

# Network News

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## 1. Three good things to celebrate

### *The PATCH Study*



Recruitment has now begun in earnest for the PATCH Cellulitis trials. We have 20 recruiting centres throughout the UK and Ireland, with a

further 12 centres close behind. You will soon be able to monitor the progress of the trial through its own dedicated website, but for now we would just like to say a huge thank you to all of you who are giving up your time and resources to recruit into this study. Only 585 participants to go now!

### *Funding bids submitted to the HTA*

Having submitted an outline proposal to the NHS Health Technology Assessment programme in September, we are pleased to say that the Bullous Pemphigoid (BPOP) study has been short-listed for further consideration – it is one of 33 applications currently being assessed by the Clinical Trials Board. The study will compare oxytetracycline with prednisolone for treatment of BP.

### *First publication for the Network.*

Thanks to all the hard work put into the Cellulitis pilot study, we now have our first journal article on behalf of the UK DCTN. The results of the pilot study are to be published in the open access journal *Trials*, and all centres that helped with recruitment into the study are acknowledged in the article. Hopefully there will be many more important publications to come. A pdf of the article is available at [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org).

## 2. Trials Update

### *Help needed*

We are still looking for a dermatologist and a microbiologist to form the Data Monitoring

Committee for the PATCH study. The committee is Chaired by Dr Robert Hills in Birmingham and the bi-annual meetings will largely be held by tele-conference. If any of you would be willing to help out by joining this committee, or if you know of a microbiologist who may be able to help, then please do get in touch.

### *Lentigo Maligna Study*

Jerry Marsden and his team have been hard at work putting together a funding application for a Phase II pilot study looking at the use of imiquimod for the treatment of lentigo maligna. Hopefully this will be considered by CRUK Feasibility Study Committee in January 07. The early pilot study requires just 30 participants, but if successful will lead to a full-scale RCT. This study is a collaboration with colleagues from the UK NCRI Melanoma Clinical Studies Group and the two trials units in Birmingham (Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit and the Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit).

### *New trial submissions*

#### **Haemangioma**

One new vignette has been submitted for consideration at the next Steering Group meeting in February. The topic is Imiquimod for the treatment of haemangioma.

#### **Vitiligo**

The recent Cochrane systematic review on vitiligo treatments highlighted several areas where further research is needed. Several ideas for vignettes have been submitted but a clinical lead is needed to take on a study in this area before it can progress further.

#### **Alopecia Areata**

The vignette on cognitive behavioural therapy for patients with alopecia areata was discussed at the last meeting. Nigel Hunt has been working on a revised vignette which will be re-submitted for discussion at the February meeting.



We are always happy to receive new trial ideas, so do please send suggestions in. If any of you have a particular interest in any of the above vignettes and would like to join the Trial Management Group, please contact Jo Chalmers.

*In particular, we are **currently looking** for a **clinical lead** for the **vitiligo** study. Contact Jo Chalmers for more information.*

### 3. Other developments

#### Medicines for Children Research Network

In an effort to position the UK DCTN in line with the new developments arising from the Best Research for Best Health agenda, we applied to form a dermatology-specific clinical studies group as part of the Medicines for Children Research Network. Whilst it was not possible to create a separate group specifically for dermatology, the UK DCTN does now have a presence on the general paediatric clinical studies group.



#### Staff changes

There has been quite a bit of coming and going at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology in the last few months.

As the UK DCTN has grown so has the role of the UK DCTN manager. We have therefore decided to split the current role into its two main functions thus creating two complementary roles:

- Senior Trials Manager – Jo Chalmers will continue to work in this role, helping to develop protocols and funding bids.
- Network Manager – we have recently appointed Carron Layfield as the new Network Manager. She will be responsible for publicity and fund-raising for the Network.

Carron will no doubt be in touch with many of you over the coming months in a bid to strengthen ties with our core membership, and to ensure that the Network develops in a way that is most supportive of independent clinical research.



We have also said a fond farewell to our Research Administrator, Phillippa Scott, in the last few weeks. Phillippa has been a great asset to the UK DCTN since its formation back in 2002 and she will be greatly missed. We wish her luck in her new role in the family business.

As some of you may know, Chris Dunn left her post as Trial Manager for the PATCH study in August of this year. Since then Jo Chalmers has been doing an excellent job of keeping things afloat, but we have now appointed a new Trial Manager – Kathryn Foster. Kathryn is currently on maternity leave, but will be starting with us in January, 2007.

### 4. Training

#### Free training courses

Just a quick reminder that as a member of the UK DCTN you are entitled to free training courses through the UK CRN. There are a wide variety of training courses available, so do check out the website:

(<http://www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/training/courses>) Once you have chosen a course, go to 'Course availability and booking' and follow the instructions. Remember to go back to your 'Learning Plan' to book the date of the course.

#### Evidence-based update meeting

As usual the highly popular Evidence Based Update meeting will be held in Loughborough on 10th May.



The topic for 2007 is Infectious Skin Disorders (in recognition of all your hard work on the PATCH cellulitis study).

**Remember, the proceeds from the day are donated to the UK DCTN**, so do circulate the details to all of your colleagues. The event is open to all – dermatologists, dermatology nurses, GPs and health researchers.

### 5. Diary Dates

Next UK DCTN Meeting
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2007, BAD House, London
Steering Group 1.00pm-3.30pm
Executive Group 3.45pm – 5.00pm

Evidence Based Update Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2007 Holywell Park, Loughborough
Infectious Skin Disorders. Further details will be placed on the UK DCTN website <a href="http://www.ukdctn.org">www.ukdctn.org</a>

#### Contact details:

Carron Layfield, UK DCTN Manager  
E-mail: [carron.layfield@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:carron.layfield@nottingham.ac.uk)  
Tel: (0115) 8468625

Jo Chalmers, UK DCTN Senior Trials Manager  
E-mail: [joanne.chalmers@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.chalmers@nottingham.ac.uk)  
Tel: (0115) 846 8622

Website: [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org)