

Inside this issue:

UK DCTN activities at  
BAD/BDNG Annual  
Meeting

PATCH early evidence  
adopters survey

Trials in development  
update

UK DCTN Nursing Prize

UK DCTN SpR Fellowship  
Awards open for  
application

Vacancy on MCRN  
General Paediatrics  
Clinical Studies Group

Update of on-going  
studies

Dates for the Diary

UK DCTN Activities at BAD/BDNG Annual Meeting

There are lots of Network activities at the BAD/BDNG Annual Meeting this year as highlighted below. Do remember that our AGM is open to all members, and we welcome you to attend. This meeting will include the presentation of a study idea by David Eedy entitled 'Teledermatology for suspected skin cancer patients' so come along and join in the debate on this topic. In addition to these activities, we'll also be having a stand in the Exhibition Area, **PSG 16**, so do try and locate us if you're interested in finding out more about any of our activities or just to stop by and have a chat.

- **UK DCTN: BLISTER and STOP Gap studies**

Session: Trainees Programme (Jonathan Batchelor)

Date: Monday 4th July Time: 15.05 (Rooms 14,15,16)

- **Water Softeners for the Treatment of Childhood Eczema: Results of the SWET Trial**

Session: Scientific & Submitted Papers (Kim Thomas)

Date: Wednesday 6th July Time: 09.00 (Capital Auditorium)

- **Prophylactic Antibiotics for the Prevention of Cellulitis of the Leg: Results of the PATCH II Trial**

Session: Medical Dermatology & Submitted Papers (Nick Levell)

Date: Wednesday 6th July Time: 15.00 (Capital Auditorium)

- **UK DCTN Annual General Meeting**

Date: Thursday 7th July Time: 09.00-10.30 (Room 13)

- **The BLISTER study**

Session: BDNG Bullous Diseases Training Session

Date: Thursday 7th July Time: 12.30 (Rooms 14,15,16)

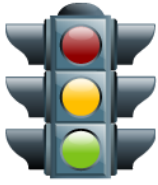
PATCH studies: early evidence adopters survey

There is increasing recognition that getting research evidence into practice is a difficult and time consuming process, and that simply publishing trial results, or conducting systematic reviews may not be enough to change clinical practice on the ground. With this in mind, we are keen to evaluate the impact of UK DCTN trials to see if the uniquely collaborative nature of their design and conduct means that they are more likely to influence practice.

Using the PATCH trials as an example, we would like to assess your normal clinical practice in relation to the treatment / prevention of cellulitis at the moment, and to evaluate what you think might influence your decision to adopt the trial findings. **For every response to the survey we receive a donation of £1 will be made to the British Skin Foundation.**

To access the survey, please go to: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/patchcellulitis](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/patchcellulitis) or visit the UK DCTN website at [www.ukdctn.org.uk](http://www.ukdctn.org.uk).





## Trials in Development Update



There are now at total of seventeen studies at various stages of development in the UK DCTN pipeline with the ones outlined below having made the most progress to date.

- **Trimethoprim for wound healing in patients with epidermolysis bullosa (TREBL)**

We are now in the process of writing findings from the Focus Groups and patient/carer involvement work which was carried out to help with the design of this RCT up for publication. The study team (led by Jemma Mellerio and Celia Moss) are putting the final touches to the proposal for this study, incorporating changes highlighted by the pilot work, and an outline application for the full RCT will be made to DEBRA International this month.

- **Study comparing the use of clobetasol propionate and tacrolimus for treatment of erosive lichen planus (ELP)**

As detailed in the last newsletter, funding (from Nottingham University Hopsital Trust) has now been obtained to carry out a case note review of erosive lichen planus at 12 centres across the UK. Dr Roz Simpson will be joining UK DCTN co-ordinating staff at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology for the next year to carry out this work and develop the study proposal further with the support of the Clinical Lead for the project, Dr Ruth Murphy.

- **Does wearing silk clothing (Dermasilk™) reduce the severity of disease in children with atopic eczema?**

Having been on hold for some time, this study is now progressing with some feasibility work to inform a funding application for a full-scale RCT. A small observation study including 25-50 participants will assess overall adherence in wearing the clothing; identify factors that may influence adherence (e.g. age, sex, peer pressure, sports activities, site of eczema, eczema severity, worn at night or during the day); and obtain user feedback on the acceptability of the clothing and willingness to participate in a long-term (6-12 month) trial.

- **Vitiligo Studies**

Originally proposed by Maxine Whitton, Work on vitiligo has been in the pipeline for some time now and is now progressing with 2 pilot studies as follows.

**HI-Light for vitiligo** : (this pilot RCT is being funded as part of the NIHR Programme Grant award held at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology (SPRUSD). The trial will compare the use of hand-held UVB with a placebo unit, and will look at the feasibility and acceptability of using the units in a clinical trial setting. It is our hope that this will lead to a full trial of hand-held UVB for vitiligo, which was identified as a priority topic in the recent vitiligo priority setting partnership.

**Vitiligo feasibility study**: running alongside the HI-Light trial, an application has been submitted to the British Skin Foundation in order to conduct a feasibility study looking at the best methods of identifying patients for vitiligo trials; to reach consensus over the best treatment comparators; and to assess willingness of clinicians and patients to participate in future trials.

- **Does early treatment of acne affect severity in later life?**

We are hoping that this work on acne prevention will move forwards now our Senior Trials Development Manager Tessa Clarke is in post.



### Time to apply for the new format UK DCTN Nursing Prize

Following a disappointing lack of applicants for the 2010 UK DCTN

Nursing Prize, we have taken the decision to amend the prize from a one year to a two year award. The £1500 prize will now mirror the SpR Fellowship as outlined on page 3 and we have also made the application process more straight forward by introducing the use of an application form. We would like to encourage all nurses involved in recruiting patients into UK DCTN led trials

such as STOP-GAP and BLISTER and/or other NIHR portfolio studies such as BADBIR who are interested in finding out more about research and the processes involved in developing research proposals to apply. Just one prize will be available for the 2011-2012 period, and we will review this in future years if increasing numbers of applications are received.

To find out more about the UK DCTN Nursing Prize please contact the Network Manager, Carron Layfield, visit our stand at the BAD annual meeting (see front page) or go to our website [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org) for full details on how to apply and related activities. The closing date for applications is Friday 21st October.

## 2011-2012 UK DCTN SpR Fellowship Award now open to applications

As in previous years, up to two Fellowships of £1500 each will be awarded to Specialist Registrars to work with the UK DCTN as part of a two year Research Fellowship Programme. In the first year of the award the fellows will join the UK DCTN Steering Committee, spend three days at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre, attend the BEES 'Getting to Grips with Evidence Based Dermatology Course' and work on developing critical appraisal skills with the Network Chair, Hywel Williams. In the second year the skills learnt will be put into practice by joining a UK DCTN Trial Development Team

or Cochrane Systematic Review Team. The Neil Cox Award will be made to the Fellowship applicant with the highest overall score.



This year will see the fifth round of applications for the awards and we are seeing an increasing number of high quality applications year on year. To find out more about the UK DCTN SpR Fellowships please contact the Network Manager, Carron Layfield, visit our stand at the BAD annual meeting (see front page) or go to our website [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org) for full details on how to apply and related activities. The closing date for applications is Friday 21st October.

## **2011 Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting– Psoriasis**

We have had some excellent feedback from those who attended this meeting last month regarding the quality of speakers and the impact the event will have on their clinical practice. A number of presentations from the day are now available on our website, please go to [www.ukdctn.org/meetings/evidence/psoriasis\\_2011/](http://www.ukdctn.org/meetings/evidence/psoriasis_2011/). As decided by the delegates on the day, the subject topic for the 2012 meeting will be acne and rosacea and we will let you know the date of the 2012 meeting as soon as possible.



## Are you interested in helping to prioritise paediatric research? Vacancy on MCRN General Paediatrics Clinical Studies Group



Dr Kim Thomas has represented the interests of dermatology on the Medicines for Children Research Network (MCRN) General Paediatrics Clinical Studies Group for the past five years and has now come to the end of her term of office in this role. We are trying to help the MCRN in identifying another keen individual, preferably a paediatric dermatologist, to take over the position and Kim writes of her experiences below.

'Having represented dermatology for the last five years on the MCRN's Clinical Studies Group (CSG) for General Paediatrics, it is now time for me to step down and to hand the baton on to someone else who has an interest in paediatric dermatology research.

Being a member of the CSG has been a rewarding experience, and it has been great to see the remit and functioning of the group develop over the years. The group meets 2-3 times a year and operates both proactively (defining research priorities and developing research proposals), and reactively (commenting on the applications of other research teams and offering advice regarding feasibility and study design).

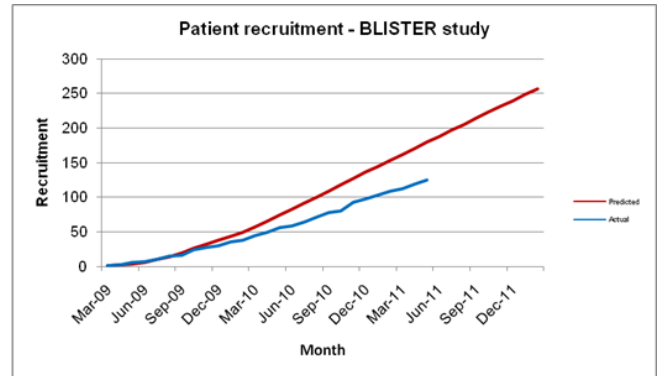
So in many ways the CSG is very like the UK DCTN and it fulfils a similar role.'

If you would like further information about what the group is like and how to get involved, then please contact the MCRN Portfolio Development Officer at [ann.byrne@liv.ac.uk](mailto:ann.byrne@liv.ac.uk) by **Friday 24th June 2011**. Or if you would prefer to talk to Kim about her experiences, please contact her on [kim.thomas@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:kim.thomas@nottingham.ac.uk)

## Update of On-Going Studies



A total of 125 patients have now been recruited to date for the BLISTER study, 49% of the target needed. As the graph on the right illustrates, recruitment is lagging behind what we had hoped for, so please do remember to keep this study in mind when you see patients with bullous pemphigoid. The top recruiting centre continues to be QEH, London with 12 patients recruited into the study over a 2 year period which is a fantastic achievement for a rare disorder. To find out more about this study go to



[www.blistertrial.co.uk](http://www.blistertrial.co.uk).



A total of 120 patients are now in this trial (76 RCT, 44 observational), making it the largest ever study on pyoderma gangrenosum (PG). The target for the RCT is 140 patients, which remember is achievable if every recruiting centre involved recruits just 2 patients in the 12 months active recruiting period left for this trial. To find out more about this study on PG go to

[www.stopgaptrial.co.uk](http://www.stopgaptrial.co.uk).



Although a total of 20 patients have now been recruited into this phase II study investigating the use of imiquimod to treat lentigo maligna, this is only 50% of the target required and the 'official' end date for recruitment has now passed. Ninewells Hospital (Dundee) and the University Hospital of Wales (Cardiff) continue to be the top recruiting centres for the study, having recruited 5 patients each to date. In order to try and reach the target of 40 patients, we are seeking approval from REC to further extend recruitment into the study until mid-August (this has been approved by the Chief Investigator Jerry Marsden and the Chair of the Trial Steering Committee).

## Dates for your Diary

Weds 6th July, 5pm  
Thurs 7th July, 9am

UK DCTN TGPP meeting (BAD Annual Meeting)  
UK DCTN AGM (BAD Annual Meeting)

ICC London ExCeL  
ICC London ExCeL

Tues 1st Nov, 1.30pm  
Tues 1st Nov, 3.30pm

UK DCTN Steering Committee Meeting  
UK DCTN Executive Committee Meeting

BAD House, London  
BAD House, London

## UK DCTN Contact Details

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