



*On behalf of the whole DeNDROn North West team I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard this year to recruit participants to our studies. I would like to wish you and your families a happy Christmas and we look forward to working productively together in 2011.*

*Dr David Rog, DeNDROn North West Clinical Director.*

### **New Local Research Network Research Directors appointed**

I am delighted to welcome Dr. Ira Leroi as our new LRN Research Director (Dementia), and Professor Carolyn Young as LRN Research Director (MND). Both of these researchers have a long working relationship with DeNDROn North West. Their experience and insights will be invaluable in building our success.

### **Opening of NHS Research Facility in Preston**

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust recently celebrated the opening of its new Research Directorate and Clinical Studies Centre at Royal Preston Hospital. This follows the continued expansion of research activity within the Trust and the need for a dedicated space for seeing patients involved in clinical research. Professor Peter Diggle from the School's CHICAS unit attended the opening of the new facility.

Professor JD Mitchell, who is Director of Research and Associate Medical Director said; "This is an extremely exciting development reinforcing the importance of the Trust as a centre for clinical research in the North West. We have been working strenuously towards such a facility for some years and we are very pleased to have now got to this stage of having an integrated structure for people attending to participate in clinical studies. This is the only one of a very small number of such resources in the North West outside the Liverpool/Manchester corridor and we hope that this will be a stepping stone for even more developments in the future."

DeNDROn NW has a new base in the Centre, which provides clinical rooms to see patients, a waiting area and reception desk, spinning facilities to process

blood samples, hot desking facilities for nurses, and storage facilities for notes and equipment.

Patients enrolling on DeNDROn studies were the first group to use the new centre which opened on December 1<sup>st</sup> and there were many positive comments on the comfort and appearance of the waiting area and treatment rooms.

To find out more about DeNDROn Research in the Preston area contact Jenny Smith, Clinical Studies Officer on 07553366134 or [jenny.smith@dendron.org.uk](mailto:jenny.smith@dendron.org.uk)



**Opening of the new Clinical Studies Centre, with Professor Peter Diggle**

## Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) update



Clare Jones, DeNDRoN NW PPI Coordinator, provides an update on PPI activities...

It has been a busy period for North West PPI. I attended the Alzheimer's Society AGM which was held this year at Warwick University on 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September. There were some interesting speakers including Dr Vashisht Sekar, University of Manchester. Dr Sekar expressed his thanks to North West DeNDRoN for their support with his study 'Do cerebral emboli cause dementia and can we prevent them?' It was nice to see his appreciation in his presentation including a lovely photograph with members of the NW DeNDRoN team. Dr Sekar also facilitated a workshop on running a clinical trial of risk reduction in dementia.

### Liverpool & Knowsley Alzheimer's Society

On 26<sup>th</sup> September I took part in one of the Alzheimer's Society 2010 Memory Walks. I walked with Liverpool & Knowsley Society members at the wildflower centre in Knowsley.

We had our 3<sup>rd</sup> joint NW DeNDRoN & Alzheimer's Society Dementia Research Forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. During the forum it was decided we would look at two specific research ideas focusing on food and music. Small group meetings were arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November to discuss progress. The larger group will meet again in early 2011.

If you are interested in patient and public involvement in research, or the Dementia Research Forums, please contact Clare Jones, DeNDRoN NW PPI Coordinator on 07918 692 601 or email [clare.jones@dendron.org.uk](mailto:clare.jones@dendron.org.uk)

### Farewells...

We said 'farewell' to Assistant Network Manager Angela Parker, Lead Research Nurse Nichola Verstraelen, and Research Nurse Ambily Sathish as they have all taken maternity leave. We wish them all the best over the coming months.



### Welcome back...

Angela Aldridge returns to the team in December after taking a period of Maternity Leave. Angie will be starting a new role with DeNDRoN as Lead Clinical Studies Officer. We wish Angie all the best in her new role.

## Brains for Dementia Research

In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research Trust, King's College London is leading on the Brains for Dementia Research project.

Participants are interviewed about aspects of their life, including their mood, memory, and what they can do in terms of daily activities. When coupled with brain tissue this information can help researchers to understand what symptoms the changes in the brain might be responsible for.

Brain tissue can also help researchers to look for genetic links, for biological markers to increase accuracy in diagnosis, and to see what effects new dementia treatments have on the brain.

Healthy volunteers are just as important as people with dementia as they can show the researchers how the brain would be without dementia. Spotting the differences can help the researchers to understand how dementia develops and what it does to our brains.

To date, about 850 people have enrolled in the study, and DeNDRoN has helped to recruit 179 participants, which is very encouraging news.

You can find out more about the Brains for Dementia Research project via the website: [www.brainsfordementiaresearch.org.uk](http://www.brainsfordementiaresearch.org.uk) or you can contact the Coordinating Centre on 020 7848 8377 or email: [bdr.office@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:bdr.office@kcl.ac.uk) Alternatively you can contact Steve Chew-Graham on 0161 206 2561, or email: [brainbank@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:brainbank@manchester.ac.uk)