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Network News

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Inside this issue:

UK DCTN Nursing Prize

Funding Update

Meet Hazel Bell, UK DCTN
Executive Committee Member

UK DCTN SpR Fellows

Fund Raising for DebRA

UK DCTN Trial Adoption
Scheme

Focus On: Cochrane Skin
Group

Dates for the Diary



UK DCTN Nursing Prize Award



Up to two nursing prizes of £500 each will be awarded to nurses involved in dermatology clinical trials in the UK. The purpose of this prize is to support research activity in dermatology by nurses in the UK and to strengthen the ties between the dermatology nursing community and the UK DCTN.

The prize will be composed of:

- Funds to cover travel and accommodation at the BDNG Annual Meeting in order for the research to be presented at the BDNG Scientific Session.
- An opportunity to spend two days at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre in order to gain experience in the management and conduct of clinical trials.

Any UK-based nurse working in clinical research as a member of a research team (eg recruiting patients to studies), as a lead investigator or as part of a higher degree is eligible to apply. The closing date for applications is 28th February 2008.

For further details and how to apply please contact the Network Manager or go to www.ukdctn.org. Please come and visit our stand at the Dermatology UK meeting in Harrogate 13th and 14th November (stand 94).

Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to Dr Andrew Finlay, Dr Nick Reynolds and Dr Christine Barrett who have all recently retired from the UK DCTN Executive Committee. Their contributions over the years have been crucial to the establishment and success of the Network and they will be sorely missed.

External Funding: An Update

- Awarded £10K from the BSF small grant scheme to fund a pilot/feasibility study for the STOP GAP RCT which will compare the use of topical and oral treatments for pyoderma gangrenosum patients.
- Grant submitted to the BSF Clinical Trials Award for a three year study looking at trimethoprim in wound healing in epidermolysis bullosa. (280K). There will be more about this award in the next edition of the newsletter.
- Grant submitted to NIHR Research for Patient Benefit scheme for a Phase II study looking at Imiquimod as a treatment for lentigo maligna. (280K)
- Outline NIHR programme grant submitted in June has been short-listed for full application. A detailed application is now being prepared and we will know the outcome of this award in March 2008.

Meet a Member: Dr Hazel Bell, Member of the UK DCTN Executive Committee

After being actively involved with the UK DCTN Steering Committee for a number of years, Dr Hazel Bell has recently been elected to the Executive Committee. She is a consultant dermatologist, based at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals.

After qualifying in medicine at the University of Birmingham, Dr Bell moved to Edinburgh where she completed training in General Practice. However, after four years of GP practice on the Wirral, she made the decision to develop her interest in dermatology and returned to hospital medicine. Despite the pay cut and combining MRCP study with bringing up three young daughters she is adamant that this career change was the best decision of her life! Dr Bell successfully completed her dermatology training programme at the Royal University Hospital Liverpool in 2002.

In addition to general dermatology, Hazel runs specialist clinics in skin cancer and vulval dermatoses. Other

interests include cutaneous manifestations of internal disease and clinical research; indeed she is Principal Investigator on three research projects currently being run in the department. She has recently completed an MSc in Medical Sciences, with the modules linked to research methodology and statistics being of particular use to her involvement with the UK DCTN.



Dr Bell is a strong supporter of the Network as she feels it is the only way to perform national multi-centre trials involving rare diseases without the direct sponsorship of pharmaceutical companies. She also finds the opportunities that the Network brings with regards to collaborating with colleagues from other regions and countries stimulating and rewarding.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Network, then please contact the Network Manager for details.

Invite Us In

If you are running out of ideas for department seminars why not invite us in? We can tailor presentations to your requirements by focussing on particular aspects of our work, or by giving an overview of the Network or bringing along colleagues from the NLH Skin Disorders Specialist Library for demonstrations on how to get the best from this resource. For more information, please contact the Network Manager.

UK DCTN SpR Fellowship Awards

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2007 UK DCTN SpR Fellowship Awards. Newly launched this year, the aims of the award are to demonstrate the training opportunities that becoming more involved with the Network can offer to the SpR community and to provide the successful applicants with a thorough and complete training in clinical trials research.

The calibre of applicants was extremely high and after much deliberation by the referees, the successful applicants were named as Dr Jonathan Batchelor, Cambridge and Dr John Ingram, Cardiff (both pictured below). As part of the Fellowship programme Dr Ingram and Dr Batchelor will now join the UK DCTN Steering Committee and a trial development group and will visit the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre early next year for further training opportunities.



Dr Jonathan
Batchelor



Dr John Ingram

National Knowledge Week on Atopic Eczema

The National Library for Health (NLH) Skin Disorders Specialist Library held its first National Knowledge Week on atopic eczema last month, arranged to coincide with National Eczema Week. Aimed at NHS health professionals to highlight sources of information and guidance on atopic eczema and its treatment this excellent resource can still be accessed via the Library homepage www.library.nhs.uk/skin.

Fund raising for DebRA

Pictured on the right, UK DCTN members Dr Sinead Langan and Dr Nadia Bassi, both dermatology SpRs based at QMC Nottingham, have recently completed the Experian Robin Hood half marathon in aid of DebRA, a charity for patients with epidermolysis bullosa. Having both completed the course in under two hours they have so far managed to raise over £400 for this well deserved cause. If you would like to add to this total, please visit their website www.justgiving.com/nadia_sinead.



If you are taking part in any fund raising activities over the coming months that you would like us to publicise in Network News then please do get in touch with the Network Manager.

ebDerm.org

If you are interested in developing your knowledge of evidence-based dermatology even more, then why not visit www.ebDerm.org? This web-based resource aims to promote the teaching and practice of evidence-based medicine in dermatology by providing:

- A guide to web-based resources (ebDerm learning)
- A digital library of materials and tools for both study and practice
- An on-line forum bringing together teachers, practitioners and students (ebDerm community)

UK DCTN Trial Adoption Scheme

In line with developments within the UK Clinical Research Networks (UK CRN), we have developed an adoption process for non-commercial dermatology clinical trials that have been developed by other groups. The process for adoption will be split into two. Firstly, all clinical studies funded by the NIHR will be automatically eligible for adoption into the UK DCTN portfolio.

After becoming adopted into our portfolio, the network can provide help with:

- National promotion and publicity
- Finding additional recruiting centres
- Access to free training
- Advice and guidance with regards to study protocols and procedures

All other studies must satisfy the following criteria in order to become adopted:

- Be fully funded
- Funding obtained through national competition
- Funding application subjected to external peer review

If you are interested in getting your trial adopted then please contact the Senior Trials Manager for more details.

300 Members and Counting

Membership of the UK DCTN has now passed the 300 mark, and currently stands at 315 members. We are extremely proud of the development of the UK DCTN. It has grown and matured from an enthusiastic bunch of interested stakeholders to one of the leading groups in dermatology clinical research in the country. If you know someone who would be interested in joining please encourage them to visit our website www.ukdctn.org or contact the Network Manager for more details.

Focus on: Cochrane Skin Group

Would you be interested in joining the Cochrane Skin Group (CSG)?

The CSG is a network of people from all over the world committed to producing and updating systematic reviews of clinical trials relating to skin conditions. The aim of the CSG is to produce systematic reviews of all relevant published, and unpublished trial information and summarise it in a way which can be understood by healthcare practitioners, consumers and managers. In doing this, they hope to produce the best possible evidence on the effectiveness of healthcare interventions for people with skin problems.

In particular, the involvement of consumers is crucial to the success of the CSG. They welcome input from

consumers who feel they can help with the following: participate in the initial stage of deciding on a topic and framing the questions to be considered, assist with the writing of the review so that it is accessible and meaningful to all, referee reviews prior to publication and take part in literature searches.

To date, the Skin Group have published 31 full reviews and 38 protocols with a further 42 titles currently under development. For details of reviews and protocols and more information on the CSG in general, please visit their website www.csg.cochrane.org. Membership of the group is free and if you would like to join please contact Helen Nankervis or Diane Horsley at csg@nottingham.ac.uk

Over 100 participants enrolled into PATCH!

We are delighted to report we have reached the magical 100 mark, a great milestone in the PATCH trials. There is a long way to go so please keep looking for cellulitis patients to make these trials a success. For further details on the PATCH trials please contact the PATCH Trial Manager.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 30th Oct **UK DCTN Steering Group Meeting** **1pm** **BAD House, London**

Tuesday 30th Oct **UK DCTN Executive Group Meeting** **3pm** **BAD House, London**

PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED FLIER FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO PRE-REGISTER FOR:

Thursday 5th June 2008 **Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting**
Blistering Skin Disorders

**Holywell Park,
Loughborough**

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