



Spring has Sprung Nick Freemantle

With the days getting longer and the summer on the horizon, the days are getting longer and the time spent outside is mostly much more pleasant. The pace of the oncoming spring always comes as a bit of a surprise to me; it is only just over a month since I finally took my shovel out of the boot of my car (the perils of living in the countryside) and this year I actually used it in anger twice.

It has been a busy time for the CCTU as I probably need not mention. The steady stream of approaches on new trials continues, as does the excellent work in delivering on the trials we have in progress. The introduction of GDPR and the brouhaha around it has led to the useful identification of areas where we are not fully compliant with the regulation around the storage of pseudonymised data in our databases. We are in the process of reviewing all the trials to ensure that we identifying and correct this problem. Alexander Pope identified that 'to err is human' and we should not be surprised to find evidence of this. The important thing is to ensure that we learn from errors, and we have systems in place to catch them in future.

The other big news on the horizon is our Review. The Review Team have finished their face to face meetings, and have met many of you. Thank you again for being so warm and welcoming to them, for taking time and effort to prepare documentation to inform them, and for answering their questions so carefully and fully. Gareth Griffiths, the chair of the Review, particularly asked me to pass on his and the panel's gratitude for this. The Review Report and Recommendations will shortly be communicated with Prof David Lomas, the Vice Provost for Health, who commissioned it. Gareth has also kindly offered to discuss the findings with me so that we can use them to our best abilities. More on this topic soon.

In January Alar Irs and Katrin Kaarna visited us from the University of Tartu in Estonia. They are involved in a project partially funded by the EU to develop a clinical trials unit in Estonia where currently there are none. They were particularly interested to visit us because they knew that we were UCL facing and ran trials across all the phases, which they had identified was unusual. Last week Gemma Jones and I contributed to a course organised to support this activity in the beautiful setting of Otepää near Tartu. Dr Greta Irs, Co-Director of Priment, also contributed some very helpful sessions. The course was judged a great success by the participants, and we are planning future opportunities to collaborate. During the course, I met with Joel Starkopf, Head, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tartu, and Urmas Siigur, Chairman of the Executive Board, Tartu University Hospital, to discuss how they may learn from our experience while developing their unit. Indeed one day we may even conduct a trial together!

Finally, last newsletter I mentioned the question that Dr John Cooper Clarke the Punk Poet asked: "What is occasional furniture the rest of the time?" Of course the answer is, "A periodic table"!



Statistics Island

The Statistics Team

Final analyses are still underway for HIPvac and DARC II. Both trials are nearly there so we should be able to share preliminary results very soon! FACT is awaiting final data before we are able start.

Attire lives to fight another day following the IDMC meeting in early May, whilst the reports for the IDMC meetings for both BEAT-LUPUS and KERALINK are well underway. Both meetings are due to be held in June before Kashfia temporarily leaves us for more important business.

Back on Stats Island there is yet more exciting work being done as RISAPS and OPTIMAS prepare for take-off in the Autumn and grant development work continues for RAFT.

It is a busy time indeed for Stats Island and we hope that soon we will be able to recruit for the Medical Statistician posts currently being advertised but we are delighted that we have managed to secure mentorship support from Prof Skene for Exenatide and RAFT in addition to his continuing involvement with DARC II, TARVA and ATTIRE.



ClinOps Update

Gemma Jones

This Month's Trial Highlights

DESPIAD and MSSTAT2 have had First Patients in! Well done everyone that got these trials to this point!

Good news for BEAT LUPUS; their ARUK 'red' status has been lifted to 'amber'.

Jade Dyer has been busy on the conference circuit with EVERREST and has been invited to speak at the International Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics in Japan and I am pleased that Pablo (ICTM administrator) will be starting as our Senior Administrator in the Summer.

Finally, thanks to Chaz and Hannah for a long close out visit at COMPARE.

GDPR

To everyone that has been working on this so far- thank you, thank you, thank you! We have had to ask you to turn round documents in record time and everyone has made such an effort. We will be as ready as we can be for implementation on Friday!

Upcoming Job Opportunity

We have a [Trial Manager advert live NOW](#)--closes **30th May**. Please post on LinkedIn and tell your contacts.

Meet Our New Starters

The month of April has seen the CCTU gain three new team members, so we've asked them to introduce themselves in their own words.

Rumana Jalil

TARVA Trial Manager

I've been working in the field of clinical trials since 2012. Initially started in the oncology field and then moved into clinical neuroscience. The last role I had was setting up and running a commercial epilepsy trial in children and adults. The trial has been successful and the recruitment targets were met for the children surprisingly rather than the adults for this cohort of patients.

Iwona Zaczyk

OPTIMAS Trial Manager

I came not too far from here as I previously worked at UCL's JRO. As you may know, OPTIMAS is very ambitious project and our plan is to recruit 3500 patients, so if you have a spare moment... Yeah, come and join us. ☺

Also, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for the warm welcome and all the support I have received. I'm enthusiastic about joining the team and look forward to working with you all.

Ashan Green

MOTILITY Data Manager

Hi I'm new, until another new starter comes. Looking forward to getting stuck in and able to sit in my chair for extended periods of time without numbness or fatigue.

Upcoming Events

Pub Social

Thu 31 May @17:00
The Knights Templar
95 Chancery Lane
WC2A 1DT

Rounders

Wed 27 June @ 17:00
Hyde Park
Details tbc.

Summer Picnic

Fri 20 July @ 13:00
Lincoln's Inn Fields
WC2A 3TL
Families welcome!

The Social Committee is currently seeking additional representatives from CCTU. Robert Fenner and Liz Clark are members, but the more the merrier. Please contact social.mrcctu@ucl.ac.uk for more information.



Your Guide to the Protocol Review Committee Sophie Connor

Who is part of the committee?

- Co-chairs: Ana Quartilho and Sophie Connor
- Other members:
 - Gemma Jones
 - Clinician of relevant expertise
 - Health economist where appropriate
 - One or more Trial Managers (assigned on a rota basis)
- Guest members: Chief Investigator, Clinical Project Manager, Trial Manager

How often does the committee meet?

- The PRC meet as often as required. Often when a newly developed protocol requires review before submission to the ethics committee.

What is reviewed in the PRC?

- The trial protocol, patient information sheets and informed consent forms including any other documentation where requested. These documents are circulated before the meeting for review and discussed on the day.

Why have a PRC?

- The PRC was created to ensure that high quality protocols and supporting documents are created by the CCTU team. The PRC are available to provide advice and support to the trial teams.

What feedback will be received?

- A written review will be provided to the study team and the Senior Management Team. This will be kept in the CCTU shared folders.



Test Your Trivia

Tola Erinle

Our own Tola Erinle has served as an impromptu quiz master for the past few Fridays, so she's compiled a little quiz for our newsletter. The prize for a perfect score is self-satisfaction, and who can argue with that? Answers are at the bottom of the page.

- 1) What five letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
- 2) How many countries are in the UN?
- 3) In the movie "The Wizard of Oz", what did the Scarecrow want from the wizard?
- 4) What is the national animal of South Africa?
- 5) In which sport do winners move backwards and losers move forwards?
- 6) How many elements are on the periodic table?

Call for Submissions

Robert Fenner

Many thanks for checking in with this month's newsletter. As we swing from Spring into Summer and our new projects begin in earnest, a more robust issue is all but guaranteed. However, any who wish to get involved with the newsletter are encouraged to do so and are more than welcome.

Drop a line to r.fenner@ucl.ac.uk with your pitches or suggestions.