

An update on The UK Translational Research Network in Dermatology (UK TREND)



Nick Reynolds



Chris Griffiths

Professor Nick Reynolds
Chair UK TREND Steering Committee

Professor Chris Griffiths
Chair UK TREND Advisory Board

Who we are

UK TREND was established in 2013 to support, facilitate and further develop internationally-leading translational research in skin biology and skin disease across the UK and Ireland for the direct benefit of patient care.

The network is supported by the British Association of Dermatologists and comprises a Steering Committee led by Nick Reynolds; its members are Eugene Healy, Irene Leigh, Mike Arden-Jones, Sara Brown, Irwin McLean, Shernaz Walton, Kave Shams and patient representatives Emma Rush and Mike Jaega. There is an Advisory Committee chaired by Chris Griffiths.

As a membership organisation we want to facilitate the development of multicentre translational research studies in the UK and Ireland, offering advice and support to early stage research proposals and links with established research consortia. The aims of UK TREND have been summarised in Box 1.

How does UK TREND fit in with other networks?

UK TREND will work with the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) to encourage collaboration by promoting cross referencing of relevant research projects and at the same time avoiding unnecessary duplication of activity. We will work with the NIHR Clinical Research Network to maximise the potential for clinical research within the NHS and promote links with the NIHR public and patient involvement group INVOLVE. We have signed up to the Sense about Science AllTrials campaign to encourage the publication of results from all clinical trials.

Research Priorities

One of the first tasks of UK TREND is to establish the major priorities in translational skin disease research in the UK and Ireland. The widely employed Delphi technique has been used to undertake this initial prioritisation and to reach a consensus. A panel with representatives from clinical academics, non-clinical scientists, NHS dermatology consultants, trainees in dermatology, patient support groups and primary care across the UK, with a comprehensive knowledge of, or a particular interest in skin disease research, were asked to supply and then priority score 228 individual research questions. The questions have been broadly categorised into the following groups: inflammatory skin disease, structural skin disorders & genodermatoses, skin cancer and miscellaneous (the latter included a variety of skin conditions/treatments or areas of skin biology not represented by the other three groups). The process was further reiterated and refined by presenting the panel members with the average score attained for each question and asking them to reconsider and rescore the questions based on the consensus of the group. The initial results are now complete and the findings will shortly be made

BOX 1. Aims of UK TREND

Develop

- A UK strategy for translational research in dermatology and skin biology

Facilitate:

- Collaborative working involving clinicians and basic scientists to facilitate international and cross speciality collaboration

Support:

- Training and mentoring to equip the next generation of non-clinical and clinical scientists and nurses in dermatology research

Promote:

- Opportunities for funding and the availability of resources and expertise
- Dermatology and skin biology research nationally and internationally

Work with:

- The UK DCTN and NIHR Comprehensive Clinical Research Network
- Patient support groups

Engage with:

- Industry, stakeholders, funding agencies and patient support groups

BOX 2. UK TREND Open Meeting

UK TREND Open Meeting
Thursday 13 November 12:30 – 17:30
BAD 4 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5HQ

Who should attend:

Dermatology nurses, clinical scientists, non-clinical scientists, clinicians, health care professionals, patient groups, industry representatives, professional organisations, trainees, pharmacologists, pharmacists.

Topics:

- Prioritisation in skin disease research
- Building a collaborative research network
- Involving patient groups
- Capacity building
- Examples of Translational Research

The open meeting is **FREE** but we would like you to register on our website or by emailing: catherine.thums@bad.org.uk

www.uktrend.org

available for the dermatology community. The next stage will be to consult the wider community working in skin disease so we can identify and jointly agree on future research priorities of national importance to present to stakeholders and to funding bodies.

Next Steps

Our immediate priorities are to develop the network and raise our profile within the dermatology community; we welcome new members and encourage the development of multi-centre collaboration and consortia development. We are identifying funding opportunities, liaising with industry and funding bodies and linking the availability of resources, expertise and techniques with the aim to support feasible projects.

OPPORTUNITIES

Membership

We invite you to become a member if you are a healthcare professional, patient or carer actively working in, or with an

interest in, laboratory-based or clinical research into skin disease. You will have the opportunity to get involved with networking activities, research and consultation.

Advice and Support

We provide advice and support to facilitate the development of multicentre studies in translational research in skin biology and dermatology. Applications for support from early stage to well-developed proposals are available on our website.

Open Meeting

After a highly successful Launch Meeting held in London in June 2014, the initiative has been widely supported. We are holding an Open Meeting in November to develop the network and discuss how we can achieve our aims (please see Box 2 for details of how to register for this meeting).

For more information please visit the UK TREND website www.uktrend.org or contact catherine.thums@bad.org.uk

Sun Awareness Week 2015

Charlotte Proby
University of Dundee



Charlotte Proby

I, like many of you, attended the BAD's annual conference this July in Glasgow. Surrounded by colleagues and peers driving the development of British dermatology, I found myself reflecting on the Skin Cancer Prevention Committee's (SCPC) and the BAD Communications Team's efforts over the past year. The initiatives undertaken by the SCPC and the BAD's communication's team (directed by Nina Goad, Head of Communications) have sought to, and succeeded in, driving knowledge of skin cancer prevention in engaging and meaningful channels.

This May saw the return of the annual Sun Awareness Week (supported by Bioderma), where renowned British sports persons Louis Smith and Greg Rutherford undertook influential roles as sun awareness ambassadors, reaching a total audience of over 13 million. May also saw the re-launch of the Skin Cancer Recognition Toolkit, an online resource developed in collaboration with the Department of Health, doctors. net and Cancer Research UK to provide GPs with invaluable assistance in identifying skin cancers and developing their own awareness.

In addition, this summer is playing host to the 4th annual Be Sun Aware Roadshow, sponsored by La Roche-Posay. Previous years have seen thousands of people flock to the mole and sun advice centre, which tours the country's top summer events.

This year's event has already seen a burst in popularity at the Isle of Wight and Latitude festivals, conducting almost 100 educational mole checks a day.

These initiatives have set a standard which we intend to uphold in the coming years (the foundations for an even larger scale Sun Awareness Week have already begun to be put in place for 2015). I would like to thank Nina Goad, John Major and Matt Gass in the BAD communications team for their work and congratulate them on their achievements, of which I'm sure there will be many more of.

