

Role and Responsibilities of a UK DCTN Trainee Group Member (2024 Trainee Groups)

UK DCTN Trainee Groups aim to enable more dermatologists at the early stages of their career to become actively engaged in research. The aim of the group is to provide training in the processes that are required to develop a clinical trial in skin disease in the NHS. Working in small groups of 5-6 under the guidance of experienced mentors, trainees will develop clinical research ideas over a period of 6 months. Each group formulates a clinically important research question using appropriate tools for presentation at a linked study day. Potential outputs include poster and abstract presentations at the BAD Annual meeting and publications of Critically Appraised Topics in BJD. It is hoped that some groups will progress longer term to develop their study ideas further into larger feasibility studies and fundable RCT proposals. This training programme is provided free of charge by the UK DCTN but you will be responsible for your own travel expenses to attend associated meetings and events.

The time commitment for a UK DCTN Trainee Group member is approx. half a day per week over a period of 6 months with key activities including:

- Participation in an initial online half-day training event (Tues 5th March 2024, am) and a full face to face study day (Weds 16th October 2024, BAD offices, London).
- As part of a group, identifying a research question using sources such as Priority Setting Partnerships, systematic reviews and published studies.
- As part of a group, undertaking relevant feasibility work to develop this research question which can include surveys, literature reviews, patient involvement work and small audits.
- Participation in a number (usually a minimum of 4) of teleconferences/remote meetings (please note these often take place out of usual working hours).
- Preparing documents and presentations for the study day.
- Drafting and writing publications/outputs including abstracts, posters, CATs and other publications.
- Potentially becoming part of a study team and supporting a formal funding application if the work of the group is successful and progresses.

Trainee Group Members should seek to deliver these activities by:

- Building good working relationships with other group members.
- Listening to and acting on the advice of their experienced group mentors.
- Proactively developing their knowledge base.
- Working as part of a team to deliver agreed goals to timelines.
- Communicating effectively with all and responding to requests in a timely manner.
- Ensuring publications are submitted to maximise academic outputs.

To participate as a UK DCTN Trainee Group member you should:

- Have (or have evidence that you are about to be awarded) an NTN in dermatology **or** be pursuing an alternative dermatology career training pathway (eg CESR) **or** be a Staff or Associate Specialist in Dermatology with a keen interest in research.
- Be a member of the UK DCTN and share the ethos and values of the network.
- Be able to dedicate half a day a week to this activity.
- Be enthusiastic, committed and prepared to work hard.
- Be able to work as part of a team to deliver relevant activities.
- Be able to work without close supervision.
- Although not essential, ideally have some experience of clinical research e.g. undertaken systematic reviews, recruited patients to clinical trials etc. This could have been gained earlier in your clinical training and doesn't necessarily have to be dermatology related.