GENERAL INFORMATION

MHRA Inspection: The Trust has been notified by the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) that it will be inspected in 2010. The timeframe given is between April and September. R&D is currently putting together a dossier requested by the MHRA by 6 January 2010 and studies will be selected by them for inspection following submission of the dossier. Many of you have been contacted already about data for the dossier, and there will be further requests coming out to those of you running IMP (Investigational Medicinal Product) trials over the next few days. We would be grateful for your help in prioritising this activity. We will be running a programme of monitoring starting in the New Year in order to support all researchers whose projects we sponsor, and will contact you in due course to arrange this.

Research Support: TEG (Trust Executive Group) has recently received the stocktake of research support. Thank you to everyone who contributed. There were ten recommendations by TEG, listed below; all were approved for action.

1. The overall task is to set a challenging agenda for the newly established Research Committee, with responsibility to establish, in particular, strategic direction and research priorities for the Trust.
2. Establish time-limited work group to restructure line management, job descriptions and support for research nurses and other (non Principal Investigator) research staff.
3. Prioritise the refurbishment of pharmacy clinical trials space.
4. Ensure all research staff are identified on the Electronic Staff Record system.
5. Ensure Divisions take responsibility for costing grant applications and the subsequent management of the terms and conditions of awards.
6. Rename the Research and Development Department Research Support Services to reflect the role of the department and align with national direction. Work with the NIHR to achieve full accreditation for the department.
7. R&D department to review and enhance its website and reconsider methods of communicating with researcher community.
8. Work with BRIG-H to review and coordinate roles of and access to the support from research platforms.
9. Ensure NHS research support funding (received directly from DH in the form of flexibility and sustainability funding and via the WCLRN) is targeted at protecting time for research and that consideration of research time is part of job-planning.
10. Increase the capacity for nurse and AHP-led research by engaging closely with academic partners to develop and drive strategy in this area.

IRAS form reminder to applicants: QA4 on the IRAS application asks: “Who is the contact on behalf of the sponsor for all correspondence relating to applications for this project?” Researchers have been inserting their own, or a colleague’s name in reply to this question. For applications where the UH Bristol is the sponsor researchers are reminded to ensure that details provided under QA4 match those provided at A64 (sponsor details). The contact name for UH Bristol sponsored applications is Mary Perkins, Head of R&D.

Exploring Impact: Public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research: This report from INVOLVE explores the impact of public involvement through an in-depth review of published literature. It draws together examples of how public involvement is conducted, and what difference it is making. It also asks questions of the quality of the evidence for the impact of such involvement, revealing variation in how this is assessed and reported and highlighting difficulties in judging it or drawing general conclusions. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the INVOLVE website.

Changing the translational research landscape: a review of the impacts of Biomedical Research Centres in England: RAND Europe has published a report commissioned by the Department of Health reviewing the impact of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centres. This review was a perceptions audit of senior executives involved in the scheme and explored whether the scheme is working in the way intended. It considered how translational research and innovation were pursued prior to the BRC scheme (including
the opportunities and barriers experienced in the past by NHS and academic partners); whether and how institutional relationships are changing because of the scheme; and (if so) how these changes are influencing the health research system. More information is available here.

**Regulatory and governance update from HSRN:** The Health Services Research Network has produced a briefing document explaining the recent developments in the regulatory and governance environment, specifically aimed at researchers involved in health services research.

**Summary of Responses to the Consultation on the Additional Uses of Patient Data:** At the end of 2008 the Department of Health undertook a consultation on patient consent and confidentiality in relation to using patient information for research. The report of that consultation has now been published. The DH website states: "It is clear that the public expects their consent to be sought if the data used is identifiable. This means we need to test out how best to secure that consent and properly inform patients about the use of their identifiable medical records. We intend to set up a number of pilots in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Birmingham and Nottingham which will explore means of patients opting out of having their records viewed for research purposes. We will report back on testing and offer a preferred mechanism by June 2010."

**UKCRN Recruitment data information:** The latest UKCRN Portfolio recruitment figures are available here.

**e-Health initiative generates first published research:** The Wellcome Trust and Research Councils Joint Initiative in Electronic Patient Records and Databases in Research, supporting the use of electronic resources in health research, has generated its first published research. More information is available here.

**MSc in Clinical Research** - The MSc Clinical Research at UWE Bristol aims to address the unique needs of health practitioners either wishing to build, or strengthen, their career in leading, monitoring and co-ordinating research in clinical settings. For more information visit the University's website.

**HTA new DNA website page:** In response to an increasing number of enquiries about DNA, The Human Tissue Authority has published a new website page that gives guidance about consent and the use of DNA. The guidance includes a series of FAQs, two flowcharts and a glossary.

**UKCRC booklet - improvements to regulations:** The UKCRC has published a booklet which provides an overview of initiatives that have been put in place to streamline the regulatory and governance (R&G) environment. This guide for researchers is available from the UKCRC website.

**Western CLRN Local Priority Groups:** New Clinical Leads added for Injuries and Accidents Group, Nervous System Disorders Group and Renal Group. A full list of these groups is available here.

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

**Obesity Joint Themed Call Now Open:** The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment (NIHR HTA) and Public Health Research (NIHR PHR) programmes are inviting obesity evaluation research proposals. The deadline for receiving applications is 1.00 p.m. on Wednesday 20 January 2010. The precise scope of the call is outlined in the joint specification which is available from the NETSCC website.

**NIHR Fellowships:** Another round of the NIHR Fellowships competition has been launched. These research fellowships are open to all people who wish to do health research to benefit patients and NHS healthcare.

**Wellcome Investigator Awards:** In 2010, the Wellcome Trust will open applications for Investigator Awards and Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Awards to replace the existing project and programme grant schemes. The Awards build on the Trust's strategic goal of supporting the brightest researchers with the best ideas, and extend our successful fellowships funding model to researchers who are in posts salaried by their universities or research institutes. Further details about these Awards will be added to the Wellcome website over the coming months and you can read Mark Walport's article on the establishment of these awards here.

**Wellcome Trust Large Arts Awards:** Applications are now open for these awards which support arts projects that bring together any art form with any area of biomedical science. The Wellcome Trust Large Arts Awards support imaginative and experimental arts projects that involve the creation of new artwork and bring together any art form and any area of biomedical science. Projects must have some biomedical input, either through a scientist taking on an advisory role or through direct collaboration with a scientist. The next deadline for preliminary applications is 8 January 2010. More details can be found on the Arts Awards scheme pages.
**Policy Research Programme - Department of Health**: Pre-Pregnancy Health and Care in England: Exploring Implementation and Public Health Impact. A sum of up to £400,000 will be provided. A full online application must be submitted by 5.00 pm on 13 January 2010. More information is available here.

**National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) - Central Commissioning Facility (CCF):**
Future Product Development - Stream 3a: i4i
http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=13810
Future Product Development - Stream 3b: i4i
http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=13090
3rd call deadline for outline applications is 29th January 2010

**New special edition for funding opportunities relating to Obesity:**

**Wellbeing of Women:**
Entry-Level Research Scholarships:
http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=8756
WellBeing of Women/RCOG Research Training Fellowships:
http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=1500
The closing date for applications is 2nd March 2010

**CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS**
SDO Network in partnership with the Health Services Research Network is holding a conference ‘Delivering Better Health Services’ on 2 and 3 June and has issued a call for abstracts. Closing date: 14 January 2010. Further information available here.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
Western CLRN Forum for Research Staff: Working Together in Clinical Research: **Wednesday January 27th 2010** - 10.30 am – 15.30 pm (Registration from 10.00 a.m.) Novotel Hotel, Bristol
Topics to include: Western CLRN update, Dry Ice Training – get yourself a certificate and an SOP for your Unit, Running Industry Trials, WCLRN Training Programme, SOPs for Clinical Trials, examples of Good Practice. To reserve a place please contact Hope Douglas 0117 342 0025 or email: Hope.Douglas@UHBristol.nhs.uk

Clinical Discovery Workshop IRAS - A Practical Guide:
- 14 January 2010 - Avonmouth Conference Centre, Elephant and Castle, London
- 25 February 2010 - Maple House Conference Centre, Birmingham
These workshops will cover the following topics:
- General overview of IRAS
- Practical guide to using IRAS
- Focus on REC and R&D applications using IRAS
This will be a practical workshop that has been designed to ensure a good knowledge of using IRAS. To download a detailed copy of the agenda and to reserve your place click here.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**
North Bristol Trust & CSNB Joint Research Day - **Tuesday 9th February 2010 - 12.00 noon - 7.00 pm**
Learning & Research Building, Southmead. The event has been designed to showcase both NBT and CSNB's individual and joint research successes as well as giving you the opportunity to be involved in some practical workshops/Q&A sessions. Further details and provisional programme available from R&D Department at NBT.

**Palliative Care Conference**: Including the Excluded; Research in Advanced Disease – **13 & 14 January** - The Royal York Hotel, York. Organised by North & East Yorkshire & Northern Lincolnshire Comprehensive Local Research Network Palliative Care Specialty Group. To book a place e-mail: Jane_Ash@nhs.net or phone 01482 476680.