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Network News
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**New UK DCTN SpR Fellows
Announced**

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2011/12 UK DCTN SpR Fellowship Awards. Launched three years ago the awards are now well established and highlight the training opportunities that becoming more involved with the Network can offer to the SpR community. The scheme provides the successful applicants with a thorough and complete training in clinical trials research. This year saw the award of the first Neil Cox UK DCTN SpR Fellowship which was awarded to the applicant with the highest overall score. This award is given in memory of the late Dr Neil Cox who was such a strong supporter of the Network. We would again like to thank Neil's family for providing the funding for this award.

As was the case with last years awards, the calibre of applicants was very high, and to recognise this three Fellowships have again been awarded this year, instead of the usual two. The successful applicants

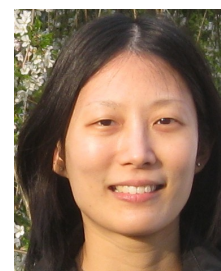
were named as Dr Rubeta Matin, who was unanimously awarded the Neil Cox Award and who is currently based in Amersham, Dr Suyin Ong who is based in Exeter and Dr Donna Torley who is currently on rotation in Lanarkshire. As part of the Fellowship programme they will now join the UK DCTN Steering Committee and will visit the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre later in the year for further training opportunities. They will also attend the BEES dermato-epidemiology course and spend time developing their critical appraisal skills with Prof Hywel Williams.



Dr Rubeta Matin



Dr Donna Torley



Dr Suyin Ong

Senior Trials Development Manager Appointed

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new Senior Trials Development Manager. Tessa Clarke (pictured left) will be joining us here at the UK DCTN Co-ordinating Centre in February. Tessa comes to us from Astra Zeneca, where she has worked for many years as a study development and delivery lead for cardiovascular studies. Funding for this 0.6FTE post, which is essential for the continued success of the Network, has been generously provided by the BAD for the next three years.





PATCH Study Update

Data entry is now complete for the PATCH II study (which closed early with 123 patients recruited) and the analysis will take place shortly, with results disseminated early in 2011.

The PATCH I study was due to close at the end of this year, but the funders (the BUPA Foundation) have agreed to extend follow up until July 2011. Although this will result in a delay in the study results being known, the extension will allow essential follow up on the large number of participants who entered the study in the latter stages.

600th Member Joins the Network

We are delighted to announce the Network has just recruited its 600th member, Ruth Devlin. Ruth is a Macmillan Skin Cancer Nurse Specialist based at Dartford Hospital, Plymouth. She returned to this acute setting in 2009 to set up the Plymouth Skin Cancer Service after working as a Community Macmillan Nurse for a number of years.

Ruth joined the Network in August after hearing about the UK DCTN through the British Dermatology Nursing Group and is keen to be involved in skin cancer trials, as Dartford Hospital has an Oncology Trials Dept. To mark the event, we have given Ruth £60 of Amazon vouchers.

Network membership now stands at almost 620 members, which demonstrates the continued interest in

independent clinical research from the dermatology community. Over 60% of UK DCTN members are secondary care clinicians, and we are beginning to see the breadth of membership widening, with increasing numbers of nurses, consumers and primary healthcare professionals becoming involved.



Membership of the UK DCTN is free and open to anyone with an interest in dermatology clinical research. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining please encourage them to do so via our website www.ukdctn.org or by contacting the Network Administrator Maggie McPhee.

James Lind Pressure Ulcer Partnership



The James Lind Alliance is working in partnership with the NIHR funded Wounds Research for Patient Benefit Programme (a research initiative involving NHS Leeds Community Healthcare and York University) to bring together a partnership of patients, carers and clinicians to identify research priorities in the prevention and management of pressure ulcers.

If you are interested in finding out more, or becoming involved then please visit the website www.jlapressureulcerpartnership.co.uk or contact Dr Mary Madden at the University of York. mm538@york.ac.uk

UK DCTN Annual Report

Copies of the 2009-2010 UK DCTN Annual Report are now available to download as a PDF via the website www.ukdctn.org. If you'd prefer a hard copy, please contact Maggie McPhee the UK DCTN Administrator.

BLISTER Study Baby News!!!



Congratulations to Caroline Onions, the BLISTER Trial Manager, who gave birth to a baby girl, Charlotte Victoria on 4th October. Both mother and baby are doing well and we're sure you'll all join us in wishing Caroline well.

Maternity leave cover is in place for the study, and the new Trial Manager is Anna Sandell who has previously worked for the Medicines for Children Network. If you have any queries about the BLISTER study, please contact Anna on 0115 8230510 or anna.sandell@nottingham.ac.uk.

Cox Family Great North Run for BSF

Well done to Fiona Cox and other family members on their recent efforts in the Great North Run. Fiona completed the race in



2hr 30, David 1hr 49, Joe 2hr 15, Kathy 2hr 25 and Robert and Helen 2hr 40. I'm sure you'll all agree this is a fantastic achievement which has raised almost £2500 in Neil Cox's memory for the British Skin Foundation. A huge thank you to all UK DCTN members who sponsored the Cox family. If you'd like to sponsor them but haven't had time to do so, it's not too late please go to www.justgiving.com/bsfgreatnorthrun.

Annual Evidence Update on Eczema and Psoriasis

NHS Evidence-skin disorders (formerly the NLH Skin Disorders Specialist Library) published its Annual Evidence Update on atopic eczema w/c 13th September. Aimed at NHS health professionals to highlight sources of information and guidance on eczema and its treatment, this excellent resource can still be accessed via the homepage www.library.nhs.uk/skin. The Annual Evidence Update on psoriasis, with similar resources, was published w/c 1st Nov.

Update of On-Going Studies



There are now 54 centres open for recruitment into the BLISTER trial across the UK and Germany, with 86 patients recruited to date (against a target of 256). The top 2 recruiting centres for the study are Queen Elizabeth in South London and South Teeside. To find out more about this study on bullous pemphigoid go to www.blistertrial.co.uk.



The number of patients recruited into the STOP GAP study to date stands at 50 into the main RCT and 24 into the observational study, with recruitment currently being 75% of target. There are now over 45 centres open across the UK, with the top 3 recruiting centres being Hull, Aberdeen and Exeter. In order to reach the target of 140 patients by April 2012, recruitment needs to improve by around 25%. Since pyoderma gangrenosum (PG) is so rare, it is difficult to recruit patients but by promoting and publicising the trial widely around your local Trust and community teams, we will hopefully improve recruitment. Talking to tissue viability teams, stoma teams, gastroenterologists and rheumatologists is an essential part of this. The co-ordinating centre is currently working on promoting the trial to community tissue viability teams directly, as well as other initiatives. To find out more about this study on PG go to www.stopgaptrial.co.uk.



The set up period for the LIMIT 1 study has taken longer than originally anticipated due to delays with R&D approvals and a substantial amendment related to pathology sampling. We have applied to the funders (RfPB) for a 6 month extension to the study as this extended set up time has run into the recruitment period. All 13 sites for the study have now been initiated and 6 patients recruited to date, with the top recruiting centre being The University Hospital of Wales.

GCP Training

Remember that all members of the UK DCTN and those working on UK DCTN led studies are entitled to attend NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) training courses free of charge. The courses are focussed on Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training and include an on-line GCP course. For details on how to register for this training please contact Carron Layfield, the UK DCTN Network Manager or visit the NIHR CRN website <http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/training>.

Hair and Nails Research Meeting, Thursday 27th January 2011

Dr Paul Farrant is organising a meeting for clinicians interested in hair and nail dermatology at BAD House, London on Thursday 27th January 2011. One of the aims of the meeting is to discuss setting up hair research in the UK, and with this in mind the UK DCTN will be at the meeting to demonstrate how we can help with the development and funding of research suggestions.

If you are interested in attending the meeting, please contact Dr Farrant directly on drpaulfarrant@me.com.

Don't Forget about BADBIR!

The British Association of Dermatologists Biologics Interventions Register (BADBIR) is a national register of all patients receiving either biologic therapies or standard systemic treatments (control arm) for the treatment of psoriasis.

Although not a UK DCTN study, we're happy to try and help publicise this important work and with a target of 8,000 patients it is vital that as many clinicians as possible get involved in recruitment. The study is on the NIHR portfolio and so is eligible for local infrastructure support through your CLRN to help with recruitment. For more information and to contact the BADBIR team please visit the study website www.badbir.org.

Dates for your Diary

Wed 16th Feb 2011	BLISTER and STOP GAP Investigator Training Meeting	Centre for Life, Newcastle
Tues 8th March 2011	BLISTER and STOP GAP Investigator Training Meeting	BAD House, London
Mon 14th March 2011	Steering Committee Meeting	1.30pm, BAD House, London
Mon 14th March 2011	Executive Committee Meeting	3.30pm, BAD House, London
Thurs 12th May 2011	Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting (Psoriasis)	Holywell Park, Loughborough

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