

Research Network

NETWORK NEWS

Welcome to the new issue of Network News

Pan Birmingham Cancer Research Network Trusts continue to work towards increasing recruitment into portfolio studies. In particular recruitment into randomised controlled trials continues to increase. The balance across the cancer disease site portfolio has been maintained and plans are to look more closely at the balance within disease sites and in the cross-cutting groups. This mirrors what is happening nationally.

Examples of how Pan Birmingham Cancer Research Network is working to meet the national NCRN and wider National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network agenda include:

Research has recently become a standard agenda item on the Supportive and Palliative Care NSSG for the first time this year, reflecting the expansion of research activity in this area.

The number of Industry Expressions of Interest (EOI) requests continue to increase and timelines remain extremely tight. Suzanne Sumara, the newly appointed Operations and Development Manager, is currently undertaking a review of the 'EOI Pathway' with the intention of providing more timely information and meaningful feedback.

Other work streams include Feasibility Criteria Guidelines and Time and Target Analysis.

Imaging Research Coordinators

PBCRN is one of the first Networks to have an active policy of supporting Trusts to appoint dedicated Imaging Research Coordinators. This post is designed to be a central point of contact to ensure that studies involving imaging are appropriately set up, patient examinations completed in line with GCP standards and IR(ME)R, the regulations relating to medical ionising radiation exposure, are met. Surprisingly, many patient information leaflets are not compliant with the regulations and these have to be changed. The Coordinators in Pan Birmingham are contributing to the national agenda of early recognition/identification of study specific demands on imaging departments.

Barriers to Research Lung Meeting

The Research Network held the first Network-wide 'Barriers to Research Meeting' chaired by Dr Arvind Rajaeskaren, on 21 January 2011.

The meeting was well attended and the participants were engaged and vocal. Some excellent discussion took place and many real solutions were shared. Although a few actions are ongoing, it was felt that we had achieved a great deal in the meeting. The feedback was positive with everyone who attended believing it was worth while.

The Network are happy to support other teams with similar meetings. If you are interested please contact

suzanne.sumara@westmidlands.nhs.uk



National
Cancer
Research
Network

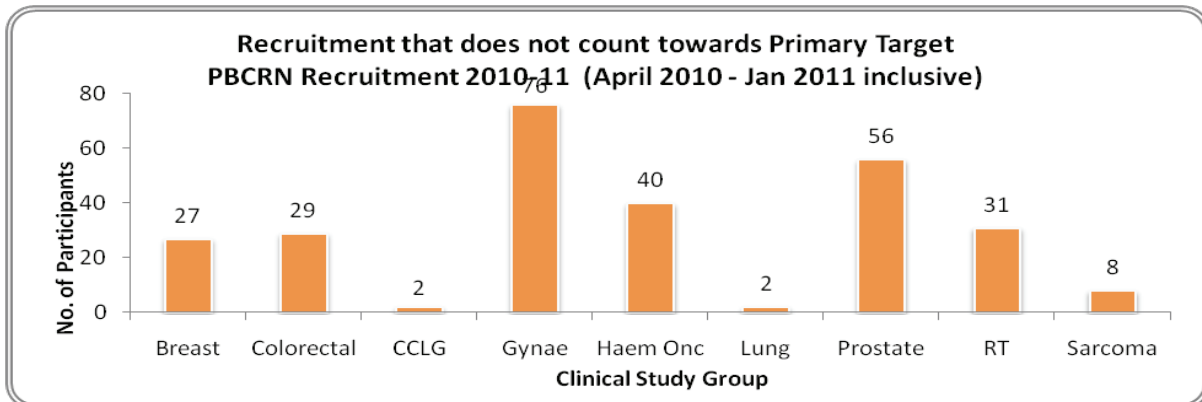
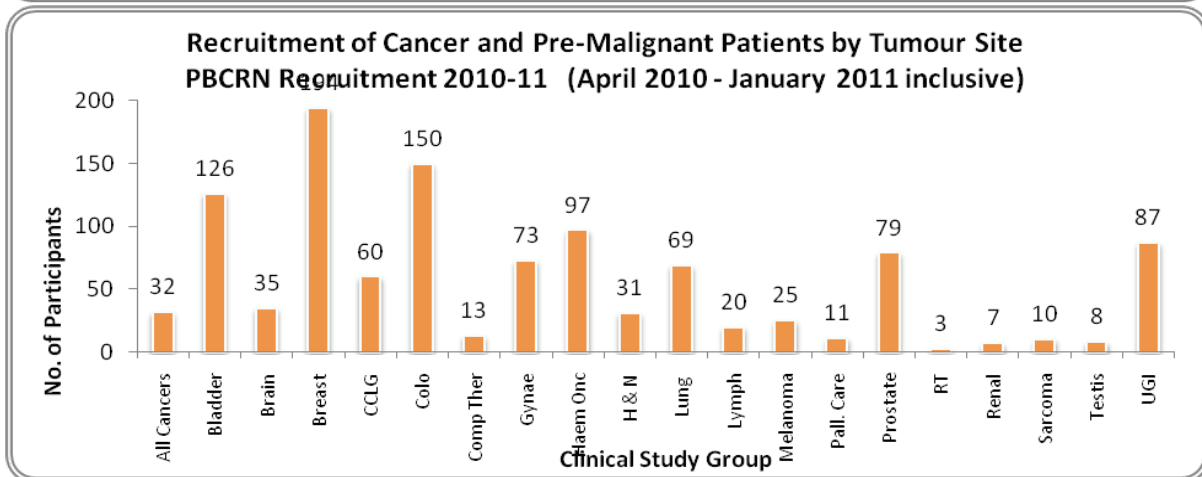
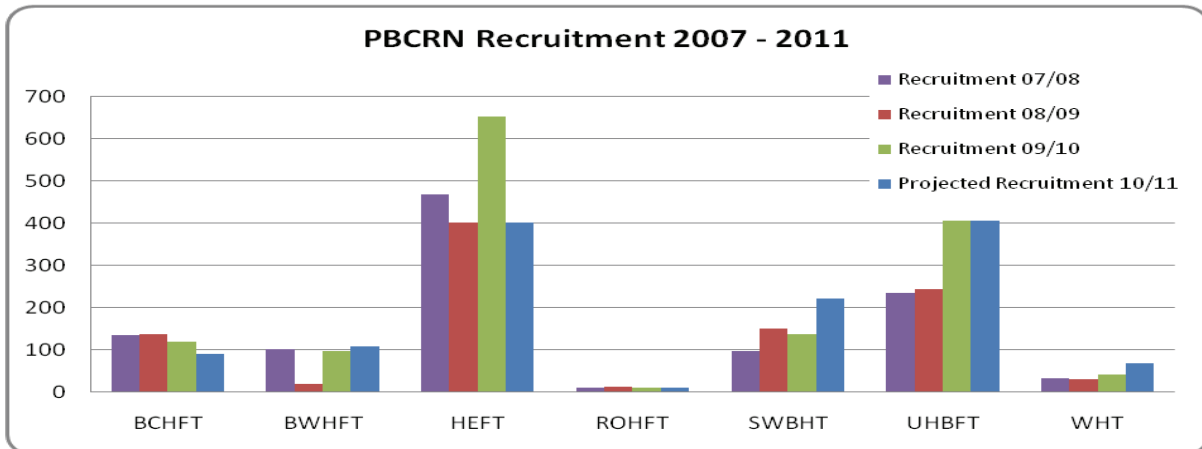
Pan Birmingham Cancer Research Network,
Room 102 Birmingham Research Park,
97 Vincent Drive, Birmingham, B15 2SQT
Tel: 0121-414 5346
PBCRN@westmidlands.nhs.uk

**March 2011
Issue 26**

PAN BIRMINGHAM CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK RECRUITMENT PERFORMANCE

The reporting of recruitment into National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) Portfolio studies is presently quite complex. The NCRN was established as part of the cancer plan and as a result all of our primary targets are associated with recruitment of patients with a cancer diagnosis. Cancer patients recruitment now includes patients with diagnosis of a pre-malignant condition. In order not to over report participation, patients that are involved in sub-studies are recorded as 'non-cancer' along with volunteers recruited into screening, prevention and diagnostic studies and controls.

Please note: This accrual graph includes **all** data for Solihull Hospital. Not all of these patients are attributed to PBCRN as recruitment at Solihull Hospital is undertaken by a visiting Arden CRN Oncologist



PBCRN Trusts-
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BCHFT), Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust (BWHFT), Heart of England* NHS Foundation Trust (HEFT), Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (ROHFT), Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBHT), University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT), Walsall Hospital NHS Trust (WHT)

* (Solihull Hospital shared with Arden Network)

Industry Report February 2011

PBCRN continues to perform well on the Industry Portfolio. We often match National recruitment rates and, in some cases, exceed them. We are kept informed of recruitment targets by way of monthly RAG reports from the Coordinating Centre. The newly appointed Operations and Development Manager will work with individuals and Trusts to share this information and keep them informed of progress.

We are undertaking a number of small projects to support the expansion of our trials portfolio in pursuit of core objectives, to make research a front line service in the NHS and to recruit to time and target on a balanced portfolio including industry studies.

- A NSSG information pack – to be circulated to all NSSG members: outlining expectations; role and responsibilities; research reporting requirements and recruitment v referral explanations.
- Setting up 'Barriers to Research' Meetings – to explore issues within Teams and/or Trusts which may be hindering recruitment.
- Flow chart of process for 'expressions of interest' – to be circulated to teams.

It is anticipated that these will all be implemented by the spring.

Cancer Clinical Trials Methodology (Advanced) 28 & 29 April 2010

I was fortunate in April to attend the Cancer Clinical Trials Methodology (Advanced) course at the UCL Cancer Trials Centre in London.

The course takes place over two quite intensive days, combining lectures with workshops. It is aimed primarily at people experienced in working in the front line of Cancer Research Clinical Trials and are interested in seeing what goes on behind the scenes of the trial.

The series of lectures are very much designed to give you a flavour of subjects such as designing a clinical trial, the statistical considerations behind it and getting the trial up and running through a maze of regulations and approvals.

For me, one of the highlights included a lecture on the ARSAC/IRMER regulations that govern the radiology aspects of trials. This primer really helped me get to grips with what it all means, why it is there and what exactly a Medical Physics Expert does! (They check the Patient

Information Sheet and Protocol to see if the information regarding radiation exposure to the patient is correct and acceptable)

There was also a talk from a patient who had been involved with three clinical trials during his treatment. It was fascinating to listen to his experiences and also his belief that taking part in trials was an important thing both to him and other patients. It was particularly interesting as he admitted he had very little knowledge of what the trial was about and could not remember the names of the trials but all he knew at the time was:

1. It might do some good for someone
2. It might do some good for me!
3. It cannot do any harm (can it?)

Overall this was an excellent two days that opened my eyes to a lot of new aspects of clinical trials and will be of real benefit to me in the future.

Best of all, it was a great chance to meet new Research Nurses and Data Managers from around the country and compare our own experiences and realise we all seem to encounter the same situations!

James Whitehouse
Cancer Research Coordinator, HEFT

The day was oversubscribed, so for the next course, book early!



We are proud to announce that our website has been updated. Just click!

<http://www.birminghamcancer.nhs.uk/research>

Forthcoming Events

To include details of local and national events in PBCRN Communications and on the website, please email details to PBCRN@westmidlands.nhs.uk

Introduction to Cancer Clinical Trials (ICCT) –Part 2

Course includes - Trial methodology and statistics with an emphasis on: Clinical outcome measures in cancer; Patient assessed outcomes in cancer; Design and analysis of clinical trials: Practical aspects of trial management; Grant applications; The IRAS application process; Overview of RECIST; Patient perspectives; Disseminating trial results to patients – workshop: Regulations; Human Tissue Act; IRMER/ARSAC; Trial contracts

Contact: Selina Bell 0113 343 0390 or s.bell@ncrn.org.uk

5 & 6 April 2011
London

Living with Cancer: symptom management from treatment to survivorship

The aim of this conference is to promote research which is relevant to the practice of nurses and allied health professionals working in cancer care. Speakers will be sharing information about cutting edge research. These will include: Symptoms and symptom management during cancer treatment; Late and long-term effects; Survivorship

Contact: education.events@christie.nhs.uk

7 April 2011
Manchester

Clinical Oncology

The course will initially concentrate on the scientific background to cancer, identifying changes at the cell and molecular level during disease progression from a pre-malignant condition through a non-invasive state to malignancy. This session will outline how cell number control and cell position control are lost in cancer development. This foundation will be used as a platform to examine the clinical management of cancer, from surveillance and screening mechanisms for early detection of illness to a consideration of the various options for treatment. The course will culminate in a series of sessions on the pathology and management of specific cancers.

Contact: Dr. Stephen Hicks 024 7652 3540 or s.j.hicks@warwick.ac.uk

1 – 15 July 2011
Warwick

Clinical Trials Methodology Conference

Topics will include: Complex interventions; Pragmatic trials; Health economics and trials; Outcome measures; Clustering within trials and cluster RCTs; Equivalence and non-inferiority trials; Patient involvement; Adaptive designs; Recruitment strategies; Trials in rare conditions; Survival analysis; Missing data; Retention and non-compliance; Biomarkers and trials; Trial conduct; Adverse effects

Contact: www.methodologyhubs.mrc.ac.uk/

4 & 5 October
Bristol

Focus on Melanoma

A full day meeting designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in the management of melanoma

Contact: Gill Stylianou 01223 274401 or gill.stylianou@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

19 October
London

NIHR Training is available to all staff working on NIHR Portfolio Studies including Medical Staff. Details of training available can be found on the NIHR CRC CC Website <http://www.crcc.nihr.ac.uk/training> .

Details of the local training programme can be found at www.brto.org.uk.

Contact Maggie at Maggie.Hope@westmidlands.nhs.uk, should you have a specific training need.

Clinical Lead
Network Manager
Operations & Development Manager
Lead Nurse
Information Officer
Network Administrator

Dr Daniel Ford
Gina Dutton
Suzanne Sumara
Jackie Sears
Matthew Nunn
Maggie Hope

Daniel.Ford@uhb.nhs.uk
Gina.Dutton@westmidlands.nhs.uk
Suzanne.Sumara@westmidlands.nhs.uk
Jackie.Sears@westmidlands.nhs.uk
Matthew.Nunn@westmidlands.nhs.uk
Maggie.Hope@westmidlands.nhs.uk