

# Network Update

Issue 5 January 2009



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

The **Lira 2 study**, examining the use of a new diabetic treatment in combination with insulin and metformin, is currently being set up at George Eliot Hospital, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, Hospital of St Cross and the Churchill Hospital. Recruitment is due to start in the Spring

The **FEENICS study** is running at UHCW and is looking to recruit patients for investigation of possible beneficial treatments for diabetic foot ulcers. The study will evaluate the efficacy and safety of dalteparin sodium (an anticoagulant) in the treatment of chronic neuroischaemic foot ulcers in diabetic patients by assessing ulcer healing improvements.

**InCA (Insulin and Carbohydrate Adjustment)** is a new study examining diabetic control in young adults with type 1 diabetes and is currently recruiting at the Churchill Hospital.

## Update on ongoing Studies

The evaluation of the diabetes theme of the **Co-Creating Health Initiative** is currently recruiting across Coventry and Warwickshire, both in Secondary and Primary care. Data will be collected at two time points for patients via a questionnaire and there will also be an online survey for staff involved in the care of patients with diabetes to complete.

The purpose of this evaluation is to find out whether this initiative helps to improve the health of patients with diabetes, along with other chronic conditions.

**ICCD (Evaluation of Intermediate Care Clinics for Diabetes)** is recruiting well in Coventry and will

shortly begin patient recruitment in the Nuneaton area.

The **YDX Study**, looking at the characteristics of people diagnosed with diabetes aged 45 years or younger, continues to recruit in Oxfordshire. The study is now extending recruitment to the Berkshire area through the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The **OneLook study**, looking at non-invasive blood glucose monitoring, is continuing to recruit well at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

The **DIPSat (DTSQ) study** looking at inpatient satisfaction is continuing to recruit at Milton Keynes Hospital and the John Radcliffe Hospital. This study has now been extended to Wycombe Hospital and Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

**NFS (Nephropathy Family Study)** is still recruiting well at the John Radcliffe and will soon be opening at the Royal Berkshire and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals.

The **ASCEND Study (A Study of Cardiovascular Events in Diabetes)** continues to recruit from GP practices across the network area.

**ADDRESS (After Diagnosis Diabetes REsearch Support System)** database recruitment is now taking place at 6 sites in the Thames Valley area.

The TV DLRN supports a wide range of high quality studies in primary and secondary care. 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).

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## News Principal Investigators

We would like to welcome Dr Atanu Dutta, Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust and Dr Nicholas Mann, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, to the Network.

## News from across the Network

**We are currently running a Link Practice pilot scheme across the network area.** The scheme is funding GP practices the equivalent of 1 practice nurse session a month to be linked with the Thames Valley DLRN.

Forty-two practices have signed up to the **TV DLRN Link Practice Scheme**, including 6 in Buckinghamshire, 11 in Warwickshire, 9 in Oxfordshire, 11 in Berkshire, 4 in Coventry and 1 in Milton Keynes. It is anticipated that by developing closer communication links with named members of the practice team, the likelihood of a practice becoming involved with DRN and UKCRN adopted studies is increased. It is envisaged the scheme will help raise the profile of the DRN with both patients and healthcare professionals. The scheme is due to run for 12 months and will be evaluated in April 2009.

**A Link Practice Update Meeting was held at the Barceló Oxford Hotel on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008.** The event went well with members from GP practice teams from across the network attending. Presentations were given by Dr Andrew Farmer (*TVDLRN Clinical Lead*), Dr Ponnusamy Saravanan (*Associate Clinical Professor & Honorary Consultant Physician, Diabetes, Endocrine & Metabolism, University of Warwick*), Dr Richard Haynes (*Clinical Research Fellow, University of Oxford*) and Sharon Parsons (*TVDLRN Manager*).

**The TV DLRN hosted a PPI Open Evening at the Weston Manor Hotel, Oxford on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008.** The event was attended by 32 patients and members of the public. Due to the success of the meeting a **PPI Reference Group** is being set up. This will enable patients and members of the public to become more involved in the work of the TVDLRN particularly with patient advocacy and providing advice to researchers on study design. The first Reference Group meeting is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at The Holiday Inn, High Wycombe, Bucks.

## Team Changes

There have been a number of changes within the Network Research Nurse team over the last five months. Julie Sutton is now working on a full-time basis across the Berkshire area. Lynne Adams joined the team in September and will be working across Oxfordshire full-time. Pam Coward joined the team in October and will be working part-time in Buckinghamshire. A part-time Research Nurse to work in Coventry is currently being appointed. We are continuing to strengthen the team and are currently advertising for research nurses in the Coventry and Warwickshire area. Please contact Sharon Parsons or Annette Williams for further information.

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