

## CTRad bulletin

### CTRad proposals guidance meeting June 2013

- CTRad held its 6<sup>th</sup> proposals guidance meeting in London in June 2013, where twelve radiotherapy proposals were reviewed by members. The new Chair of CTRad, Neil Burnet, thanked the previous Chair, Tim Illidge, for his excellent work in building up CTRad's momentum in the past three years. Helen Bulbeck (WS1) presented 'Opportunities for patient and public involvement (PPI) in trial design', a document prepared by the CTRad consumers to help researchers involve patients and carers during trial design stage (download the guide here: [http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/ppi\\_in\\_trial/](http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/ppi_in_trial/)). Matt Seymour, Director of the NIHR Cancer Research Network (NCRN), then gave an overview of the changes in the NCRN and discussed some of the issues faced by radiotherapy trials, in particular those studies involving hypofractionation.
- In the afternoon, the four different workstreams held face-to-face business meetings to discuss actions, progress and updated their objectives and deliverables.
- The next proposals guidance meeting will be held on **6 November** in Liverpool, following the close of the NCRI Conference. The call for proposals closes on **20 September** and more details can be found on the CTRad website (<http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/guidance/>).



### Imaging in radiotherapy workshop, Oxford, June 2013

- Following the recent Cancer Research UK and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) call to establish comprehensive Cancer Imaging Centres, CTRad organised a workshop to bring together experts from imaging centres with radiotherapy themes in their bids, to foster collaboration between the centres. It was organised by Kaye Williams (WS1), Tim Maughan and Kevin Harrington (WS1).
- The sessions were split into pre-clinical imaging, clinical imaging of the tumour microenvironment, image analysis and building a radiotherapy imaging research network. A highlight of the workshop was the keynote presentation given by Prof Philippe Lambin from The Maastricht Clinic on non-invasive imaging of hypoxia.
- The organisers identified opportunities for preclinical collaborations and will report on progress at a later date. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kaye Williams ([kaye.williams@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:kaye.williams@manchester.ac.uk)).

### **Outcome data collection for proton beam radiotherapy workshop, Manchester, July 2013**

- The UK government has recently committed to setting up two proton beam treatment centres, and CTRad is playing a part in pulling together a research strategy in preparation for the commissioning of these two centres. Gillian Whitfield (WS4) and Susan Davidson organised a workshop to discuss what clinical outcome data should be collected for every patient treated with proton beam therapy, how this data should be collated and the requirements for an IT platform suitable for the task.
- The plenary talks covered data collection in overseas proton therapy programmes, using patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) to assess treatment impact, some examples of data collection tools currently in use, and an example strategy for linking therapeutic data with diagnostic data for best outcomes. These talks formed the backbone for the afternoon breakout discussion groups representing the main therapeutic areas anticipated for the UK proton service in 2018: sarcoma, head and neck, paediatrics and central nervous system. Each of these groups will be developed further in the coming months.

### **Patient and public involvement in trial development**

- Following from last year's highly successful 'Dragon's Den' session at the NCRI Cancer Conference, researchers will again have the opportunity to pitch their proposed research projects to small panels of consumers involved in research, in an event organised by the NCRI Consumer Liaison Group. This open meeting takes place on the evening of **Monday 4 November** in the Conference venue; if you are interested in attending, please contact [ppi@ncrn.org.uk](mailto:ppi@ncrn.org.uk)

### **Welcome to our new consumer members**

- CTRad welcomes two newly appointed consumer members: Ms Candida Lovell-Smith (WS 2) and Mrs Susan Campbell (WS 4). You will be able to meet them at upcoming CTRad meetings. They are joining CTRad's group of consumers in providing advice to help researchers develop their proposals and patient information sheets, leading to better treatments for cancer patients, an ambition we all share.

### **NCRI Cancer Conference, Liverpool, 3–6 November 2013**

- This year the NCRI Cancer Conference is again organising a joint programme with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) with a special day of sessions on **Tuesday 5 November**. This is an excellent opportunity for the radiotherapy community to network and showcase their work at a leading international cancer meeting in the UK. See the Conference website for more details <http://conference.ncri.org.uk/> and submit your radiotherapy abstracts! Online registration is open until **27 September**. CTRad's proposals guidance meeting will be held on **Wednesday 6 November** following the close of the NCRI Conference.

### **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](mailto:CTRad@ncri.org.uk)). You can also browse the CTRad web pages [www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad](http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad) for more information and future dates of CTRad events.

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