

# Network News

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## Trials update

### 1. Cellulitis pilot study (PATCH trial)



The cellulitis pilot study is almost complete. We had a total of 18 recruiting centres and successfully enrolled 66 participants between November 2004 and March 2005. The results of this pilot study will be used to inform the design of an RCT looking at the use of prophylactic antibiotics for the prevention of recurrent cellulitis.

An application has recently been submitted to Action Medical Research for funding for the main RCT. A decision is expected in July 2005.

For further information about the results of the pilot study, please visit our website [www.nottingham.ac.uk/dermatology](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/dermatology), where the results will be posted from the end of June.

### 2. STOP-GAP trial

Study of topical and oral treatments for the treatment of pyoderma gangrenosum patients.

This proposal is now well developed and is currently available for peer review. If you would be willing to comment on the proposal, please contact Phillippa Scott (contact details overleaf).

We are still looking for recruiting centres for this study. If you would be willing to help and have not yet registered an interest in this trial, please contact Phillippa, who will add your details to the list of potential recruiting centres.

It is anticipated that an application for funding will be submitted to the British Skin Foundation in September 2005.

## New trial suggestions

Two new trial suggestions have been accepted by the network over the last few months. These are currently being developed into outline proposals:

- **Moh's versus standard excisional surgery for cutaneous SCC** – *proposed by Colin Fleming & Cliff Lawrence*
- **Oxytetracycline versus prednisolone for the treatment of bullous pemphigoid** – *proposed by Fenella Wojnarowska*

## Light at the end of the tunnel – regulatory approvals

The increasing legislation around the conduct of clinical trials means that regulatory approvals are now a key issue when conducting multi-centre research. Those of you who helped with the PATCH pilot study will know that it is often the R&D approval process that is the most time consuming. This has largely been due to the different application forms and requirements required by Trusts throughout the country. However, things are hopefully set to improve with the launch of a standardised national on-line application form for R&D approval. The new form was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2005, and can be accessed from: <http://www.rdform.org.uk>. This site is linked to the existing COREC form website and allows you to use the same log in details for both.

I am hopeful that the approval process for future trials will be considerably improved by this development.

## Management issues

The AGM for the UK DCTN will take place at the BAD conference on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, at 5.15pm. This is an opportunity for all of you to attend the meeting and to put forward your views about how best to develop and expand the network. Please come.

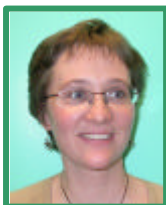
## Membership of steering and executive groups

We shall be confirming the membership of the Executive and Steering Groups for the forthcoming year. If you would like to nominate either yourself, or someone else as a member of the steering group, please contact Phillippa in advance of the meeting.

## Changes in personnel at the co-ordinating centre

We are very pleased to confirm that funding for a data manager for the UK DCTN became available from April 2005. This post has been advertised and we hope to have someone in place shortly.

I shall also be moving sideways within the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology as a non-clinical senior lecturer. Although I will still be heavily involved in helping to drive the network, this does mean that the post of UK DCTN Co-ordinator will be advertised shortly. Phillippa (our administrator) will provide a constant point of contact during the changeover.



## Website

Negotiations have begun with Ludwood Interactive to assist in the development of our new website. This will present a far more professional image of the group and should provide ready access to all of our essential documents and on-line forms.

## Have your say

The next edition of Network News will focus on dermatology registrars and their role in the network. We are looking for people who would be willing to write a short piece about their involvement in research and/or the network.

If you have any views that you would like to express or would be willing to help, please contact Phillippa.

**Dr Kim Thomas**  
**UK DCTN Co-ordinator**

## Dates for your diary

### Network Meetings:

- **5 July 2005**  
17:15 – 18:15 - AGM of UK DCTN  
BAD Annual Meeting, Glasgow
- **6 July 2005**  
07:30 – 08:30 - Executive Group only  
BAD Annual Meeting, Glasgow
- **18 October 2005**  
13:00 – 15:00 - Steering Group  
15:00 – 16:00 - Executive Group only  
BAD House, London

### Other meetings:



**Skin Cancer**  
**An Evidence Based Update**

**Thursday 12 May 2005**  
**Novotel, Nottingham**

(profits to UK DCTN)

### Contact details:

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