

CTRad bulletin

Proton therapy research meeting, London, September 2012

- To develop and support the UK proton therapy research agenda, CTRad organised a first meeting bringing together representatives from the two proposed proton beam treatment (PBT) centres, colleagues from related areas of research, and researchers from European centres with experience of collaborations in this area. The aim was to develop a structure for supporting research at the designated PBT centres, and to assist in developing the research base more generally in the UK.
- Four invited experts presented their initial thoughts on each of the four research domains: physics, clinical trials, clinical methodologies, and ion beams and biology; there was lively discussion after each talk. Delegates then went into breakout discussion groups to identify priorities in the four domains.
- Centres were eager to contribute their expertise and resources. Colleagues from Geneva also gave their perspective on how collaborations were formed. There was overall consensus of the value and desire to progress the research agenda, both as a support to the PBT centres and to develop the area for the research community.
- Actions from the meeting include organising workshops to develop the domain discussion ideas further, and CTRad leaders will communicate proactively with funders to expand research funding and training opportunities. A short summary of the meeting can be found on the CTRad website's ['Publications and reports'](#) section under 'Resources'.

CTRad proposals guidance meeting Nov 2012

- Following the close of the NCRI Cancer Conference in Liverpool, CTRad hosted its 5th proposals guidance meeting, inviting 13 proposals to be presented in three breakout groups.
- The meeting began with two invited presentations. Helen Bulbeck (WS1) gave a talk on 'How to write a good lay summary', presenting its purpose and the CTRad Consumer members' list of desirable elements and ways to convey the gist of the protocol; you can [download this document](#) from the CTRad website under 'Research support'. Cathy McDowell from the ECMC Combinations Alliance provided an overview of the Alliance and its current status; stay tuned for further development in the near future.
- The next proposals guidance meeting will be held on **10 June 2013** in London, and the call for proposals deadline will be in April 2013. The exact date will be published on the CTRad website early next year, please stay tuned.



Developing the academic environment for multidisciplinary RT research

- Radiotherapy programmes of multidisciplinary research require support from all radiotherapy specialities, including clinical oncology, medical physics and radiography. Developing suitable departmental environments is essential to provide the setting for career development and academic training.
- CTRad continues to help build partnership of academic departments with research-active clinical departments, through organising 'think tank' meetings for cross-disciplines to share success stories and to learn from each other, in order to promote and increase the levels of local activities. Following from previous successful think tank meetings, CTRad is organising another clinical academic think tank meeting on 11 March 2013 involving clinical oncologists, medical physicists and radiographers.

CTRad members' news

- Congratulations to Neil Burnet (Deputy Chairman) who has been appointed Professor of Radiation Oncology in Cambridge.

Change of leadership

- Tim Illidge will hand over the role of CTRad Chair to Neil Burnet in March 2013. We will be recruiting a new Deputy Chair from amongst the current CTRad membership. Details on how to apply will be distributed shortly.

Forthcoming meetings

- **Clinical Trials Workshop, 25 Feb 2013:** Building on 2012's successful meeting in Leeds, Emma Hall and Chris Nutting (WS3) will be organising another clinical trials workshop in London, aimed at investigators wanting to learn more about developing clinical trials from concept to delivery. A draft programme and registration details can be found on the [CTRad website](#).

CPD points

Most of our workshops and meetings are now CPD-accredited – don't forget to collect your certificate after each meeting.

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.