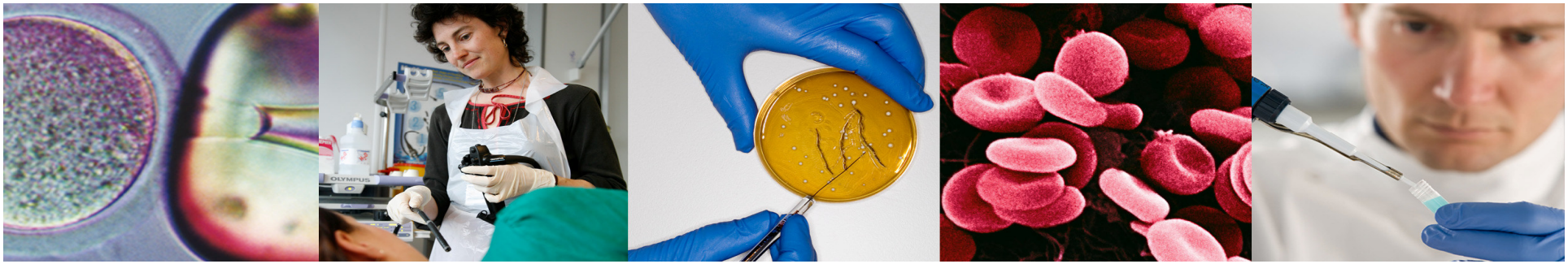
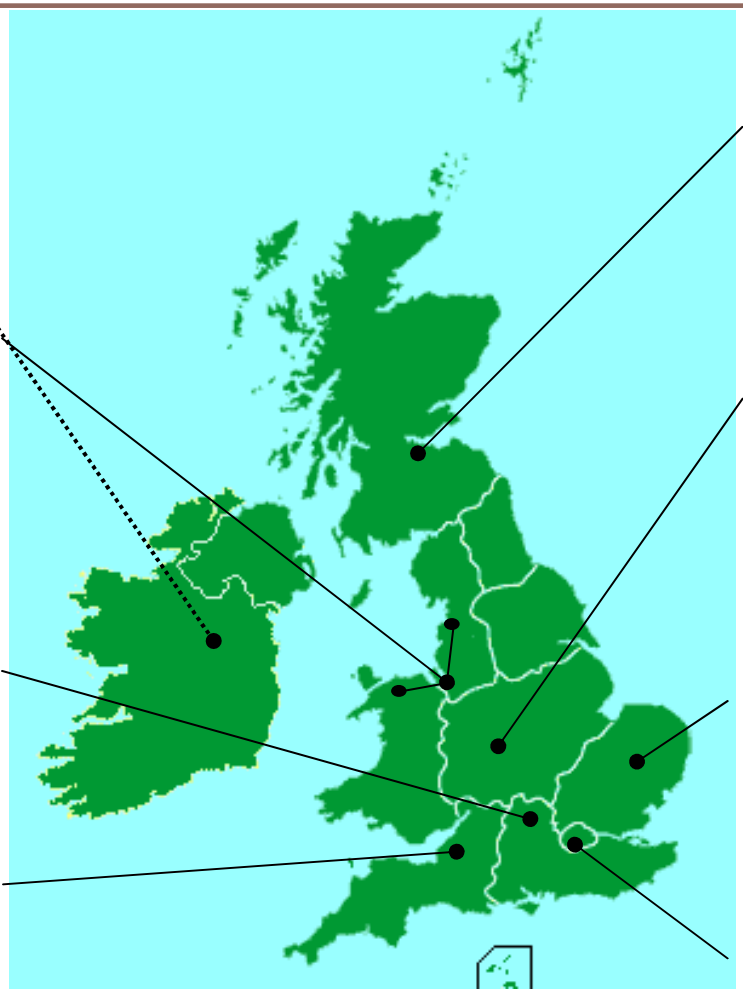
MRC | Hubs for Trials Methodology Research



MRC Network of Hubs for Trials Methodology Research

Max Parmar
Chair of Network

MRC Network of Hubs for Trials Methodology Research (HTMR)



All-Ireland HTMR

Northwest HTMR
Methods - design and analysis of early and late phase trials, patients' perspectives

Oxford HTMR (MRC CTSU)
Methods - trial conduct; IT in trial studies

ConDuCT HTMR
Methods - statistical methodology, design/conduct of challenging trials; HE, QoL and evidence synthesis.

Edinburgh HTMR
Methods - SRs, IPD, simulation, biomarkers

Midlands HTMR
Methods - statistical methodology, early phase trials and biomarkers, QoL & HE

Cambridge HTMR (MRC BSU)
Methods - statistical methodology, trial design, meta-analysis & HE

London HTMR (MRC CTU)
Methods - statistical methodology, trial conduct and meta-analysis

MRC established the Hub Network in 2009 to:

- add value
- stimulate collaboration and networking, both between Hubs and with external methodologists
- improve the national methodological platform in trials research through training, research, and advisory roles

Network: Some Areas of Interest

- Improving the methodology of trial conduct – e.g. methods to improve governance, patient selection and recruitment and IT.
- Improving trial design – e.g. accelerating the evaluation of interventions by developing and using novel designs
- Biomarkers and clinical trials- methods for developing and evaluating prognostic and predictive markers in clinical trials research for use in stratification, surrogate outcome measures and prognostic models.
- Finding consensus around core outcomes - opportunities for cross-study comparison/synthesis by harmonizing the number of outcomes that are measured and reported for specific areas
- Patient Reported Outcomes- There is a need to improve methods for analysis, reporting and interpretation of patient reported outcomes
- Missing data- This is an area of increasing activity, with a number of Hubs developing work in this area.

Network Executive

Chair of Network: Prof. Max Parmar

Hub Directors:
Dr. Adrian Mander
Prof. Lucinda Billingham
Prof. Rory Collins
Prof. Paula Williamson
Prof. Jane Blazeby
Prof. Gordon Murray

Network coordinator: Dr. Emily Crowe

MRC Methodology Theme Leader: Dr. Jane Fisher

Future Network Initiatives

- Network Website
- Workshops:
  - Approaches to the Evaluation of Rapidly Evolving Radiotherapy Technologies (May 27, 2010)
  - Using Routine Health Data in the Design or Conduct of Clinical Trials (September, 2010)
  - Methodological Approaches to Indirect Comparisons
  - Handling Missing Data
- Conference:
  - UK Trials Methodology Conference (first week of October, 2011)
  - Annual HTMR Meeting
- Trials Methodology Advice
  - Explore avenues to deliver methodology advice

Workshop Aims and Outcomes

Aims:

- to establish the current knowledge on methodology for using existing data to design trials
- to identify data-rich sources such as prior meta-analyses, animal studies, previous trial phases, and routine health record data.
- to identify areas where further methodological research is needed
- to identify the barriers to incorporating existing data into trial design
- to discuss ways of overcoming these barriers

Outcomes:

- to achieve a greater understanding of how to use existing data to design trials
- to identify the major methodological issues that remain unresolved

Agenda

10:30 – 11:15	Using pre-clinical animal studies to inform trial design	Prof. Gordon Murray
11:15 – 12:00	Phase I / II combination designs	Prof. John Whitehead
12:00– 12:30	COFFEE/TEA	
12:30 - 13:15	Using Bayesian analysis of randomised phase II trials to plan phase III	Prof. Lucinda Billingham
13:15 – 14:15	LUNCH	
14:15 – 15:00	Prior meta-analysis, trial sample size and cumulative meta-analysis	Prof. Julian Higgins
15:00 – 15:45	Value of Information Analysis in the prioritisation and design of randomised clinical trials	Dr. Nicky Welton
15:45 – 16:15	TEA/COFFEE	
16:15 – 16:30	Questions and Discussion	ALL
16:30	CLOSE	