

## WELCOME TO THE UKTMN SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Over the last 12 months the Network membership has grown from 530 members to >750 members. We would like to welcome all of you who have joined recently and encourage you to use the Forums to make contacts and exchange experiences (<http://www.tmn.ac.uk/news/220704/Discussion-Forums-on-the-UKTMN-website.htm>). The Network has a membership with a broad knowledge-base and a huge variety of experiences – make use of it and Network.

### Update from the Working Group

The Working Group was convened in December 2013 following the withdrawal of the Network's NIHR funding. The remit of the Working Group is to:

- guide and support the organisation and development of network activities during the transition phase (2014-2015)
- guide the future strategic development of the network

The group has been meeting monthly and has developed four subgroups; training, website update, Professional Membership Scheme and the Guide to Efficient Trial Management. The Working Group will be seeking feedback from members in developing these areas of the Network activities over the coming months and years so it can continue to support trial managers to deliver high quality trials on time and within budget. The members of the Working Group are:

Elaine McColl (Chair)  
 Sarah Meredith  
 Alison McDonald  
 Suzanne Hartley  
 Chris Bray  
 Louise Bowman  
 Barbara Farrell  
 Helen Hickey  
 Kath Foster  
 Helen Meadows

Newcastle CTU  
 MRC@UCL, London  
 CHaRT, Aberdeen  
 CTRU, Leeds  
 CTSU, Oxford  
 NDPH, Oxford  
 NPEU, Oxford  
 Liverpool CTU  
 Nottingham University  
 ICTM, UCL, London

## Network funding

The Nuffield Department of Population Health (NDPH) at Oxford University has given a commitment to provide further funding to underpin the UKTMN's activities for at least two more years. This is to allow sufficient time to develop and implement ways of meeting members' key requirements, which are listed below, and recognises that it may take some time to build the sustainable model currently planned. This model involves a membership fee and a membership of around 450 paying members. The support from the NDPH means that we can defer the introduction of membership fees until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

The NIHR have generously provided funding to support the Annual Meeting for 2015 and 2016.

## Annual meeting

The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held in London on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. The programme is now being planned and we would like to include two or three oral presentations from members of the Network. Trial management deals with big issues that can make or break a trial, for example recruitment and retention, operationalisation of complex designs and many more. If you have faced a trial management challenge and found an innovative solution why not share it with the Network? We would also be very interested to receive offers of presentations from members on their practical experience of implementing SWATs (Studies Within A Trial). Each presentation will be 15 minutes with an additional five minutes for questions.

To be considered for an oral presentation you must submit a 500 word abstract by email to [tmn@ndph.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tmn@ndph.ox.ac.uk). **The deadline is 5pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.** If your abstract is selected for presentation then the reasonable travel costs for the presenting author will be covered by UKTMN.

Invitations to the meeting will be emailed to members shortly. We have as always limited space so it will definitely be on a first come first served basis. There is no registration fee but you will be required to confirm that you will make your own arrangements to cover your travel costs.



## Training

The training sub-group will be working in collaboration with the Institute of Clinical Trial and Methodology at UCL and other providers to make a range of training courses available to Network members at reduced rates.

## Website

The UKTMN website will change over the coming months. It will be hosted by a new provider. **Watch this space as we will need testers towards the end of the year.**

## Professional Membership Scheme

Alongside the new website we are working in collaboration with The Global Health Network to develop a bespoke Trial Managers' professional membership scheme which will map an individual's training, skills and experience against recognised competencies provided by the NIHR. **Watch this space.**

## The Guide

The fourth edition of the Guide to Efficient Trial Management was published and uploaded to the website in May 2014. The sub-group responsible for ensuring an up-to-date version of the Guide is always available has re-convened an Editorial Board and aims to review the Guide and produce an updated version by the Spring of 2016. We have posted a news item on the website requesting your feedback on the Guide so that we can make the next edition as user friendly as possible. If you come across any mistakes when browsing through the Guide please do not hesitate to let us know, bearing in mind that some information goes out of date very quickly. We hope to update the Guide bi-annually in the future.

## Introducing a new member of the UKTMN team:

### Ginny Burch

My main role is to work as an HR Assistant for Oxford University's Nuffield Department of Population Health, supporting the recruitment and selection process for the department. Since the last annual meeting in November 2014 I have also provided administrative support to the UKTMN, with specific responsibility for the management and maintenance of the website.



## Upcoming courses and events for trial managers

### UKTMN Annual Meeting

**UCL, London**

10<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – **SAVE THE DATE**

<http://www.tmn.ac.uk>

### ICTMC 2015

3rd International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) in Glasgow.

16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015

<http://ictmc.uk/the-conference/>

### 18<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh Clinical Trial Management Course

A two-day course focusing on management of randomised controlled trials (RCTs).

24th - 25th November 2015

[www.dcn.ed.ac.uk/ectmc](http://www.dcn.ed.ac.uk/ectmc)

Please let us know if you would like to write a piece for the next edition of  
**The INSIDER**

**UK Trial Managers' Network**

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