Diabetes Research Network
South West Peninsula LRN

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News for June 2009

Welcome!

Service User Workshops
We held three very successful diabetes research workshops this spring. The first was a follow-on workshop, for people who had previously participated in the introductory workshop with us. The day included a session with three 'real-life' researchers looking at study design practicalities and the reality of study design.

Another part of the workshop looked at the importance of involvement and contribution to a research project lay summary. Here the aim was to produce a piece of writing that could portray the key points and information in a simple and easy-to-understand way. Rosemary highlighted that there may be a need for volunteers in the future to help with lay summary writing, in particular for the summary of the research protocol necessary for future study's ethics applications.

We also held two more introductory workshops, one in Plymouth and the other just last week in Barnstaple. Both went very well and we are particularly delighted to be able to strengthen links with North Devon as DRN research activity there begins to take off.

Barnstaple
Now that we have a diabetes research nurse, Geraldine Belcher in post at North Devon District Hospital, we look forward to involving the research team there in our Network studies. Geraldine is currently working hard to get the DARE study set up and is helping the Exeter team with recruiting out of a South Molton GP practice. Valuable links have been made with the North Devon Diabetes UK Support Groups which we hope will lead to their continued input.

Feedback from the Research Priorities Questionnaire
Thank you to all who responded to our recent priorities questionnaire at the end of last year. The aim was to determine the broad areas of research that are important to patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes and their carers. The questionnaire was sent to 88 people on our PPI database (patients and public interested in being involved in diabetes research). With a response rate of 62.5%, the three top priorities for Type 1 were education, the prevention and treatment of neuropathy, and education at the time of diagnosis. The top three priorities for Type 2 diabetes were the cause and complications of Type 2, education at the time of diagnosis, and improvement of self-monitoring through blood testing. From this

small survey we have been able to draw the conclusions that gaps do exist between current research and the priorities identified and this exercise has given some good ideas for future work.

Reports from around the Peninsula
We think it is important to keep you up-to-date with all that is going on within our Network, with reports from around the region.

Exeter
The Exeter DRN research team continues to recruit to a wide range of both commercial and non-commercial clinical trials.

We continue to recruit to DARE and ADDRESS which are both databases of people with diabetes. We are currently collaborating with a practice in South Molton to recruit to DARE and have over 100 people to see in the next couple of months.

The Diabetes Patient Experience Project is scheduled to take place in June during 2 routine outpatient clinics. The aim of the study is to develop a method of enabling the diabetes patient experience to be captured, analysed and acted upon with a view to this becoming a regular audit collection at a local level.

Please telephone the Exeter team 01392 403897 if you would like to be considered for current or future research. We would be happy to hear from you.

Cornwall
The Cornwall Diabetes Research Network Team have continued to recruit well into the DARE study thanks to the willing volunteers in Cornwall. We have recently been informed that we have been selected as a site for the LanScape study, which is looking at comparisons in insulin regimes.

Also we have recently been joined by a new Diabetes Research Administrator Karen Eells, who started with us at the beginning of June so would like to welcome her to our team!

Plymouth
The Plymouth team continues to recruit well to DARE and DIPMAB. A sample and data collection study on Type 1 patients called PLEDGE has also recently been adopted by the DRN so we are also reintroducing recruitment to this. There are a number of industry sponsored studies in the pipeline so we are bracing ourselves for a very busy summer/autumn!

Torbay
The Torbay team have been very busy with new arrivals and with moving! The team are now based in the new Horizon building which is a purpose built research and education building. This has enabled not only the whole team working in the same building but also means they are working alongside research nurses from other specialties, such as Cancer and Stroke. We can also welcome Mary Costelloe, a new research nurse at Torbay who took up the post in May. Mary has been brought in to help with recruitment to DARE which continues to recruit well, along with ADDRESS which is a study with the aim of capturing newly diagnosed type 1 patients who are interested in taking part in future research.

Please do keep in touch with any news about your involvement in diabetes research or if you would like any further information.

With best wishes to you all.

Rosemary Sowden
Peninsula Diabetes Research Network Manager

Alison Foden
Peninsula Diabetes Research Network Administrator