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 April’s bulletin please email it to research@uhbristol.nhs.uk by Monday 15th April.

This month’s message from David Wynick

International Clinical Trials Day is celebrated around the world each year on May 20th. It commemorates the first ever clinical trial carried out by James Lind, a surgeon in the British Royal Navy in 1747, comparing different agents (including vinegar, seawater and lime juice) for their effectiveness in treating scurvy.

Clinical trials have come a long way since then, and are the most effective way of proving whether a new treatment works. Today clinical trials can involve thousands of participants, and are subject to strict regulation to ensure patient safety.

UH Bristol currently has around 380 clinical trials open currently, and a total of over 500 open research studies. In some areas, for example Oncology, research is integrated with clinical care and the vast majority of patients are offered the change to take part in a trial (there are currently 90 trials open at the BHOC). And about half of all patients undergoing cardiac surgery take part in a clinical trial.

We will be celebrating International Clinical Trials Day on May 20th by having stands throughout our hospitals where staff from research teams and R&I will be available to tell you about some of the research that we do. There will be information about our research, and we plan to carry out our own “trials” on the day.

We will also host an early evening event for staff, patients and the public with short talks and displays giving more information.

Further details will follow but please put the date in your diaries.

With best wishes
Professor David Wynick
Director of Research

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NIHR Guidance on Faster, Easier Clinical Research

The NIHR has released a guidance document on their plans to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research, which helps give some context on the new metrics they have put in place for clinical trials. To remind you what these metrics are:

- 70 days from valid application received in the R&I office to first patient first visit
- Recruiting on time and on target (target given during approval application)

Please view the guidance document. If you have any questions about the metrics and your responsibilities please contact the R&I office on 0117 34 20233.

EDGE Handy Hint: Set the Patient Workflow to the “Minimum Data Set” on your “Project Details” page (green level) to ensure you only have to enter date screened and recruited for each patient. NB this needs to be changed prior to any patients being added.

Changes to Staffing within R&I

As of the 8th of April Robyn Jackson, the department’s Management Assistant, will be taking up a 6 month secondment within the Trust’s HR Department. R&I are recruiting for a replacement but there is likely to be a period in April where the department has no secretarial cover. Please continue to contact the department on extension 20233 and a member of the team will be able to help you.

Celebrating Successes

UH Bristol top recruiter for AIMS Study

The AIMS Study is a multicentre study into the effects of a drug on aortic dilatation in Marfan Syndrome (a genetic disorder of the connective tissue). Led by Dr Graham Stuart at UH Bristol, UH Bristol continues to be the top recruiter for this study. Overall the study hopes to recruit 100 patients by the end of April 2013, and currently has randomised 61 into the trial. UH Bristol has recruited 18 of these. Congratulations to the study team on their success!

Congratulations to Dr Graham Bayly and Team for recruitment success into the ODYSSEY study

Odyssey is a commercial trial into the safety and efficacy of a drug for patients diagnosed with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia and not adequately controlled with lipid-modifying therapy. Dr Bayly’s team has recruited seven patients into the study and has already exceeded the recruitment target of five patients. For further information into this study please visit the study website.
FEATURE – CRICBristol

The Clinical Research and Imaging Centre (CRICBristol) is a unique collaboration between UH Bristol and the University of Bristol. It is a state-of-the-art research and imaging centre, and people in Bristol and the South West are benefiting from the latest, high-quality, cutting-edge research being conducted locally.

CRIC’s facilities include a Siemens 3Tesla Magneton Skyra MRI scanner, funded by the Wolfson Foundation; a two-room sleep laboratory and four clinical investigation suites alongside a laboratory, meeting rooms, and access to high performance computing facilities.

CRICBristol is designed for studies in healthy volunteers as well as clinical populations. They can accommodate all levels of clinical need, from fully ambulant outpatients to anaesthetised inpatients, providing full resuscitation facilities. With a direct link to St Michael’s maternity hospital (level B), the facility has been purpose built and designed for studies in babies and children as well as adults. CRICBristol conforms to all local and national standards of research governance. The Lead Research Radiographer provides dedicated support for the full body 3T MRI scanner. They also offer specialised imaging support, as well as input and collaboration on research projects.

CRIC supports the full range of research in humans. Current research taking place there includes studies of neonatal MR imaging, brain injury, functional brain imaging, breast and prostate MRI studies, cardiac imaging, cardiac function and reserve during and after cardiac surgery, sleep disorders in children, adults and clinical populations.

Contact the CRICBristol team today by phone (0117 34 21500) or email (cric-contact@bristol.ac.uk) to discuss how CRICBristol can support your research.

Upcoming Events

Celebrating Clinical Research Nurses Event – 13th May 2013

The NIHR Faculty is holding a meeting on the 13th of May in London to celebrate clinical research nursing as part of International Nurses Day. If you are a practising NIHR Clinical Research Nurse delivering and supporting research in England you can join this event for free. The meeting will cover:
- Celebrating the care nurses bring to the patient experience of participating in research
- Celebrating the leadership nurses bring to the delivery of clinical research
- Celebrating the innovation nurses bring to the clinical research field

Places are limited and expect to be filled quickly. For more information and to register please visit www.profbriefings.co.uk/nihr/ccrn/
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

The event is aimed at all health professionals and researchers working with children with neurological conditions. For further details please visit http://www.bristolcns.org/masterclass-2013

The Bristol Research in Practice Annual Symposium returns for the third year on Thursday 9th May 2013

A draft programme for the symposium is now available here. Please contact emma.youde@uwe.ac.uk to register a place if you haven’t already. Please note: in order to receive a full symposium pack and free lunch ticket you must register by 25th April. You are welcome to turn up on the day but we cannot guarantee you a pack or a lunch.

The symposium is free and open to all.

Conference to focus on Public Involvement in Health Research

A conference entitled “New Developments in Public Involvement in Research” and organised by the National Institute for Health Research Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care in the South West Peninsula (NIHR PenCLAHRC) Patient and Public Involvement Team, will take place in Exeter on 13th to 15th November 2013.

The conference will focus on the latest thinking on patient and public involvement (PPI) in health research, including how PPI can play a meaningful role in research projects. Such a role may involve setting research agendas, prioritising research activities, conducting research, and implementing and evaluating research projects.

The programme for the conference will contain a mixture of keynote lectures, presentations and poster sessions, small group meetings, working parties and workshops. The conference itself is designed to be of benefit to researchers, patients, carers, members of the public, health professionals and NHS research managers.

They keynote speakers include: Derek Stewart OBE, who is currently the Associate Director for Patient and Public Involvement at the NIHR; Sir Iain Chalmers (one of the founders of the Cochrane Collaboration and coordinator of the James Lind Initiative); and Professor Jennie Popay, Professor of Sociology and Public Health at Lancaster University.

Lead organiser Andy Gibson said: “PPI has become an increasingly influential aspect of health research. As a consequence we need to ensure that it is utilised to its full potential and not just a means of ‘ticking the box’ for funders. In the South West we are blessed with active and effective PPI groups which have contributed greatly to the enrichment of health research in the region. We hope that by sharing our experiences, and the experiences of PPI practitioners around the UK, we can
showcase best practice, build on the evidence base for PPI in research and create a platform for the further development of PPI”.

The conference will take place at the Thistle Hotel, Exeter from midday on the 13th of November to midday on the 15th of November. To register interest or for further details please contact either piexeter@pcmd.ac.uk or call 01392 726065 or visit the website.

Registration Now Open for NIHR HTA Conference 2013

The HTA Programme is celebrating its impact in clinical and public health research by holding a milestone conference on the 9th & 10th of October 2013, at Church House, Westminster, London. The emphasis of the conference will be to examine the impact, nationally and internationally, of the programme in clinical effectiveness research and consider the influence the HTA programme has within the NHS and on UK clinical research.

Who should attend? : Active HTA researchers, prospective HTA researchers and trainees, NHS leaders and commissioners, NHS decision makers, patient groups and organisations who run trials nationally and internationally.

For more information and to register visit the HTA event website.

WCLRN Surgery Specialty Group Research Day – 3rd June 2013

This research day is being held at the Bristol Novotel, Victoria Street (near Temple Meads). The aim of the day is to enhance recruitment into NIHR research by:

- Promoting current surgical trials within WCLRN
- Providing an opportunity to network with surgical colleagues across disciplines
- Encouraging collaboration
- Introducing a forum for generating novel research

Confirmed speakers include Dion Morton, Professor of Surgery from UH Birmingham and Jane Blazeby, Professor of Surgery from UH Bristol. For more information and to book a place email donna.burnham@nhs.net

Grants & Upcoming Awards

Funding Opportunities with the Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Programme

The HS&DR Programme aims to produce rigorous and relevant evidence on the quality, access and organisation of health services, and is now accepting applications to its researcher led workstream. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 22nd May at 1pm. Under this workstream the programme will fund research to improve the quality, effectiveness and accessibility of the NHS. This includes both primary research and evidence syntheses, depending on the existing research and the most appropriate way of responding to important knowledge gaps. The aim is to fund research that will lead to improvements in health services that will be of greatest benefit to the NHS and to patients. For more information and to access the application form and guidance notes please click on the links above.
NIHR Primary Care Interventions Themed Call

On the 28th of February the NIHR will launch a cross-programme call for research which evaluates health care interventions or services delivered in primary care settings. The call closes on the 22nd May 2013 with funding decisions expected in March 2014.

This themed call is a key component of the NIHR response to recognising the need for further research-based evidence in primary care through:
- Supporting capacity building across a whole range of primary care disciplines; and
- Increasing the volume of high-quality research into the effectiveness, delivery and organisation of primary care interventions and services.

The programmes participating are:
- Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME)
- Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
- Invention for Innovation (i4i)
- Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)
- Public Health Research (PHR)
- Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)
- NIHR Fellowships Programme

Visit the [NIHR webpage](#) for further information about the call for potential applicants. This includes a specifications document which broadly outlines the remit for each participating programme as well as FAQs.

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Commissioned Call for Proposals

Applicants are being invited to submit proposals on the following commissioning briefs:

13/13 Clinical risk scores for suspected ovarian cancer
13/14 Psychological intervention for post-stroke depression
13/15 Medical therapy with steroids in treating Chronic Subdural Haematoma (CSDH)
13/16 Immunisation of Children and Young People Looked After by the State
13/17 Feasibility of psychological interventions for preventing blood borne virus infection in people who inject drugs
13/18 Peer support for breastfeeding maintenance
13/19 A prognostic tool to aid clinical management decisions in acute ankle sprain
13/20 Prognostic models for people with advanced cancer
13/21 Suspected acute pulmonary embolism in pregnancy
13/22 Multiparametric MRI in planning epilepsy surgery
13/23 Mechanical insufflation-exsufflation devices for assisted cough in neuromuscular disease
13/24 Early pulmonary rehabilitation after an exacerbation of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
13/25 Interventions to enhance engagement in exercise referral schemes
13/26 Early intervention for people with adhesive capsulitis of the shoulder
13/27 Non-neuroleptic mood stabilising medication for challenging behaviour in adults with intellectual disability
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor versus cognitive behavioural therapy for people with
generalised anxiety disorder
Orthotic management of instability of the knee in neuromuscular disease
Preoperative smoking cessation interventions

Closing dates, application forms and associated documents for all commissioned calls are available
on the HTA Programme Website.

Anticipated EME (Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation) Future Commissioned Calls

Please note that research in the following broad areas is likely to be commissioned during the next
year, although the titles and timings may be subject to change. The individual commissioning briefs,
which will be published when the calls open, will define the details of the calls. Please visit the
website for more up-to-date details.

- Substance misuse and abuse in younger people (to exclude nicotine)
- Nuclear medicine for imaging in non-malignant disease
- Sarcopenia and its effects on the frail and elderly (to exclude falls)
- Chronic pain
- Disorders of the skin
- Non-respiratory sleep disorders
- Non-suicidal self-injury and suicidal behaviours

Training & Employment Opportunities

Florence Nightingale Foundation Research Scholarships

Research Scholarships provide a fantastic chance to engage in nursing and midwifery research
activity and applications are now open for 2013-14 Scholarships with a closing date of Wednesday
15th May 2013.

These scholarships are available to nurses and midwives who have current registration with the
Nursing and Midwifery Council and work and are resident in the UK. They are awarded for projects
which will be of direct benefit to patients and the professions more widely. Scholarships provide up
to £5,000 for a scholar to undertake a course in research methods, research modules or a
dissertation/thesis as part of an academic course of study. The Foundation will also consider post-
doctoral nursing or midwifery research projects.

All of these must involve clinically focused research i.e. must be able to demonstrate impact on
patient care and be academically supervised or supported. The Foundation is open to applications in
all areas of care but in 2013/14 is particularly interested in supporting scholarships looking at the
following 4 key areas:

- Long term conditions (including dementia) across the whole care pathway
- End of life care
- Projects that improve the patient/user experience, enhance dignity, health or wellbeing
- Enhancing clinical leadership

For more information visit the Foundation’s website.