



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24

MAY 2011

We've done it!!

We are very pleased to announce that the LSCCRN has achieved our long held ambition to recruit more than 7.5% of all cancer patients, in our area, to Randomised Clinical trials (RCTs)

This has been achieved by the hard work of all the clinicians, nurses, AHPs and dare I say it, the Network team, who have given patients the opportunity to take part in research during their cancer journey. This year, figures also include pre-malignant participants. As the NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) will have a data cut off point for recruitment to all research networks in mid June, we will announce our precise recruitment figures within our Annual Report.

The report highlights the successes and challenges of cancer trial recruitment in our area. We are very keen to involve views and feedback from as many stakeholders as possible to this document. In order to do this, various emails will make their way to your inboxes over the next few weeks seeking your input and we would appreciate your responses. We don't all work in email so I am also more than willing to speak with anyone about the Network.

Looking forward to 2011/12....

Lots of exciting times ahead! This year is the tenth anniversary of the NCRN (National Cancer Research Network) and therefore the LSCCRN. And celebrations are being planned.....

The Network has access to **NIHR Flexibility and Sustainability Funding** totaling over £100,000 for 2011/12.

Notification of the how to bid for this money has been circulated as widely as possible so if you have an idea that could help increase our recruitment– just let us know. **The deadline for bids is 10th June.**

Additional cancer posts will be also appointed this year to support our recruitment at various sites, so keep an eye on vacancy sites if interested in joining our successful teams.

Rachel Bracewell, CRN Manager

Sharing Best Practice Event 2011



This year's Sharing Best Practice Event coincides with the NCRN's 10th Anniversary. We, alongside our fellow Clinical Research Networks, have all been working hard to enable the NIHR and NCRN to meet its five priorities, which were set in 2009. Our excellent work has meant that one of these five targets has already been surpassed! The target was to double the number of patients taking part in NIHR CRN Portfolio studies within five years, this includes contributions from all topic specific networks, including Cancer. A hearty well done to everyone.

The theme for this year's event is the Network's achievements and praising those who have been and are currently involved with these successes. We hope that the event will carry a celebratory feel and allow all us hard workers to enjoy and reflect on our accomplishments over the past 10 years.

As you may know, we have generous sponsors who fund the event. This year, the Rosemere Cancer Foundation has kindly offered to be our main sponsor which allows us to upgrade our audiovisuals and retain the high quality venue that is Ribby Hall Conference Centre. Rosemere will be foremost in our publications to raise their profile within research regionally. If you wish to seek further information about Rosemere and their role within research, please visit www.rosemere.org.uk or speak to Sue Thompson, Chief Officer.

For those of you who attended our event last year, we shall not disappoint this year. We have a jam-packed agenda; full of informative, interesting and enjoyable sessions, with a twist on our original format.

For anyone who wishes to join us, the event will be held on the 21 September at Ribby Hall Village Conference Centre. The venue and its staff were very well received and highly commended last year. Our invite and reply slip should have already found its way into your inboxes, but if not please email; charlotte.sugden@lscn.nhs.uk

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The Network's new website has finally been launched! See inside for exciting details.

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Meet the Team– East Lancashire

East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (ELHT) consists of two sites, Royal Blackburn Hospital and Burnley General Hospital.

We have a core team of 4 staff (with 2 additional posts currently planned) who work above and beyond their limits to prove that small teams can be effective and successful within the Network. The team is led by Vivienne Tickle, Senior Clinical Trials Nurse alongside Karen Beard at Blackburn and Sue Ashworth at Burnley. The recent addition of the first Clinical Trial Administrator to the team, Jeannette Hargreaves, means that the team are already reaping the rewards of a well-oiled office.

Whilst accommodation may still be an issue, the team can at least say they are very snug in their offices and know each other well; even down to the bumps and bruises caused by colliding wheelie chairs and even doors! Hopefully a larger office will soon be on the horizon, but in the meantime it's business as usual.

The team support many enthusiastic recruiters. In no particular order; Dr Mehta and Dr Appel who have led the way in lung cancer recruitment. East Lancs is currently the leading recruiter into the Fragmatic Lung Trial. Dr Mehta has also been successful in recruiting to Upper GI cancer trials and Mr Chang will be hot on his heels with Hepato-biliary trials such as ESPAC IV shortly. Dr Rokicka has the only site in the Network recruiting to the Haematology trial ARCTIC. Dr Hogg continues to support breast and gynaecological trials and leads on their first oncology commercial study, NCRN099. Not only was ELHT the leading recruitment

centre in the UK, but Burnley General was the first to randomize a patient in the whole UK (Well done Sue!). Ms Iddon has also successfully initiated recruitment to the Poetic study, the first in the network to do so, well done! As for Dr Parikh...watch this PATCH!

Pharmacy are currently repatriating chemotherapy from Royal Preston Hospital for East Lancashire patients, meaning treatments will be done locally by July 2011, resulting in less travel for patients. This will hopefully lead to an all round better service and happier patients.

In recruitment news ELHT have upped their game once again this year, despite a 314% increase in RCT recruitment last year. Well done ladies! With all the successes and achievements due to continue, as well as new avenues of recruitment to explore, there is plenty to keep the ladies busy and out of mischief!



Vivienne Tickle, Senior Clinical Trials Nurse

Noteworthy dates:

15 June–
Brain Cancer
Research Meeting

6 July–
Trial Practitioner
Day

21 September–
10th Anniversary
Sharing Best
Practice Event

In the Spotlight: Brain

Over the last couple of years the Network has not been particularly strong with regards to brain trials available to our local population. This has been mainly due to the national availability of studies that we could support.

Now the scene is rather different.

Not only do we have epidemiology studies such as the NBT Study (which recruited 16 patients in the last quarter of 2010-11) but we are also currently completing feasibility for Gala5 and BR14 which are two RCT studies.

Brain studies are centralised at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals and there is keen interest in their support from Dr Andrew Hindley, our own Clinical Lead, the surgeons and pathology.

Our two RCT studies are outlined below for your information:

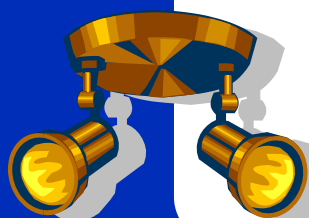
BR14 is a Phase III trial on concurrent and adjuvant Temozolomide chemotherapy in non-1p/19q deleted anaplastic glioma.

The purpose of the study is to understand which is the best treatment for patients with anaplastic glioma. The standard treatment for tumours like this is radiotherapy.

The aim is to discover whether the addition of Temozolomide chemotherapy during and/or after radiotherapy is beneficial. This may help to decide which treatment option is preferable for patients with this condition in the future.

GALA 5- An Evaluation of the Tolerability and Feasibility of combining 5-Amino-Levulinic Acid (5-ALA) with Carmustine Wafers (Gliadel) in the Surgical Management of Primary Glioblastoma.

The aim of this trial is to see whether it is possible to give patients two existing treatments for the brain tumour together as a combination and whether this combination is well-tolerated. The Gliolan dye is currently not used at Royal Preston Hospital so this will be a first for the site.



Amanda Finch, Clinical Trials Coordinator

Lisa Ashmore– back in business as the Network’s Research Radiographer. Lisa is based in the Rosemere Radiotherapy Centre and re-joins us after a career break, working on her PhD.

Joyce Jones will be retiring in June having worked in haematology research at Blackpool for several years and all the team wish her well.

Patricia Knight will be retiring also at the end of August. We will all be sad to see her leave. But she might be back....

Two new clinical trials nurse posts at ELHT will be advertised May onwards so keep your eyes peeled if interested.

Clare Tibke has been promoted to Senior Research Nurse at Morecambe Bay and will lead the CLRN funded staff there. Well done!!

Charlotte Sugden our Network secretary will be heading off to Cranfield University in the Autumn for her MSc in Environmental Water Management.

Claire Hennigan will be heading to Liverpool for her doctor training come October having made a massive impact during her time with us.

Karen George enjoyed her trial period with us so much that she is now a fully fledged member of the Team– Welcome! Karen supports epidemiology activity at LTHTR courtesy of the CLRN.

Alison Smith- our former research radiographer is expecting baby number 3 and is coming back to the UK from the Gambia. Expect to see her smiling face around and about the Network and at our SBPE in September.

We will be having a new post join us in the Network core team to increase our capacity for supporting more cancer trials to open and to support local Trusts meet their cancer research related requirements within Cancer Peer Review.

New Website launch!

Our very own Julie Ditchfield has spent the past few months with her head in the world of cyberspace. Alongside EDGE she is the systems Queen-bee here at Network HQ.

A Cancer Research Network website has been long overdue and the Cancer Services Network kindly agreed to us ‘piggybacking’ onto their website, to help provide a one stop shop front with regards to Cancer services and research across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

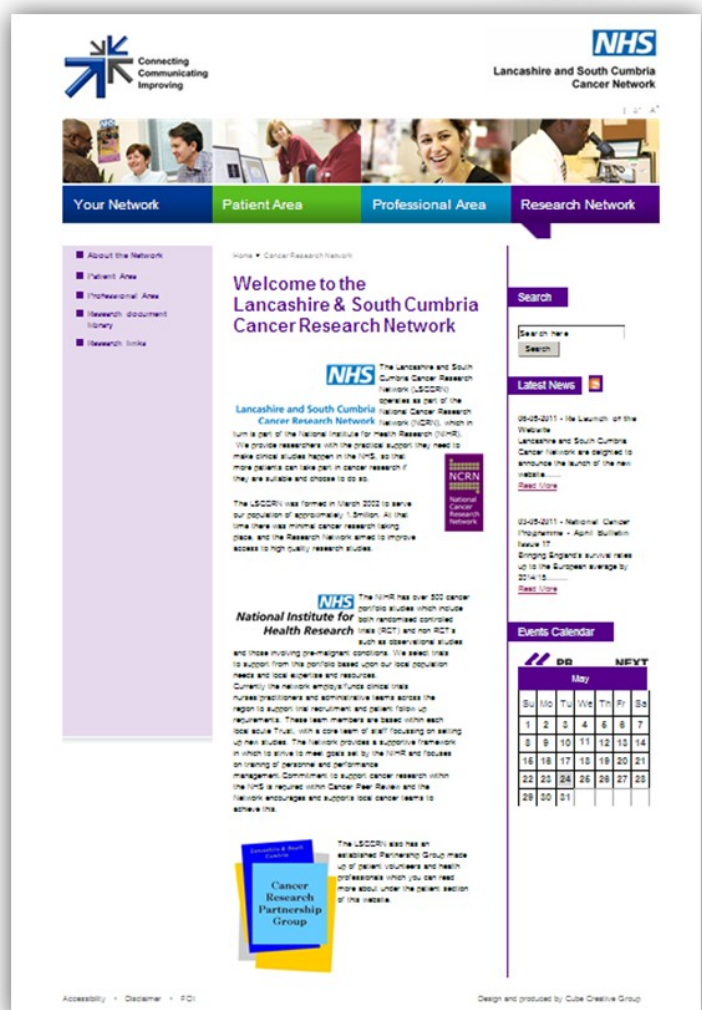
The website went live on 9 May with a fresh feel to it. The Research Network has its’ very own section where there is information on who we are and what we do. Patients can access a research area that provides comprehensive information on all aspects of a cancer clinical trial to patients, carers and relatives. Alongside this there is also a professional area which allows NHS staff to register and gain access to topic specific information such as NSSG minutes and documents, research information and a discussion forum.

Within the site there are many useful links which provide easy access to information about cancer and research. The site will have the capability for users to see future network events and be able to reserve their place.

We will also be providing our 2011 Sharing Best Practice Event delegate packs this year through the website, to save pennies and the Earth!

Visit us and see what you think, at:

www.cancerlancashire.org.uk



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The Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Research Network operates as part of the NIHR National Cancer Research Network. It is part of the National Institute for Health Research and forms part of the UK Clinical Research Network. The Network support and deliver high quality clinical research studies.

