

# Network News

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## Clinical trials update

### 1. Cellulitis (PATCH trial)



#### Prophylactic Antibiotics for the prevention of recurrent cellulitis of the leg - RCT and Pilot Study

Trial suggested by: Dr Neil Cox, Carlisle



We are very pleased to announce that **Action Medical Research** have **agreed to fund** this three year **RCT** to look at the effectiveness of prophylactic antibiotics in preventing recurrent cellulitis of the leg.

The next few months will be spent finalising the protocol, **setting up** the study and gaining approval from the MHRA, Ethics committees and local Trusts. We have advertised for a **Clinical Trial Manager** and we hope to have the appointed person in place by October. It is anticipated that **recruitment** for the PATCH RCT will commence in March 2006.

This study will be the **first multi-centre RCT** conducted by UK DCTN members. Therefore, it is especially important that we ensure this study is a success, and it is completed on time and within budget.

The **PATCH pilot study** (funded by the British Skin Foundation) is **now complete**. It has proved invaluable in designing the main RCT. The take -

home message from the pilot study was that recruitment for the RCT will be far more difficult than originally thought for this relatively common condition.

There were **two main reasons** for this:

- ❖ **Difficult to locate suitable patients**  
Cellulitis patients are rarely seen by dermatologists and admissions are not coordinated centrally. Therefore many of the recruiting centres found it difficult to locate suitable patients. Some centres suggested that more administrative support would help with recruitment, and this is something that we are currently investigating.
- ❖ **Impact of Exclusion Criteria**  
Only 37% of patients enrolled in the pilot study fulfilled the proposed inclusion criteria for the RCT and were prepared to accept randomisation.

So **as a result** of this pilot study, we are working hard to:

1. Develop **recruitment strategies** which will help locate suitable patients.
2. Revise the **protocol** to maximise recruitment.

Feedback from those centres that took part in the pilot study will be crucial in establishing whether or not these new measures are feasible and worthwhile.

### 2. STOP-GAP trial

#### Topical and Oral Treatments for Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Trial suggested by: Dr Tony Ormerod, Aberdeen

The proposal has been written for this study and has been submitted for **peer review**. The review process has raised a number of important points for the study team to discuss. It is anticipated that funding for this trial will be sought from the British Skin Foundation in the first instance. If anyone else would like to peer review this proposal, details are available from the peer review section on the UK DCTN website ([www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org)).

### 3. New trial suggestions

A number of trial suggestions and proposals were discussed at the AGM in July.

- **Surgery vs imiquimod for the treatment of Lentigo Maligna** – proposed by Jerry Marsden

As a result of the group discussion, this vignette will be revised and submitted for discussion at the next Steering Group meeting.

- **Moh's vs standard excisional surgery for cutaneous SCC** – proposed by Colin Fleming & Cliff Lawrence

Members voted to take this vignette forward to an outline proposal.

Remember, if you have an idea for a clinical trial please submit it via the website ([www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org)) or get in touch with Jo Chalmers if you prefer to discuss your idea initially.

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### New website

The new UK DCTN website is **now up and running**. This site has been professionally designed in conjunction with Ludwood Interactive. It replaces the old website and aims to be a **comprehensive resource** for all Network members. It contains:

- ❖ Latest news from the Network
- ❖ Details of up and coming events
- ❖ Status of all Network studies
- ❖ Useful information and documents for recruiting centres
- ❖ Discussion forum
- ❖ Lots more!

So, please do go and have a look and let us know what you think – remember it is your Network so the website needs to work for you.

The **new website address** is [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org)

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### Training workshop

The first UK DCTN **training workshop** has been arranged for Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006. The topic for the day will be '**How to Design a Good Clinical Trial**'. The day will be interactive, with workshops and talks and plenty of opportunity for questions and discussions.

The workshop is **free** to members. For more details go to the website ([www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org)) or contact Jo Chalmers.

## Management issues

### Changes in personnel at the co-ordinating centre

Dr Kim Thomas has now taken up a post as a non-clinical senior lecturer in the Centre of Evidence-based Dermatology, Nottingham.

Dr **Jo Chalmers** has taken over as the **Manager** for the Network. Her contact details can be found at the end of this newsletter.



We recently advertised for a Data Manager for the Network, but unfortunately we didn't find a suitable candidate. We will re-advertise this post in the coming months.

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### Publicity

Many of you will have seen us at the **BAD meeting** in Glasgow where we had a stand for the first time. This was a great success, generating more awareness for the Network, with several new members joining as a result. We also held the **Annual General Meeting**, which was very well attended and saw some very good discussion about trial suggestions and other Network matters.

### Dr Jo Chalmers UK DCTN Manager

### Dates for your diary

- **18<sup>th</sup> October 2005**  
13:00 – 15:00 - Steering Group Meeting  
15:00 – 16:00 - Executive Group only  
BAD House, London
- **31<sup>st</sup> January 2006**  
UK DCTN Training workshop – How to Design a Good Clinical Trial  
10:00 – 16:00  
Postgraduate Centre, OMC, Nottingham

### New staff contact details:

**Jo Chalmers, UK DCTN Manager**  
E-mail: [joanne.chalmers@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.chalmers@nottingham.ac.uk)  
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For contact details of other UK DCTN staff, visit the website [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org)