

# Network Update

Issue 4 August 2008



The TV DLRN is a partnership of GP practices and hospitals in the Thames Valley, Coventry and Warwickshire area that have a mutual interest in research in diabetes and have come together to offer a high quality, high performance research environment. The Network provides benefits to patients by rapidly testing new ideas and treatments. We offer clinical support from a team of fully trained research nurses minimising the workload of partner centres. Partners in the network will also have access to extensive training and development opportunities through the UKDRN and UKCRN.

## New Network Studies

Four new commercial studies have been set up across the Network area over the last month and are beginning to recruit patients. Two studies are looking at the safety and efficacy of new treatments for diabetes; another is comparing two routinely used insulins in patients over the age of 70; and the fourth study is examining the efficacy of a treatment for chronic foot ulcers. Further details on commercial studies can be obtained from Sharon Parsons.

Three non-commercial studies are also in the process of being set up in the area including the **InCA** (Insulin and Carbohydrate Adjustment) study. InCA will be recruiting young adults with type 1 diabetes in the Oxfordshire area. The two other studies are both questionnaires: the **Co-Creating Health Initiative** in Coventry and Warwickshire and the **DTSQ** in Milton Keynes.

## Update on ongoing Studies

Both the **SAMS** and **HEELA** studies have now closed at all sites across the network, having recruited to target. A big thank you to all those involved in supporting these studies across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes.

The Evaluation of Intermediate Care Clinics for Diabetes (**ICCD**) has begun to recruit patients in the Coventry area. Recruitment in North Warwickshire is due to start in the next couple of months.

The **SAMS2** study has recruited well across the Milton Keynes area and is now following up the study participants.

The **YDX** Study, looking at the characteristics of people diagnosed with diabetes aged 45 years or younger, continues to recruit well in Oxfordshire. The study is now extending recruitment to Berkshire and will recruit participants at the Royal Berkshire Hospital from September onwards.

The **ASCEND** study continues to recruit from GP practices across Buckinghamshire, Coventry and Warwickshire with recruitment starting shortly in the Milton Keynes area.

For a full list of studies on the local portfolio please visit our page on the UKDRN website [www.ukdrn.org](http://www.ukdrn.org).

## News from across the Network

We are currently piloting a **Link Nurse Scheme** across the network area to raise awareness of diabetes research and the profile of the DRN within primary care. Up to 50 practices will be able to take part in the scheme which will pay for a named nurse from each participating practice to work with the DRN for an hour a week or 1 session a month. The scheme will run for 12 months and will be evaluated. Practices from each county have been invited to take part in the scheme and so far the response has been positive. To date, 6 practices have signed up to the scheme in Buckinghamshire, 11 in Warwickshire, 9 in Oxfordshire, 10 in Berkshire and 4 in Coventry. Welcome packs will be distributed to the practices during the next few weeks and a Link Practice meeting is being arranged for early December.

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### Open Evening

An **Open Evening** for members of the public to discuss how they can get involved with the work of the Thames Valley DRN will take place on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October** 2008. The event will be held in the evening at the Weston Manor Hotel, Weston on the Green. Members of the public who have expressed an interest in working more closely with the network and representatives from local diabetes groups will be invited to attend. For further information about this event please contact Jayne Starrett.

### New Partner Sites and Principal Investigators

We would like to welcome the following site and investigators to the Network:

#### Milton Keynes Hospital

*Dr Asif Ali*

*Dr Shanthy Chandran*

### Team Changes

There have been a number of changes within the team over the last six months. Julie Sutton joined the Network as a Research Nurse in March and will work on a part-time basis across the Berkshire area.

Jackie Davies joined the team in April and will be our Research Nurse working across the Milton Keynes area. Jackie will also work on a part-time basis.

Jayne Starrett and Wendy Warland both joined the team in June. Jayne is our Clinical Trials Officer and will work full-time providing support to studies across the whole of the Network area, while Wendy is our Network Administrator, providing maternity leave cover for Julie Allen.

Karen McNicholas and Rachel Craven-Todd left the team at the end of May.

A full-time research nurse to work across Oxfordshire and a part-time research nurse to work across Buckinghamshire are currently being appointed.

We would like to strengthen the team further so if anyone is interested in joining the Network as a

research nurse to work across Coventry, Warwickshire or Berkshire, then please contact Sharon Parsons or Annette Williams for further information.

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