

Network News

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1. 'How to design a clinical trial'

The success of the Network depends on the continuous influx of research ideas from members and individuals being prepared to develop these ideas. We have arranged a workshop called '**How to design a clinical trial**' which will help you formulate your ideas into a well designed research study.

You can submit an idea that you have for a research topic beforehand. The aim is that, by the end of the day, you will have an outline proposal that is ready for submission to the Network for consideration. With colleagues around to discuss ideas with, it will be possible to achieve in one day what often takes several months.

If you do not have a suggestion of your own at the moment, then don't worry because we will be working in groups on any one topic.

The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday 31st January 2006. It is **free of charge** to UK DCTN members but places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Please go to the website or contact Joanne Chalmers for more information. This event is **CPD accredited**.

2. GCP awareness

Are you an Investigator for a clinical trial? Do you plan to get involved in clinical trials in the future?

The EU Clinical Trials Directive is now part of UK law. This means **all** researchers need to be familiar with **good clinical practice** (GCP) to take part in a clinical trial in the UK.

GCP courses run by the UK Clinical Research Network are open to all members of the UK DCTN. All courses are **free of charge** to UK DCTN members. Please see www.ukcrn.org.uk/training for details of dates and locations, or contact Joanne Chalmers.

3. Registration of skin clinical trials

The Cochrane Skin Group (CSG) is inviting researchers to register their planned, on-going and unpublished trials on their new searchable database which conforms to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines (*De Angelis et al. NEJM 2004; 351: 1250-1*). By setting up this prospective register the CSG aims to prevent duplication of effort for future trial organisers and participants and should help reduce bias in systematic reviews. The database currently contains over 6000 published trials. Any UK DCTN trials will be registered by the co-ordinating centre but it is a good idea to register any non UK DCTN trials that you are working on. Remember, for any trials that start recruiting on or after July 1, 2005, the ICMJE will consider a trial for publication only if it has been registered before the enrollment of the first patient.

Registration is **quick, easy & free!!** The database can be found at <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ongoingskintrials/> or you can link via www.ukdctn.org

4. Discussion forum on the website

The discussion forum is now up and running on the UK DCTN website (www.ukdctn/discussion). The aim of this forum is to provide an area where members can discuss any topic of interest related to Network matters. This could be a design issue that needs resolving for a study in development and the opinions of the wider membership are sought to help resolve it. It could be an idea that you have for a study but are unsure what is 'normal practice' around the country and would like members to give their feedback. In fact, it can be any topic you wish to post for discussion. You can also ask the forum to alert you when there are new postings on a topic.

The forum is straightforward and easy to use and there is a help section if you need it. Please do take a few moments to have a look and add any topics you wish.

Here is your username and password:

4. Co-ordinating centre has moved

The UK DCTN is getting so successful we have outgrown our office!! We have moved to new premises and our new contact details are:

UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network
Room 40, King's Meadow Campus
University of Nottingham
Lenton Lane
Nottingham
NG7 2NR

Tel: Jo Chalmers (0115) 846 8622
Tel: Phillippa Scott (0115) 846 8621
Tel: Chris Dunn (0115) 846 8626
Tel: Kim Thomas (0115) 846 8632
Tel: Hywel Williams (0115) 823 1048

E-mail addresses remain the same.

5. Update on PATCH study

We now have a Trial Manager in place for



this cellulitis study, her name is Chris Dunn (pictured). She is busy finalising the protocol and will be in touch with all the investigators that took part in the pilot study in the near future.

Please contact Chris if you didn't take part in the pilot study but are interested in being a recruiting centre for the main study. More about this study in the next newsletter.

Dr Joanne Chalmers
UK DCTN Manager

Merry Christmas

Dates for your diary

▪ Tuesday 31 January 2006

UK DCTN workshop - 'How to design a clinical trial'

Postgraduate Centre, QMC, Nottingham

▪ Monday 20 February 2006

Steering Group Meeting – 1:00-3:00

Executive Group Meeting – 3:00 – 4:30

BAD House London

▪ Wednesday 5 July 2006

AGM - 5.30–6.30pm

BAD Annual Meeting, Manchester

▪ Thursday 6 July 2006

Executive Group Meeting - 7:30am–8:30am

BAD Annual Meeting, Manchester