R&D NEWS

The new Hertfordshire Hospitals Research and Development Consortium [HHC] provides R&D support and advice to researchers across the West Hertfordshire Hospitals and East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trusts. Incorporating:

Hemel Hempstead General Hospital, Hertford County Hospital, The Lister Hospital, Mount Vernon Hospital, St. Albans City Hospital, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII) & Watford General Hospital

Staff at...

Hertfordshire Hospitals R&D Consortium

Director of R & D: Professor Gordon Rustin
Assistant Director R&D (West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust): Dr Adam Young
Assistant Director R&D (E&N Herts NHS Trust): Dr Gowrie Mohan
R & D Manager: Fiona Smith
For further information please contact Fiona Smith, on 01442 287473 or 01923 844599
Email: fiona.smith@whht.nhs.uk Website: www.westhertshospitals.nhs.uk/randd

Evidence into Practice

The latest nurse to complete an Evidence Based Practice secondment at the University of Hertfordshire (funded by Herts & Beds Workforce Development Confederation) is Melanie Cunningham, an oncology nurse specialist. Melanie completed systematic reviews into the use of antibiotics in breast cancer surgery and the treatment and care of radiotherapy skin reactions. Melanie collaborated with nurses and health care professionals at Mount Vernon to conduct the review, which means the results will have direct impact on patient care. Her findings will be published in the Cochrane Library and will be submitted to specialist peer-reviewed journals.

Melanie says "undertaking the review has really helped me to put evidence-based nursing into practice."
Research Ethics Committee News: New COREC Application Form

All ethics applications must be made online via the COREC online system. www.corecform.org.uk

Version 5 of the COREC NHS Application Form was released on the 1st September 2005. The changes are displayed when you log on.

New users will need to register on the website. The local research committees meet twice a month and can be contacted as follows:

**Herts REC 1: Co-ordinator Jane Winter**  
jane.winter@bhsha.nhs.uk  Tel: 01727 792934  Fax: 01727 792904

**Herts REC 2: Co-ordinator Jenny Austin**  
jenny.austin@nhs.net  Tel: 01707 365397  Fax: 01707 369010

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R&D approval is required for all studies

R&D will require the following documents:

- Research Ethics Committee approval letter (MREC or local REC)
- R&D Application Form (contact the R&D Office for details)
- Copies of Parts A, B and C of the COREC application form (ethics)
- Protocol/Proposal
- Patient Information Sheet
- Patient Consent Form
- GP Letter
- Copies of licences (where appropriate)
- Copies of agreements between partners allocating responsibilities

Please contact the R&D office for advice and assistance.

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**New national strategy**

A new (draft) national health research strategy has been produced. “Best research for best health” is available on the Department of Health Website: www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ClosedConsultations

There is some good news for researchers; Responsive Funding is returning for applied and practice based research in areas important to front line staff. Please contact the Research & Development Department if your are interested in applying for this funding stream, or want to discuss any other issues raised by this document.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

The DH requires Annual Reports to be submitted from NHS Trusts to justify R&D Support Funding. A summary is available on the R&D website or from the R&D Offices. Feedback from the DH was very positive; “The Trust has provided a good Annual Report. The Trust has an impressive number of Cancer programmes and a number of them were rated strongly. We were impressed with these programmes.” Other areas rated as ‘strong’ by DH are the two Plastic Surgery and Burns programmes based at Mount Vernon Hospital, and the Renal Programme based at the Lister Hospital.

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**NEW RESEARCHER?**

RD Direct provides helpful advice for researchers embarking on studies. Visit www.rdinfo.org.uk/flowchart/handout.pdf  
Or call the advisory service on 0133 295 1122 or email

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**STATISTICS ADVICE**

Need help with statistical advice or your research design?

On site advice for researchers is available through the R&D department and the Health Research & Development Support Unit (HRDSU). Contact the R&D Dept for more details.

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