

## CTRad bulletin

### CTRad All-Workstreams proposal guidance meeting, Liverpool, November 2011

- CTRad held a well-attended all-workstreams proposal guidance meeting on 9 November 2011, following the NCRI Cancer Conference in Liverpool.
- CTRad received a total of 24 proposal ideas and members split into four breakout groups to discuss and give constructive feedback to support proposal development. The discussion was lively and there was a real sense that CTRad has developed momentum and is starting to deliver on the research agenda.
- Following the meeting, proposals have been allocated to different workstreams and the green and amber proposals will be actively followed up by members.
- The next meeting will take place on Monday 11 June 2012 in London. The deadline for submission of proposal ideas for this meeting is Monday 16 April 2012; see the CTRad website for more details.



### Pre-clinical quality assurance

- Workstream 1 is aware that preclinical (cell and small animal) radiation facilities are often run with little physics dosimetry support or expertise; with associated bodies such as IPEM and NPL, CTRad could make a significant contribution to helping users make the most of their facilities and to ensure their equipment is appropriately calibrated and supported. If your department has pre-clinical equipment, you can help by getting in touch with Kaye Williams who is leading this work on facilities and support.

### Radiotherapy Clinical Trials Advisory Service (RADCAS)

- RADCAS (led by Chris Nutting, WS3) offers potential investigators an advice service for any trial in which radiotherapy is a significant component, providing support on topics including trial methodologies, technical expertise and translational research opportunities. This service is available at any time of the year, and supplements the opportunities for researchers to present and engage in interactive discussion at the twice-yearly All-Workstreams meetings.
- Emma Hall (WS3) has also been leading on the development of a radiotherapy phase III trials protocol checklist following funding approval. It has been test-driven by several members and will be uploaded onto the CTRad website for investigators to download once complete.
- If you would like to submit your trial for RADCAS comments, please contact Carolyn Chan.

### Co-chair recruitment and membership rotation

- CTRad will reach its third birthday in July 2012. Co-chair (re)application is currently under way and the membership rotation process for workstreams will commence in April 2012. To keep workstreams fresh, well-attended and open for new expertise, we anticipate a degree of turnover in membership as we enter our second phase of funding (2012-2015). Applications will be open to current members and members of the community to apply with a CV.

### **NCRI Radiotherapy Trials Quality Assurance (RTTQA) group**

- The RTTQA group based at Mount Vernon (coordinated by Liz Miles, WS4) is in the process of drafting the bid for the next period of their funding. They will be meeting with NIHR to discuss longer-term funding and extra resources for the group, as its workload becomes larger and more complex.
- As always, we encourage researchers to contact the RTTQA team early on in proposal development, to give the RTTQA team advance notice of new trials and to gain advice from them as needed. See their website for more details: <http://www.rtrialsqa.org.uk/>

### **CTRad members' news**

Various CTRad members have made community headlines in the past few months and we would like to congratulate them on their successes:

- David Sebag-Montefiore (WS3) appointed as Chair of Clinical Oncology and Health Research in Leeds
- Anthony Chalmers (WS2) appointed as Chair of Clinical Oncology in Glasgow
- Joe O'Sullivan (WS2) appointed as Professor of Radiation Oncology in Belfast
- Thomas Brunner (WS1) awarded the Cancer Research UK Future Leaders in Cancer Research Prize 2011
- Kevin Harrington (WS2) and Neil Burnet (Deputy Chair) have each been awarded CR-UK CTRC Programme grants, out of a total of four awards made during the first funding round
- Tim Illidge (Chair) has been awarded Cancer Researcher of the Year 2011 by the University of Manchester.

### **National Collaboration Workshops 2012**

- CTRad has again invited experts to host workshops to bring together clinicians and scientists working in radiation biology and oncology, to foster collaboration in order to initiate translational research:
  - Clinical Trials workshop (David Sebag-Montefiore WS3 and Tim Maughan), Leeds **27 Feb 2012**
  - Biomarker workshop (Don Jones, Kaye Williams WS1), Leicester **23 Apr 2012**
  - Tumour Microenvironment and Signal Transduction (Ester Hammond and Thomas Brunner WS1), Oxford **2 May 2012**
- If you are interested in joining any of these workshops, please contact Carolyn Chan.

### **Forthcoming external activities**

- DNA Repair workshop in Oxford, 14 March (<http://www.oncology.ox.ac.uk/events/dna-damage-repair-translating-scientific-landmarks-into-new-treatments-for-cancer>)
- Science and Technology Facilities Council and IPEM workshop on Computing for Cancer Care in Cambridge, 19-20 March (<http://www.stfc.ac.uk/forms/futures.aspx>)
- Radiobiology and Radiobiological Modelling in Radiotherapy in Wirral, 25-29 March (<http://www.ccotrust.nhs.uk/RdblgycourseMarch2012.pdf>)
- Association for Radiation Research meeting at Brunel University, London, 25-27 June (<http://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 Carolyn Chan ([carolyn.chan@ncri.org.uk](mailto:carolyn.chan@ncri.org.uk)). You can also browse the CTRad website [www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad](http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad) for more information and future dates of CTRad events.

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