



Newsletter July 2006

No. 3

Dear Colleagues,

First, and most importantly
100 patients have now been recruited. So we've scored our first century. Well done everyone. Recruitment rates for individual centres are shown below:

Site	No. patients recruited
Royal Victoria	17
Oxford	16
Aberdeen	13
Norwich	11
Reading	9
Royal London/Bart's	7
Worthing	6
Ipswich	3
Southend	2
Royal Hallamshire	2
Chelmsford	2
QE Birmingham	0
Homerton	0
Antrim	0
Leeds General	0
St Jame's Leeds	0
Cardiff	*
Chelsea & Westminster	0

* commenced recruiting – figures not yet available.

Updated 01/06/06

NB: Some of these centres have only recently 'gone live'.

19 sites are now live! So recruitment is expected to accelerate. 23 sites have received local Ethics approval, 20 have obtained R&D approval, 21 sites have been visited and had their patient recruitment packs delivered. A total of 19 sites are now in a position to recruit although so far only 11 sites have done so. Over the next few months we will be contacting centres where recruitment has

been slow to see if there is anything we can do to help. We are all too well aware of the obstacles to recruitment and the difficulties you face, particularly in centres not supported by research nurses.

GenOSept

We are almost ready to start recruiting to the EU funded, ESICM GenOSept study. Remember, we will be recruiting the same patients (community acquired pneumonia and faecal peritonitis) to both studies using common information sheets and consent forms. Patients with pancreatitis and meningococcal disease can also be recruited to GenOSept. You will receive 100 euros for every patient recruited to GenOSept!!

An electronic case report form (eCRF) is available for patients recruited to GenOSept and for those recruited to both GenOSept and GAinS. This eCRF will also be available later for those patients recruited to GAinS only. In the meantime please continue to recruit to GAinS using the paper CRF.

Please would all those who wish to participate in GenOSept complete their LREC and R&D applications so that you will be ready to commence recruiting as soon as you receive the recruitment packs and your password for the eCRF. When GenOSept is completed (1 year recruitment) GAinS will have a further 18 months to 2 years to run; we will continue to use the eCRF for these patients. Could you also please fill in the unit profile form which is accessed from the ESICM website and return it to Professor Charles Hinds at c.j.hinds@qmul.ac.uk and to the ESICM office.

There will almost certainly be some teething problems with the eCRF, and many questions as we move to the joint GAINs/GenOSept recruitment process. We plan to rigorously test the eCRF with the first batch of patients recruited to GAINs and GenOSept.

Completed CRFs We appreciate the time you spend completing the CRF's – this information is vital to the success of our project (inadequate definition of "phenotype" has been a frequent and serious problem with previous association studies). Thanks to your efforts the CRF's have generally been completed fully and accurately. Please do contact us if anything needs clarification.

CRF questions CRF questions and answers can now be found on the UKCCG website – select 'technical information', then 'frequently asked questions'. This is periodically updated and may well already have the answer to your question! Alternatively call CH, CG or PH.

Grant applications and funding An application has been submitted to the MRC for funding to study the genomics of pandemic flu in patients who require ICU support. This application was prepared by Charles Hinds and others in response to a specific call for projects related to pandemic 'flu. Other submissions and re-submissions are planned to support GAINs and related projects. The fact that we have successfully recruited more than 100 patients in a relatively short period should increase our chances of success. Without the enthusiasm and support of all the recruiting centres, none of this could have been achieved, so our thanks to you all.

GAINs website We now have a website for the GAINs study. The URL is: <http://www.ukccg-gains.org/>

This contains information about the study, membership of the group and contact details, links to other websites (e.g. GenOSept), recruitment rates, questions and answers etc.

UKCCG Meeting The UK Critical Care Genomics group meeting held on the 29th March 2006, at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Oxford, proved to be a very successful event. The programme included presentations from Chris Garrard, Charles Hinds, Paul Holloway, Simon Baudouin, Mark Caulfield, Stephen Chapman and Julian Knight. The meeting was followed by dinner at Magdalen College. Our thanks go to Eli Lilly for sponsoring the meeting.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and participation.

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