

CTRad bulletin

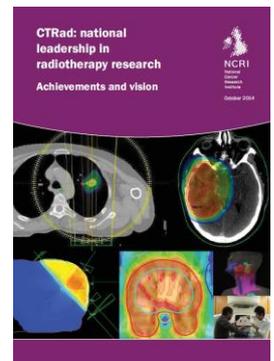
CTRad funding extended and membership rotation

- We are delighted to announce that funding for CTRad has been secured for a further three years from 1 April 2015, with all existing funders re-committing. These are Cancer Research UK, the Medical Research Council, the Department of Health (England), Chief Scientist Office (Scotland), the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (Wales) and the Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland). CTRad would like to thank them for their ongoing support.
- Some of the Co-chair roles will be available for application in December 2014 and the membership rotation process for workstreams will commence in early 2015. Co-chairs will be appointed from within the workstreams, while applications for workstream membership will be open to the wider community. More details will be available on the CTRad website.

CTRad: achievements and vision report

- In preparation for our third phase of funding (2015-2018), CTRad's Executive Group put together a review of CTRad's activities, both as part of its reporting to funders and for others involved in cancer research to learn more about how the group works and what they have achieved so far. The report is available on the CTRad website:

<http://ctrad.ncri.org.uk/about-ctrad/ctrad-achievements-and-vision>



Radiographers' think tank meeting, November 2014

- Following from last year's meeting, the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) and CTRad organised its second academic think tank event.
- The meeting started with looking back at highlights from last year's meeting at which a survey was conducted. The major barriers to research, as voted for by attendees of the first meeting, were grouped into four main areas: Staffing and time, research involvement and training, support and collaboration and equipment availability.
- Presenters shared their local research strategies and pathways, the advantages of collaborating with other centres, and several speakers presented their personal academic and funding bid journeys. There was also a presentation on the NIHR's Research for Patient Benefit funding scheme and the Integrated Clinical Academic Programme, and the editor-in-chief from *Radiography* journal shared her thoughts on the radiography profession's publishing dilemma.
- The afternoon Research Café was the main discussion and networking event. Participants were assigned to a table with a mix of research expertise and with colleagues from different centres. Participants identified research dilemmas, and group members offered advice and solutions.
- At the end of the meeting, participants were again asked to write down three take-home messages to implement in their local department.
- Detailed results from last year's survey and learning points from this year's meeting will be published shortly.

Clinical Trials workshop, October 2014

- Now in its third year, CTRad delivered another workshop in collaboration with the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), organised by Emma Hall and Chris Nutting (WS3), to support and educate junior investigators.
- The format includes an overview of the trial process, developing the right scientific questions, patient and public involvement, understanding the roles and responsibilities of a chief investigator and the importance of Radiotherapy Trials Quality Assurance (RTTQA) involvement. There was also a talk about using multi-arm multi-stage (MAMS) and factorial trial designs to answer more than one question efficiently, delivered by Piers Gaunt, Senior Biostatistician from the University of Birmingham.
- Three researchers presented their trial proposal ideas in interactive breakout groups to explore issues around selection of appropriate trial design, endpoint, embedding translational research and practical considerations.
- Due to demand for this workshop, CTRad will be organising a similar event in 2015.

CTRad proposals guidance meeting, November 2014

- CTRad held its ninth proposals guidance meeting in Liverpool to provide constructive feedback to researchers presenting a wide variety of radiotherapy trial ideas.
- After an update about RaDCom by Anthony Chalmers, the first plenary talk was given by Clary Evans, who presented results from a quantitative observational study which examined the UK radiotherapy trial landscape between 2004 and 2013. The study's main conclusions are that there are significantly more NCRN-badged radiotherapy trials opened in 2009-2013 than 2004-2008, and in the same period there are significantly more early phase trials than clinical trials. The second plenary was delivered by Sam Ahmedzai, Chair of the Supportive and Palliative Care Clinical Studies Group (CSG), who presented the remit of this re-formed group, and declared an interest in potential collaborations between the CSG and CTRad.
- The next proposals guidance meeting will be in Spring/Summer 2015, and a call will be posted on the CTRad website in the first quarter of 2015.

Forthcoming activities

- Ricky Sharma and Ruth Plummer (WS2) are leading on a 'Sandpit' workshop (an intensive trial development forum), planned for **24 March 2015**. This workshop is targeted at consultant clinical oncologists and senior trainees who wish to develop their own clinical trials involving radiotherapy, but do not necessarily have access to the infrastructure to do so. Experienced clinicians and trials unit staff will make up the faculty to help researchers develop new trials. More information about how to join this event will be available on the CTRad website soon.

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 ctrad.ncri.org.uk for more information and future dates of CTRad events.

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