

# UK DCTN Annual General Meeting 2017

Liverpool  
5 July 2017

## Attendees:

Hywel Williams (Chair), Stephen Jones, Shelley Dowey, John Ingram, Farina Hashmi, Susannah George, Abby Macbeth, Carsten Flohr, Rubeta Matin, Tara Burton, Sinead Langan, Shernaz Walton, Rachel Abbott, Aaron Wernham, Lea Solman, Jonathan Batchelor, Alison Sears, Catherine Harwood, Agustin Martin-Clavijo, Hazel Bell, Emma Veysey, Jason Thomson, Alia Ahmed, Andrew Birnie, Catherine Smith, Charlotte Proby, Jenny Knobes (part via TC)

## Actions

Action/ Resolution	Owner	Date due
SCART study team to consider feedback received today and incorporate into the study design and application moving forward	Jenny Knobes	Sept 2017
Alia Ahmed to contact Catherine Smith for the contact details of the psychologist in London with focus group experience.	Alia Ahmed	August 2017

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome

Hywel Williams welcomed everyone to the AGM which is open to all UK DCTN members in addition to the steering group members and remarked on the present high level of activity in the network. He expressed concern at Carron Layfield's absence due to health problems and all wished her well.

### 2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

The Previous minutes were accepted as a true record.

Hywel announced the appointment of two new patient representatives to the steering group. They are; Tim Burton and Patricia Fairbrother, both have extensive experience in research. Hywel commented that more patient representatives are always needed and made a request to Steering group members present to put forward additional suitable candidates' names for the committee.

Two studies had been presented at the previous meeting in February:

- **'TEST study' What is the value of food allergy testing in primary care, Chief Investigator: Matthew Ridd.** A full application for a substantial feasibility study (£570K) was submitted to the NIHR School of Primary Care, Southampton in March 2017. Initial feedback received last month indicates funding will be awarded upon addressing comments/ requests for further info.

- **Order and timing of applying topical treatments for eczema (trainee group) Chief Investigator: Parastoo Babakinejad .**

Parastoo and the team have since acted on the feedback from Steering Committee and plans for an RCT are now on hold until further evidence has been identified from in-vitro and in-vivo lab based studies. It may well be that further output from biomechanical studies may answer the research question without the need for an RCT.

### 3. AGM business:

- **Treasurers Report**

Due to the absence of Carron Layfield from the meeting (UKDCTN Treasurer) Hywel Williams (UK DCTN Chair) presented the financial summary from the bank accounts for 2016/2017. He reported that income does look healthy for this year due to contributions from new studies coming in during 2016. However, it is important to note that the total committed funds for the year ahead accounts for over 50% of the total account balance and total projected spend is nearly twice that of income. It would be advantageous for the network to continue to secure between £10-20K income per annum over the next few years. The main source of income generation should be met by ensuring that any new funded studies that the network assists in developing and working up funding applications for, include a financial element to help ensure the network's continuity. Subsequent discussions around sources of future funding via patients and the public were made.

**Post Meeting note:** the current UK DCTN website does have the facility to make a donation which is linked to the charity Bank Account. Please see <https://www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/uk-dermatology-clinical-trials-network-uk-dctn/ccregno1115745>

### 4. Vignette presentation: SCART: High risk primary Squamous cell Carcinoma treated by surgical excision with or without Adjuvant Radiation Therapy. Chief Investigators: Catherine Harwood and Jenny Knobes.

Dr Catherine Harwood presented this study proposal alongside Dr Jenny Knobes (an Oncologist with experience in radiotherapy trials) via teleconference, to assist with questions. The SCART study aims to establish the feasibility of performing a phase III RCT evaluating the role of adjuvant radiotherapy (ART) vs no ART in improving outcomes for surgically excised, high-risk primary cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (pcSCC). The SCART study proposal has been developed based on the funder's feedback of the COMMISSAR study that intended to compare conventional surgery versus Mohs' Micrographic surgery for high risk SCC lesions with Adjuvant Radiotherapy. This was submitted for funding and subsequently was rejected by the Cancer Research UK Late phase clinical trials scheme during 2016.

Hywel commented that the UK DCTN are very keen to progress an RCT in keratinocyte carcinoma, particularly in SCC, but acknowledged that the current SCART proposal still requires further development work prior to the committee formally approving the study. The main issue was that it was not formulated as a feasibility study in its current form. Discussions held on the day of the AGM should be considered preliminary.

The SCART team will be invited to return to present again at the next Steering Group Committee meeting, as the committee felt that such a study would help to address important clinical questions in an area of unmet and increasing clinical need.

***NB. Detailed feedback will be provided directly to the group but a summary of the Steering group feedback is as follows:***

- Consider further qualitative research with patients and members of the public to establish the important outcomes, and assist designing a patient information leaflet
- Consider conducting a longer feasibility study prior to the main RCT.
- Consider conducting an updated literature research on late adverse effects of ART such as secondary tumours appearing in radiotherapy treated sites
- Consider a standardised surgical approach to ensure results are comparable and to minimise variation in practice.

- There were concerns that there may be very few eligible patients on the ground or a lack of willingness from MDT meetings to recruit from an elderly patient population.
- Consider co-morbidities and frailty in the patient population
- Should radiotherapy be given in narrow excised margins?
- Further surveys are required to re-assess whether there is any better data on likely event rates to plan the main trial and in assessing the number of eligible patients for the study requirements.
- Further surveys of MDTs are required to agree on the correct research question and to get a feel for the variation of treatment geographically
- Consider standardising the radiotherapy schedule in the study and make it clearer why blinding with sham radiotherapy would not be practical

## 5. Trial Generation & Prioritisation Panel (TGPP) Update

John Ingram reported that the panel held a successful meeting earlier and wanted to express his gratitude to the committed group who have continued to provide rapid and comprehensive feedback on recently submitted vignettes. He subsequently provided a brief summary of the meeting held earlier today commenting, as follows:

- **Themed Call Skin Health for older people.** This has been largely successful with 3 applications received. Applications have been from a variety of conditions in areas of unmet need where research gaps have been identified. A specialist panel with an expertise in Skin Care for older people will review and shortlist during the summer. General study design input will be made from 3 independent members of the TGPP as well as Patient input being provided at the Steering Committee by members who are experienced in skin conditions affecting older people.
- **A 2018 Trainee Day** is to be held in at the BAD on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The topics will solely focus on a Dermatological based surgical theme as groups and projects in this area have worked the best previously. Places will be limited to 4-5 groups with a total of 25 trainees. Advertising will commence at the end of 2017 with each group being assigned 2-3 mentors. The UK DCTN and Dev Shah are currently engaged to promote this across the British Society for Dermatological Surgery (BSDS).

## 6. Ongoing Trials and trials in development

- **Applications for pump-priming funds**  
One application has been received in June 2017 for a prospective study to record post-operative infection rates (OASIS study). This is currently under review by the Executive Committee, and a decision to award will be made over the Summer.
- **Update on on-going and newly funded studies**  
A Summary is provided in the appended BAD Annual Report
- **Update on the Psychological Interventions for Vitiligo Study- 2013 Trainee Group (Alia Ahmed)**  
Alia Ahmed presented the progress of this study group which has evolved from the output of the 2013 trainee group and received funding from the 2013 themed call award. The team are trying to develop a Psychological Intervention for patients. They have now completed two patient focus groups and hope to complete a third.

A Health Care Professional focus group is also planned and the team are now seeking advice from the Steering Group on how best to set this up as only nine expressions of interest have been received due to; lack of availability, timings and geographical spread. Suggestions from experienced members of the Steering Committee concluded that an online platform could be the way forward. Catherine Smith commented that she could put the team in touch with a psychologist in her team in London that may be able to assist with this.

*A copy of the presentation slides are provided here:*



Alia Ahmed\_vitiligo  
study update 2017.p

- **Update on trials in development**

A Summary is provided in the appended BAD Annual Report

- **Update on priority setting partnerships**

**Psoriasis-** This is being coordinated at the University of Manchester. The first steering group meeting was held on 19 June 2017, and the survey was launched at this annual BAD meeting. The link to the survey can be found here:

<https://www.psoriasis-association.org.uk/research/psp>

**Cellulitis-**The final workshop was undertaken in April 2017 and the top 10 published – Kim Thomas is currently working with the NIHR to look at what ideas can be best answered via research questions.

**Hyperhidrosis—**The first Steering Committee meeting will be held at the end of July. The group is still looking for additional patient representatives and have requested that the UK DCTN put a call out members to consider any of their patients for additional representation.

**Lichen Sclerosis-**This PSP has been funded by the BSSVD and is being co-ordinated by Dr Rosalind Simpson in Nottingham. The first steering group meeting will be held at the BAD on 18<sup>th</sup> July and the first survey likely to go live during the summer months.

**Hidradenitis Suppurativa-**The UK DCTN is hopeful that there will be a HTA commissioned call on the management of HS in the near future.

**Date of next Steering Committee meeting:**

**1.30pm, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017, BAD House, London**