Welcome to this edition of the R&I Monthly E-bulletin. This month’s issue provides the usual funding opportunities, updates from our charitable partners and departmental news. If you have an item to add to January’s bulletin please email it to robyn.jackson@uhbristol.nhs.uk by Monday 14th January.

This month’s message from David Wynick

The delivery funding UH Bristol receives from the Western Comprehensive Local Research Network (WCLRN) each year is dependent upon the recruited number of patients to research studies in the previous financial year. The amount per participant is determined by the “band” of research study to which they were recruited

- Band 3 – interventional studies, predominantly Clinical Trials of Investigational Medicinal Products (CTIMPs) or device studies
- Band 2 – observational studies, often genetic sampling or questionnaires
- Band 1 – studies which are expected to have a total global recruitment of >10,000 participants

The value of funding per band varies; for 2012/13 funding for 1 participant into a Band 3 studies is equivalent to 14 in a Band 1 study and a participant in a Band 2 study is funded at 3 times the level of a Band 1 participant.

It is worth noting, however, that a Band 3 participant is likely to have more study visits of greater complexity than a Band 2 participant, hence the higher funding value; but this is paid to the Trust only once no matter how long the study duration. Thus, in order to have a sustainable portfolio of research it is important to have a range of studies from each band thus preventing a follow up commitment which limits the opportunity to continue recruiting.

Recognising that research involves the use and sometimes the transfer of anonymised or identifiable data, we will now be asking all Principal Investigators to confirm that they are up to date with the trust’s mandatory Information Governance training, at the time of submission for NHS permission. This is an annual requirement to complete online training, which is accessible here.

As we approach Christmas, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the trust’s research efforts over the year; our weighted recruitment is on track to show an improvement over last year, and the number of grant applications has increased – we will be announcing our recently awarded grants early in the new year.

With best wishes
Professor David Wynick
Director of Research

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NIHR Studies Open to New Sites

The latest reports detailing Portfolio studies that are seeking new sites are available to download from the WCLRN website:

http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/Resources/NIHR%20CRN%20CC/Networks/CCRN/Western/Documents/Studies%20open%20to%20new%20sites%20-all%20reports.zip

Please remember that all Topic Specific network (TCRN) managers have asked that Trusts contact them before approaching Chief Investigators/Coordinators of studies identified in the reports as there may be an existing history of engagement with these studies by the networks. If you would like support in accessing this information or advice about whether or how to express interest in a study, R&I is happy to help you. For paediatric studies, please contact Ruth Allen (medicines – ruth.allen@bristol.ac.uk) or Susan George (non-medicines – susan.george@uhbristol.nhs.uk) before submitting an expression of interest.

EDGE handy hint

You can download your recruitment data ready to be pasted into your NIHR portfolio upload spread sheet, by using the ‘download excel’ option in the site level patients tab. We can give you advice and support with EDGE if you need it – please call or email the R&I office.

R&I Welcomes Two New Members of Staff

We welcome to the department Roxanne Potgieter and Helen Dunderdale as Research Management Facilitators. Roxanne will be working with the monitoring team supporting and advising researchers on compliance with Good Clinical Practice and will be carrying out regular monitoring visits. Helen will be involved in helping researchers at the ‘set up’ stage to create a supportive and streamlined approach to implementation, successful recruitment and successful delivery of research. To contact either of our new RMF’s please call the R&I office on 0117 34 20233

Christmas Period

The R&I offices will be closed during the period 24th to 28th December. The fax machine and the answerphone will be monitored during that period for any urgent issues. As a reminder, the main telephone number is 0117 342 0233; the fax number is 0117 342 0239.

The Research & Innovation Department would like to wish the UH Bristol research community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Update from Above & Beyond

Going Above & Beyond for Hospital Staff and Patients at Christmas

Christmas is a difficult time to be in hospital, and it’s a time when the hospital charity Above & Beyond does what it can to show patients and dedicated hospital staff that we are thinking of them. The hospitals’ charity gives £5 for a present for every single patient in hospital over the Christmas period and also funds Christmas decorations and trees in our hospitals.

“Some older patients may not have friends or relatives able to visit them, nor is it easy for children to be in hospital at this time. We want to show people of all ages who are not able to be at home that we are thinking of them – and to help spread a little magic in our hospitals at Christmas” explains Charity Chief Executive Sarah Talbot-Williams.
When it comes to busy hospital staff who care for patients in our city 365 days a year the charity likes to say thank you by funding a Christmas breakfast at the BRI Bistro and the children’s hospital. Not content with this, the charity’s staff and volunteers also deliver chocolates to every ward in all of the nine central Bristol hospitals to give hard-working teams, from porters to nurses, doctors, research, therapy and administrative staff a well-deserved treat.

Explaining the difference that the Staff Christmas Breakfast makes to her, Linda Clarke of the Therapy Team at the BRI said: “It’s lovely to take time out, have some breakfast and a social chat and get in the mood for Christmas”.

Dawn Burgess and Caroline Dite, Medical Secretaries at the BRI added “It just brings everyone together and it’s festive!”

Serving takeaway breakfasts at the Children’s Hospital, Catering Team member Rachel Ndjendja said “We enjoy doing it because it puts a smile on everyone’s faces and is a way of giving us back to the staff to say Merry Christmas. It’s like us giving them a Christmas present. It gets everyone into the festive spirit”.

Celebrating Successes

UH Bristol Vascular Scientist receives first-of-its-kind NIHR PhD Award

Michelle Bonfield, Clinical Vascular Scientist based in the Vascular Studies Unit, has been awarded a Doctoral Research Fellowship in round 3 of the NIHR/Chief Scientific Officer Healthcare Science Research Fellowship Competition. The competition is run by the NIHR in partnership with the Chief Scientific Officer for the Department of Health and supports the development of healthcare science research capacity and capability building, by providing funding to undertake research for patient benefit.

Michelle’s research project “The response of lower limb deep vein thrombosis to anticoagulation therapy: resolution, recurrent and post thrombotic syndrome” will commence in 2013 and will be undertaken in partnership with the University of the West of England. Congratulations to Michelle on achieving this award.

Feature – The WAIT Study

The WAIT study, “Wheeze and Intermittent Treatment”, is a multicentre study with 41 sites. Bristol opened in February 2012 with Paediatric Respiratory Consultant Dr Simon Langton-Hewer as the Principal Investigator.

The study aims to determine whether parent-initiated intermittent treatment with oral montelukast in preschool children reduces the need for unscheduled medical attention for upper or lower respiratory infection or wheeze.

Following the appointment of the Children’s Emergency Department research nurses, there was a rapid increase in the pre-screening of potential participants and education and training of staff. The successful collaboration between the Medicines for Children Research Network (MCRN), the Paediatric Respiratory Team and the Children’s Emergency Department has enabled the study team to exceed the Bristol target of 30 patients and to close recruitment with a total of 49 participants.

Due to the great success in recruitment the team were asked to close recruitment early as the national target of 1300 was very close to being met. This has now been exceeded at a national total of 1368 participants.
The Paediatric Respiratory Nurse Specialists are now continuing to support the study by prescribing replacement IMP and doing the two monthly follow up phone calls for all the participants. The Paediatric Emergency Department also continues its support with continued teaching and obtaining study samples for participants who re-attend. The first participant is due to complete the study in March 2013.

This is a fantastic example of departments working together for the greater benefit of research and all teams involved should be incredibly proud of their success.

Upcoming Events

Bristol Infection and Immunity Research Theme Away Day 2013 – Wednesday 9th January 2013, Centre for Nanoscience and Quantum Information (NSQI), Tyndall Avenue, Bristol, BS8 1FD

Dr Lindsay Nicholson and Professor Adam Finn would like to invite you to attend the Infection and Immunity Away Day. This will be a great opportunity to network and head advances in I&I research. We are planning a very interactive programme and we hope that we can share novel ideas for future collaborative projects. We would like to encourage the participation of Early Career Researchers (MSc’s, PhD’s, post docs, RAs etc) and this year we will run a poster prize competition (the winner will receive a £100 Amazon voucher). More information about the competition, how to register to attend and the programme of the day is available on the I&I website. If you require further information please contact p.holley@bristol.ac.uk

Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for Health Research Launch – Thursday 24th January 2013, 12pm-1pm, Reynolds Lecture Theatre, Wills Memorial Building or Thursday 31st January, 4pm-5pm, Lecture Theatre 4, School of Chemistry

This launch event will be hosted by Professor Jeremy Tavare who will be joined by Professor Peter Mathieson, Director of Bristol Health Partners. The newly appointed Institute Manager, Dr Nina Couzin, will also be introduced.

The institute’s specific remit is very much cross-Faculty. It aims to foster health research at new and innovative inter-disciplinary boundaries, and support the people doing this research. Bristol Health Partners has been set up to transform the understanding, prevention and treatment of key health problems in Bristol and beyond. The Institute wants to engage with researchers in all fields and has significant funding and resources available to drive strategically important health research in its broadest sense. There are two events scheduled. To register to attend please follow the link: https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/red/ebilaunch

Gastroenterology & Hepatology Specialty Groups Research Day – The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Monday 4th February 2013

This research day aims to:
- Promote participation in GI and Liver research; facilitating collaboration among gastroenterologists, hepatologists and endoscopists
- Showcasing research that is already underway
- Highlighting resources available to interested NHS clinicians
For further information please contact laura.purandare@rbch@nhs.uk or on 01202 962376. To register online please visit: http://www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/about_us/ccrn/western/news/ghsgresearchday

WCLRN Ophthalmology Specialty Group Meeting – 1st March 2013, 1pm-4:30pm, Bristol Eye Hospital

This is a networking opportunity for those involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, ophthalmology research. Those interested in attending can contact tom.mullet@UHBristol.nhs.uk

Paediatric Neurology Masterclass 2013 – 18th-19th April 2013
This event will include:
- Lectures from national and international experts in child neurology
- In-depth updates on current ideas in research and latest research findings
- Developing understanding of the epidemiology, clinical manifestations and treatment of neurological disorders of childhood
- Developing understanding of the pathophysiology underlying these disorders
- For all health professionals and researcher working with children with neurological conditions

For further details please visit [http://www.bristolcns.org/masterclass-2013](http://www.bristolcns.org/masterclass-2013)

**School of Social and Community Medicine Research Seminars at the University of Bristol**

17th January 2013 – Understanding Successful Weight Loss Maintenance – the role of life events and the development of teachable moments intervention
31st January 2013 – Using Evidence to Prevent Deaths from Pesticide Poisoning in Rural Asia

Please visit the website for further details and joining instructions: [http://www.bris.ac.uk/social-community-medicine/seminars/](http://www.bris.ac.uk/social-community-medicine/seminars/)

**Grants and Upcoming Awards**

**Health Technology Assessment Programme: New Calls for Research**

**Primary Research – Two Stage Outline to Full Proposal**

12/201 Management of sciatica (lumbosacral radiculopathy) and suspected sciatica - the deadline for broader brief submissions is 1pm on Friday 1 February 2013. Applicants will be advised as to whether their outline applications have been shortlisted in March 2013.
12/185 Pre-conception care for women with diabetes – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/186 Treatments for severe chronic hand eczema – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/188 Self-management of pain relief, nausea and constipation for patients approaching the end of life – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/190 Cognitive rehabilitation for people with multiple sclerosis – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/191 Sexual risk reduction interventions for patients attending sexual health clinics – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/192 Home-based health promotion interventions for vulnerable older people – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/193 CTI and MRI for women with ovarian cancer – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/194 Psychoeducational support for parents with personality disorders who have children with severe emotional and behavioural problems – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/195 Validation of a risk prediction model for ocular hypertension – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/197 Treating bedwetting in children – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.
12/199 Complex decongestive therapy for women with breast-cancer related lymphoedema of the arm – submission deadline 1pm on Thursday 2nd May 2013.

Application forms and all associated documents for all commissioned calls are available on the HTA Programme website.

For any further enquiries please contact the HTA Commissioning team: 023 8059 5621 or htcmsng@southampton.ac.uk

**Funding for Clinical Evaluations Now Available from the NIHR Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme**

The [EME Programme](http://www.eme.nihr.ac.uk) is now accepting applications to its researcher-led workstream. Applicants are invited to apply by 1pm on Thursday 7 March 2013.

Application forms and all associated documents for this call are available on the [EME Programme website](http://www.eme.nihr.ac.uk).
New David Telling Research Grant – Call for Proposals

The Trustees of the David Telling Charitable Trust are keen to encourage and strengthen the development of new or early-stage areas of clinical research within UH Bristol. Their normal grant awards of £25,000 are designed to help new researchers get their initial ideas off the ground. The Trust would now like to offer support for the next stage, to allow more established clinical researchers to develop a co-ordinated programmes in a novel area of clinical research by infrastructure funding.

Examples of this might include, but are not limited to:

1. Equipment or resources to set up a specific research-focused tissue bank and/or a data collection database that could be used in translational proof-of-concept clinical studies, aimed at multiple research studies/areas rather than just one project
2. Funding for a salary for a facilitator/theme leader to help build up critical mass for a nascent or developing clinical research area at UH Bristol that is not currently supported.
3. Funding to provide research support staff and/or equipment within a team to pump-prime a novel area of clinical research at UH Bristol which is important to the NHS.

To this end, the David Telling Charitable Trust would like to offer a 3 year grant of up to £175,000, subject to annual review of progress. The initial application should be confined to a two page outline of the proposal, which will be scrutinised by the Advisory Board to ensure that the proposal falls in line with the aims of the Charitable Trust, in particular to support new areas of clinical research rather than add to existing funded programmes. Proposals are open to non-clinicians but animal or non-clinical laboratory-based research is not supported by the Trust. Proposers who pass this initial stage will then be invited to submit a detailed and fully-costed application for scrutiny and external review through the offices of Professor David Wynick, Director of Research at UH Bristol. Please send 8 copies of the 2 page outline proposal and 1 copy of the investigator’s CV to Advisory Board David Telling Charitable Trust, Level 2, Dolphin House, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol, BS2 8HW. The closing date for applications is 8th February 2013.

NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research Programme – New funding opportunities: Researcher-led Proposals

Our researcher-led calls are open all year round, with three application cut-off dates. The next closing date for applications is 1pm on Thursday 7 February 2013. Application forms and all associated documents for this call are available on the HS&DR Programme website.

**For this call, we are particularly interested in receiving proposals assessing very rare diseases. This drive for research proposals is part of an NIHR-wide call to increase research in this area. The specification document is available on the HS&DR Programme website here.**

However we are still keen to receive proposals on any topic within the programme remit, through our standard researcher-led funding opportunity.

NIHR New Media Competition 2012 – Communicating Your Research

During the summer of 2012, a pilot NIHR YouTube video was launched to a target audience at the NIHR Summer School. The aim of the competition was for NIHR funded researchers to create a video to enthuse audiences about their research and it resulted in three prizes being awarded. Due to the interest received, the NIHR have decided to open a new competition that is open to all current NIHR Researchers. If you are an NIHR researcher interested in communicating your research this is an opportunity to:

- Enthuse patients, colleagues, your friends and family, and the public about your research
- Communicate your clinical/applied health/social care research
- Get creative and use your media skills to get the NIHR message about research out
- Win prizes! There is a £250 book token up for grabs for the best entry and prizes for the runners up.

For details of eligibility, how to enter and assessment criteria please click here: http://www.nihrtcc.nhs.uk/NIHR%20Media%20Competition/index.html. The closing date for applications is the 22nd of March 2013.
Training & Employment Opportunities

WCLRN Dry Ice Training – 20th February 2013, Bristol, 1pm-4:30pm

This course is being held at the Education Centre and is aimed at clinical research staff preparing or working on NIHR adopted studies who will be dealing with dry ice. Preference will be given to those staff. The objectives of the course are to review the legislation, safe handling and disposal of dry ice and be provided with a standard operating procedure. Workshop contents include:

- Risk assessments and controlling risks
- Properties of dry ice
- Hazard identification and control
- Storage
- Handling
- Use
- Disposal of product and packaging
- Transportation and dispatch of dry ice
- Packaging, labelling and dispatch of biological materials
- General precautions
- First Aid
- Written test
- Questions

For a booking form and any queries please contact donnaburnham@nhs.net

Band 6 Research Associate Required for SPACe Study (Support for Parents with a Child with Arthritis)

An exciting opportunity exists to join a new study seeking to help parents when their child is diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis. The study is NIHR funded and is a joint initiative between the Paediatric Rheumatology service (UH Bristol) and the Bristol Centre for Research in Clinical Practice.

A full time Research Associate with experience in clinical research is required to lead the day-to-day operation of SPACe. This will require the postholder to liaise with clinical staff in Bristol and Liverpool, with the study team and with families and clinical psychologists. The postholder will have a lead role in collecting data and will be involved in analysing and reporting the study findings.

This is a full time post funded for 33 months and requires travel to Liverpool and Taunton and their environs, with overnight stays in Liverpool.

You will have a relevant degree (nursing, medical science, psychology etc) or be working towards one; preferably have experience of working with families in a clinical or similar context; and experience of working in a research environment. You will have excellent communication skills and the ability to work independently and as part of a team. For informal enquiries please contact Emma Youde on 0117 342 1753. The closing date for applications is Friday 21st December 2012 with interviews being held on the 9th of January 2013.


People and Research West of England FREE Workshop! “Get Involved in Shaping Research and Building Partnerships Workshop” – 31st January 2013, UH Bristol Education Centre

Have you ever wanted to get involved in research and don’t know where to start? Are you a researcher who would like to involve patients and carers in your research, but don’t know how to recruit and make best use of their skills and experiences? This free workshop will outline the different types of research methods and terminology used in research and how patients and carers can get involved as well as exploring the issues related to becoming and being involved in research. The course is aimed at people interested in getting involved in research and researchers interested in involving patients and carers in their research. This is a one day workshop being held from 10am till 4:30pm. Information on how to register can be found here.