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**UK DCTN to launch themed research call with associated £10K development award: 2012 theme *acne and rosacea***

Following approval by both the Steering and Executive Committees, the UK DCTN is to launch a 'Themed Research Call' early next year. This annual call will run in parallel to our usual process of submitting research ideas but will focus on a particular disease each year. Associated with this themed call will be a £10,000 fund to assist with further development of the best study idea. For example, this can be used to help with pilot work towards obtaining funding for a full scale clinical trial in the area.

The theme of the call will be linked to the Annual Evidence Based Update (EBU) Meeting, as this topic has already been prioritised by the dermatology community. So, for 2012 the theme will be **acne and rosacea**. The process of application for this scheme will be via our standard vignette submission forms which are available on our website [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org). We are happy to accept applications for this themed call from all UK and Ireland based Network members from January 2012 onwards with a closing date of 15th June 2012. We hope that members will pay particular attention to uncertainties in the field identified at the acne and rosacea EBU meeting which is taking place on 10th May 2012 (see page 3 for further details).

The submitted research suggestions will then be prioritised by the Trial Generation and Prioritisation Panel at the BAD Annual Meeting in July with the top three then being presented for further consideration at the October 2012 Steering Committee meeting. Committee Members will be balloted anonymously on their views and the study idea with the highest overall score will be awarded the development funds. Staff at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre will then work with the study team to move their research suggestion forward. We hope that this initiative will lead to an increase in high quality research suggestions made to the UK DCTN along with an element of research prioritisation.

The process for this themed call is summarised below. If you would like further information about this themed call and how to submit your acne and rosacea research suggestions then please contact the UK DCTN Senior Trials Development Manager Tessa Clarke on [tessa.clarke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:tessa.clarke@nottingham.ac.uk) or 0115 8468622.

**Summary of Themed Research Call on Acne and Rosacea**

Submit idea  
via vignette form

Closing date  
15th June 2012

Prioritisation of  
ideas by TGPP

Early July 2012

Top 3 ideas presented  
to Steering Committee

9th October 2012

Idea with highest  
overall score  
awarded up to  
£10K  
development  
funds

## New UK DCTN SpR Fellows Announced

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2011-2013 UK DCTN SpR Fellowship Awards. Now on our fifth cohort of applicants, the awards are well established and highlight the training opportunities that becoming more involved with the Network can offer to the SpR community. The scheme provides the successful applicants with a thorough and complete training in clinical trials research. This year saw the award of the second Neil Cox UK DCTN SpR Fellowship which was awarded to the applicant with the highest overall score. This award is given in memory of the late Dr Neil Cox who was such a strong supporter of the Network.

As in previous years, all applications were of extremely high quality and the successful

applicants (pictured right) are Dr Fiona Meredith from Aberdeen, who was awarded the Neil



Cox Award and Dr Rachel Abbott who is based in Cardiff. As part of the Fellowship programme they will now join the UK

DCTN Steering Committee and will visit the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre next year for further training opportunities. They will also attend the BEES dermatology-epidemiology course in January 2012 and spend time developing their critical appraisal skills with Prof Hywel Williams.

Drs Rubeta Matin, Donna Torley and Suyin Ong are now entering the second year of their Fellowship Awards and as such are getting more actively involved in individual projects and applying the skills they've learnt during the first year of their awards.

This of course means, that we are saying goodbye to our 2009-2011 UK DCTN SpR Fellows Drs Abby Macbeth, Kave Shams and Roz Simpson and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their efforts over the past two years. It is wonderful to see that all are now actively engaged in research and we are sure you will join us in wishing them well in their future careers. Kave is about to embark on a PhD investigating the manipulation of the chemokine system in psoriasis, Abby is working with the newly formed British Hair and Nails Group on moving research forward in this area and Roz is leading the UK DCTN project on erosive lichen planus in collaboration with Dr Ruth Murphy.

## Message from the Chair: The importance of identifying new trial ideas



'The UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network is now a mature and successful organisation, but in order to continue our success, it is important to identify new and important clinical topics for further clinical trial research. Sometimes these clinical research questions are identified in Cochrane reviews, but the best place to identify important clinical dilemmas is in the clinic. In this sense, UK DCTN members are in the best position to identify important questions and we are always open to suggestions for new trial ideas as a result of your observation.

There are two ways to do this. If you are keen on forming a team and submitting a formal proposal to the UK DCTN, then we will ask you to submit a vignette form which is then sent off to our Prioritisation Group. If, on the other hand, you are not particularly interested in doing the trial yourself, but you have spotted a really important clinical question which you would like to see answered, then just send that question in to our Senior Trials Development Manager Tessa Clarke at [tessa.clarke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:tessa.clarke@nottingham.ac.uk). Ideally, the question should contain 4 components: (1) the patient population, (2) the intervention, (3) the comparator, and (4) your preferred outcome that might change practice. So, if in future, you find your colleagues are going about a particular treatment or non-pharmacological intervention at your local dermatology meetings, think about sending in the question to us so we can prioritise them and hopefully identify teams to work on them.'

## Eczema Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) Update

Co-ordinated by the UK DCTN, the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology at the University of Nottingham (in collaboration with the James Lind Alliance) had a phenomenal response to the first Eczema PSP bringing in a total of 1100 research uncertainties. The team have now processed the data from the first survey taking out non-questions, questions that have already been answered by previous research and duplications. The resulting top 50 list of research uncertainties has now been ranked in a second survey and the top 10 list will be available shortly.

The final prioritisation workshop to turn this top 10 list into workable research questions is planned for January 2012. You can find more information about the partnership through the 'HOME' website at [www.homeforeczema.org](http://www.homeforeczema.org). For more information, contact Tessa Clarke, Senior Clinical Trials Development Manager; [Tessa.Clarke@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Tessa.Clarke@nottingham.ac.uk).



## 2012 Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting– Acne and Rosacea

We are now taking bookings for the 2012 Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting which is taking place at Holywell Park, Loughborough on Thursday 10th May. The subject topic for this one day meeting is acne and rosacea and speakers include Dr Alison Layton, Dr Fabienne Forton, Dr Sarah Garner and Dr Anders Sundstrom. Further information, including the full programme can be found on the UK DCTN website <http://www.ukdctn.org/meetings/evidence/index.asp>. The registration fee is £90 for UK DCTN members and £100 for non-members.

## Nursing Prize Award Winner

Following on from feedback from the nursing community, the UK DCTN Nursing Prize Award has been reformatted from a one to a two year award with a simplified application procedure. These changes have led to an increased number of applications for the award and the prize has been awarded to Angela Steen (pictured right), a Dermatology Clinical Nurse Specialist based at Glan Clwyd Hospital, Rhyl, North Wales.

Angela has over 22 years experience in dermatology nursing and is currently involved in recruiting patients into the STOP GAP study along with BADBIR and the St Johns' Institute acne genetics study. As part of an MSc

in wound healing and tissue repair, she designed and undertook a prospective study investigating nurse management of cellulitis in a District General Hospital environment. Along with the SpR Fellows, Angela will now join the UK DCTN Steering Committee and will strengthen her background in clinical research by taking part in other activities such as the BEES dermatology epidemiology course and a visit to the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre.



## New Chair of Trial Generation and Prioritisation Panel Appointed

Dr Carsten Flohr (pictured right) has taken over as Chair of the UK DCTN Trial Generation and Prioritisation Panel (TGPP). Following a PhD investigating 'Helminths and allergic disease in Vietnam' Carsten was awarded a NIHR Clinician Scientist Award and is now a Senior Lecturer and Consultant Dermatologist affiliated to King's College London, St John's Institute of Dermatology and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

We would like to thank outgoing chair Dr Ibrahim Nasr for his efforts in helping to establish this group and look forward to working with Carsten in further developing the TGPP and its crucial role in prioritising and generating research ideas for the UK DCTN.



## Update of On-Going and Completed Studies



A big welcome back to the trial manager Caroline Onions who has returned from maternity leave. Joining the BLISTER team is Sally Kucyj in the role of trial administrator. A total of 164 patients have now been recruited into this study of bullous pemphigoid. With a target of 256, recruitment is about 65% of what we had hoped it would be. To find out more about this study go to [www.blistertrial.co.uk](http://www.blistertrial.co.uk). See below for dates of 2012 Investigator Meetings.



A total of 92 patients are now in this RCT with an additional 54 patients in the observational study. The target for the RCT is 140 patients. An updated protocol for the study (version 4.0) is currently being distributed to all investigators. To find out more about this study on pyoderma gangrenosum go to [www.stopgaptrial.co.uk](http://www.stopgaptrial.co.uk). See below for dates of 2012 Investigator Meetings.



This Phase II study investigating the use of imiquimod to treat lentigo maligna closed to recruitment in August, with 30 patients out of a target of 44 being recruited. In total, 135 patients were screened for the study with the major reasons for non-enrolment being lack of eligibility (n=66), the study taking too much time (n=13) and concerns about delaying surgery (n=12). Data is now being analysed and the study will close in March 2012. Lessons learnt for a future full scale RCT include being more selective about choosing recruitment sites (4 out of 12 did not recruit) and the restrictive nature of the protocol.



Results for the PATCH I study are now being analysed and will be made available to investigators by the end of this year. Results from the PATCH II study were presented at the BAD Annual meeting and the British Lymphoedema Society Annual Meeting and were recently published in the British Journal of Dermatology as follows *UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network's PATCH Trial Team. Prophylactic antibiotics for the prevention of cellulitis (erysipelas) of the leg – results of the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network's PATCH II trial British Journal of Dermatology 2011 Sep 12. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2133.2011.10586.x.*

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 20th February 2012	BLISTER and STOP GAP Investigator Meeting	BAD House, London
1.30pm Tuesday 28th February 2012	UK DCTN Steering Committee Meeting	BAD House, London
3.30pm Tuesday 28th February 2012	UK DCTN Executive Committee Meeting	BAD House, London
Monday 19th March 2012	BLISTER and STOP GAP Investigator Meeting	BAD House, London
Thursday 10th May 2012	2012 EBU meeting (acne and rosacea)	Holywell Park, Loughborough

### UK DCTN Contact Details

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