioural problems associated with dementia.

'Design and Decision Making to Improve Healthcare Infrastructure,' reports on latest findings from a series of projects that aim to develop new knowledge and theory on how the built environment adds value to the healthcare delivery process.

Loughborough's research programme for the Centre has focussed on four areas:

- Therapeutic Healthcare Environments
- Operational Efficiency of Healthcare Space
- Healthcare Infrastructure Planning
- Sustainable Healthcare Infrastructure

The report is published today at HaCIRIC's international conference at the Lowry Hotel, Manchester. The conference, entitled 'Global health infrastructure - challenges for the next decade. Delivering innovation, demonstrating the benefits' opens on Monday 26 September 2011 and carries on until Wednesday 28 September 2011.

View a copy of 'Design and Decision Making to Improve Healthcare Infrastructure,' here: http://www.haciric.org/static/pdf/publications/HaCIRICLoughboroughRpt-Design_and_Decision_Making22.9.11.pdf

View the conference programme here:

<http://www.haciric.org/events/2011/09/26/HaCIRIC-2011-International-Conference-/programme/>

Notes to Editors:

The Health and Care Infrastructure Research and Innovation Centre (HaCIRIC) delivers world class research to support better healthcare through better infrastructure. Our work tackles the key challenges that face today's health and care systems. In particular, it helps them to meet expanding demand while also controlling costs, improving quality and raising productivity.

We are a collaboration between existing research centres at Imperial College London and the Universities of Loughborough, Reading and Salford. These partnerships, supported by funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) have combined to make HaCIRIC the world's largest research programme in healthcare infrastructure.

HaCIRIC**World class research to improve health through better infrastructure****www.hacric.org**