

CTRad bulletin

Clinical trials workshop, Leeds, February 2012

- An excellent educational workshop was delivered by David Sebag-Montefiore (WS3) and Tim Maughan. Talks included discussion on components of a good clinical trial application including developing the scientific question, sample size methodology, role of the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) and Radiotherapy Trials Quality Assurance (RTTQA), together with an insightful talk to help delegates understand the roles and responsibilities of a Chief Investigator; there were also helpful presentations from funders including a CR-UK perspective and opportunities with the NIHR.
- Delegates joined one of three breakout groups, using specific clinical trial examples to discuss key issues in developing successful trial proposals.
- Feedback was very positive and CTRad will plan a similar workshop for 2013.



Biomarker meeting, Leicester, April 2012

- Don Jones, Kaye Williams and Thomas Brunner (all WS1) organised a successful Biomarker meeting in Leicester, attended by just over 90 delegates from the UK and a few from Europe.
- The over-arching topic was to report on current and future biomarkers for inclusion in radiotherapy trials and so promote biomarker-based research. The programme was packed full of short talks covering topics in exposure and repair, normal tissue toxicity, hypoxia, cell death and proliferation, trial design and support and funding. These were all given by experts in the field coupled with lively and effective discussion. A report is being prepared.
- A planned output from the meeting is to set up a list of 'biomarker champions' to keep track of experts and where to go for help. If you want to contribute, please contact Don Jones (gdj2@leicester.ac.uk).

Tumour microenvironment and signal transduction workshop, Oxford, May 2012

- A workshop on the concepts of tackling hypoxia and signal transduction in tumour cells in radiotherapy was organised by Ester Hammond and Thomas Brunner (both WS1).
- Presenters gave talks on recent imaging tools, trials and projects in the area, with a discussion on what steps need to be taken to bring them into clinical practice, both by collaborating with other labs and in conjunction with pharmaceutical companies.

CTRad meeting with radiotherapy equipment manufacturers

- Following from the meeting of radiotherapy manufacturers with CTRad in May 2011, it became clear that further interactions would be best held with individual companies. The first of these individual meetings took place on 21 May with Elekta in Leeds, led by Martin Robinson, Ran Mackay, Kevin Brown and John Staffurth (all WS4).
- The topics of discussion were linking up the national and industry stereotactic groups, looking at opportunities for data collection and developing sub-studies in funded trials to complement manufacturers' research portfolios, as well as exploring the potential for collaborative projects to develop complex treatment techniques.
- Similar meetings with other manufacturers will be organised in due course.

Co-chair recruitment and membership rotation

- Thank you to everyone who submitted membership applications. Membership reviews are currently under way and newly appointed members will be informed by the end of June.
- Following the co-chairs application process and various interviews, from 1 July 2012 co-chairs for each of the four workstreams will be as follows:
 - WS1: Kevin Harrington and Kaye Williams
 - WS2: Anthony Chalmers and Ruth Plummer
 - WS3: Chris Nutting and Emma Hall
 - WS4: John Staffurth and Ran Mackay

Proton therapy announcement

- UCLH and Manchester have been confirmed as the two proton therapy centres by the Department of Health on 5 April, while Birmingham is a 'preferred third site' meaning they could still be involved at a later time. CTRad has asked Neil Burnet to make contact with the centres to propose the setup of a proton therapy group to discuss how research might feature in the new centres once built.

CTRad members' news

- We would like to congratulate Susan Short (WS1) on her recent appointment as Professor of Clinical Oncology and Neuro-oncology in Leeds.

Forthcoming meetings 2012

- **10 July:** There will be a workshop on 'Management of locally advanced pancreatic cancer', organised by Somnath Mukherjee (WS2) and Thomas Brunner (WS1). It will bring together clinicians and scientists working in radiation biology and oncology to foster collaboration in order to initiate translational research. If you are interested in joining this workshop, please email Ruby Ray Al-MokhtarR@cardiff.ac.uk.
- **7 Nov:** The next CTRad proposal review meeting will take place on Wednesday afternoon of the NCRI Cancer Conference in Liverpool. The deadline for submission of proposal ideas for this meeting will be mid-September. More details will be circulated in due course.

Engaging with the RCR at the NCRI Cancer Conference, Liverpool, 4-7 November

- This year the NCRI Cancer Conference is proud to be organising a joint programme with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) with a special day of sessions on **6 Nov**.
- There will be a dedicated symposium and parallel session, a proffered paper session, a poster session and an RCR training session. This will give many opportunities for the radiotherapy community to showcase their work at the Conference.
- All submitted abstracts will be considered for inclusion in a dedicated radiotherapy poster session (for which a number of RCR Ross Prizes are available), and some will be selected for oral presentation in a dedicated radiotherapy proffered paper session.
- Abstract submission closes on **5 June** and late breaking abstracts will be open from **1 August** until **28 August**. See the Conference website for more details www.ncri.org.uk/ncriconference. We look forward to lots of CTRad submissions!

Forthcoming external activities

- Association for Radiation Research meeting at Brunel University, London, 25-27 June (www.le.ac.uk/cm/arr/home.html)

Contact us

If you have any feedback, news you want to share, or want to find out more about topics mentioned above, please contact the CTRad Secretariat (CTRad@ncri.org.uk). You can also browse the CTRad web pages www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad for more information and future dates of CTRad events.

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