



News from the Dementias and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network

News From North Thames DeNDRoN

Summer 2011

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, created to keep staff, patients and the public updated on current events taking place within North Thames DeNDRoN.

A Note from the Network Manager, Tania Page

There has been significant change recently at North Thames DeNDRoN where we have been joined by several new faces; we would like to welcome Dr Simon Adelman into the role of Local Research Network Director and two new members of the Executive team: Professor Sarah Tabrizi, Research Director for Huntington's disease and Dr Andrea Malaspina, Research Director for Motor Neurone disease.

It is with regret that the Network bids farewell to Dr Cath Mummy who has stepped down from her role as LRN Director, and we would like to thank her for her hard work, direction and support. Change is national as well as local; there will be significant restructuring to ensure more clarity and responsibility in disease areas, and better communication between regional Networks, to spread knowledge of best practice in clinical research.

Our vision to give all patients the opportunity to take part in research and to ensure that excellent clinical research goes hand in hand with optimising clinical practice, has not changed. To achieve this DeNDRoN is undertaking three new, exciting projects nationally: INTERACT, specifically seeking to provide full national DeNDRoN coverage;

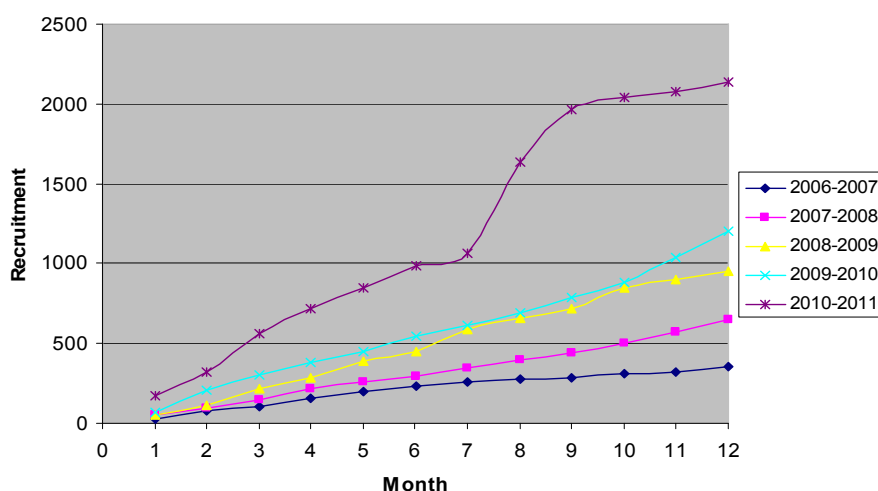
ENRICH, making care homes 'research ready'; and RAFT, reviewing Patient Registries. The network continues to strive to work closely with key stakeholders to ensure that good quality research is available for Investigators and that patients know how to be involved.

In this issue:

- Recruitment success for our research teams
- Welcome to Dr Simon Adelman
- Introduction to our new Executive Group
- Training opportunities

Record Recruitment figures for 2010 –2011

Congratulations to all Research Teams in North Thames, who together recruited a record number of patients and carers into DeNDRoN portfolio studies in 2010-2011. The region had more than a 75% increase in recruitment compared to the previous year. This is a fantastic achievement for all involved in dementias and neurodegenerative disease research. Please also see additional recruitment graphs, by disease topic at: www.dendron.org.uk/rn/nt2.html



Recruitment Success

Congratulations to the PD research team at Luton & Dunstable Hospital; Dr Anette Schrag, Dr Watts and Ruth Shaw, who in March 2011, randomised the first patient in the EU, to the commercial study DeNDRoN 059 - CONFIDENT PD.

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Introducing our New Executive Group Members

**Dr Simon Adelman
North Thames Local
Research Network
Director**

Dr Simon Adelman is a consultant in Old Age Psychiatry and currently works for Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Adelman has special interests in dementia and in mental health care for older, black and minority ethnic people. He has a research background as a former MRC Research Training Fellow and was awarded a PhD in 2010.

Dr Adelman currently works as an in-patient consultant in Camden, with the Islington Memory Assessment Service and MACTU, the Trust's clinical trials unit. The unit is currently recruiting for industry trials of treatments for Alzheimer's & Dementia.



**Professor Sarah Tabrizi, Research Director for
Huntington's Disease**

As Professor of Clinical Neurology at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square London, Sarah Tabrizi leads the HD clinic and the HD research team. She has a wide range of research interests in HD, from clinical and translational research to basic science.



**Dr Andrea Malaspina,
Research Director for Motor
Neurone Disease**

Dr Malaspina is a consultant Neurologist working at Barts & the London NHS Trust and Basildon University Hospital. He is Chief Investigator for the ALS Biomarkers Study, investigating Disease biomarkers in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Motor Neurone Disease.



Training Opportunities

Places are still available for the following North Thames DeNDRoN training courses held at St Pancras Hospital, London.

Good Clinical Practice

15/06/2011 and 21/11/2011

Understanding Essential Documents: 01/09/2011

Advanced Skills for Research Nurses: 02/12/2011

All courses are free to staff working on DeNDRoN portfolio Studies. Contact us for further information.

The NIHR offers free training for research staff working on portfolio studies:

- Good Clinical Practice
- Good Clinical Practice for Pharmacy Staff
- Industry Costing Template

For more details and how to book go to

www.crncc.nihr.ac.uk/training/courses

Current Research

How do I know what studies my patients have access to?

Our Clinical Research Officers can provide information about DeNDRoN research running in the North Thames region.

Please contact us for more details: Tel: 020 3317 4750

ntdendron.admin@candi.nhs.uk

Can I get support from DeNDRoN for my research?

North Thames DeNDRoN can support set-up and delivery of research that has been adopted onto the UKCRN portfolio. For more information, or advice on study adoption, please contact us or visit our website

www.dendron.org.uk/index.html

What funding is available for research support staff?

Please contact Tania Page for more information.

tania.page@candi.nhs.uk

Research Directors

Familiar faces have also been appointed as North Thames Research Directors for the Dementias and Parkinson's Disease.

**Professor Gill Livingston,
Research Director for Dementia**

Prof. Livingston is a Professor of Old Age Psychiatry at UCL and Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust.



Dr Sophie Molloy, Research Director for Parkinson's Disease

Dr Molloy is a consultant Neurologist at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust & North

West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

You can also meet the rest of the North Thames team on our website:

www.dendron.org.uk/rn/nt.html