



Joint SBNS / BNTRC Academic Newsletter April 2018

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Welcome

Welcome to the third joint academic newsletter from the **Society of British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS)** Academic Committee and the **British Neurosurgical Trainee Research Collaborative (BNTRC)**.

This newsletter includes updates on;

- Recent research news
- Currently recruiting trials in neurosurgery
- Future trials under development
- BNTRC projects
- Dates for up-coming research events

Please get in touch if you have any questions about information in this newsletter or would like to contribute to future news via Carole Turner, SBNS Research Manager (clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk) or Ruichong Ma, BNTRC Chair (ruichong.ma@gmail.com).

News and Events

BNRG

The annual British Neurosurgical Research Group meeting took place on 8th – 9th March 2018, in Sheffield. There was a good attendance and there were many interesting talks including one from Dr Rachel MacDonald who gave an overview of the Academy of Medical Sciences role specifically relating to their mentoring scheme. The SBNS are planning to roll out a similar scheme for all academic trainees. Mentors will be neurosurgical consultants from across the UK who will be paired with trainees from outside their unit with a view to providing impartial support and advice.



We are currently collating a list of all academic trainees (ACFs, ACLs and PhD students), if you are employed in any of these roles please can you drop me an email on clt29@medschl.cam.ac.uk. If any trainee has funding from the AcMedSci they are automatically eligible for the Academy's mentoring scheme.

The format for the BNRG will be changing next year and it will be promoted as the academic meeting of the SBNS with an emphasis on projects in setup / study design/ sandpit sessions and maybe a dragons den for trainees looking for funding rather than a series of presented abstracts. The next meeting has therefore been set for **November 2019 in Edinburgh** prior to submitting funding applications. There will however still be a number of invited keynote speakers.



24th – 26th May 2018

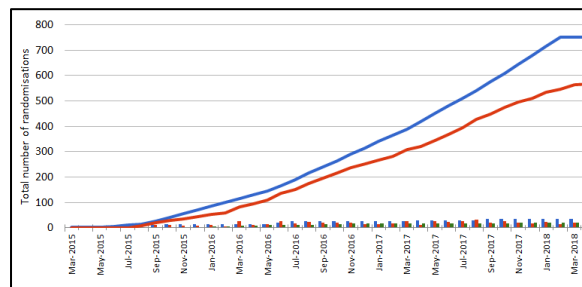
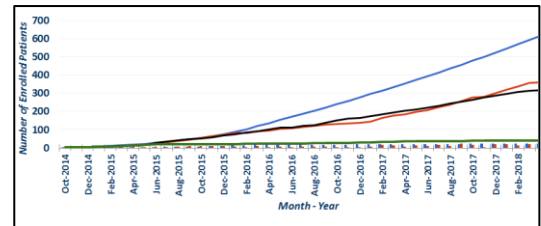
The SBNS are joining with the Hellenic Neurosurgical Society in May to host a neurosurgical meeting in Crete. Many UK abstracts have been submitted and the top 5 will be offered a bursary of free registration and

accommodation for the duration of the meeting, kindly funded by our Greek colleagues. The programme will include keynote talks from around 12 UK consultants covering all aspects of neurosurgery.

Currently Recruiting Trials

RESCUE-ASDH: Rescue for Acute Subdural Haematoma trial

26 UK sites and 15 non US sites are open (n= 364 in the randomised arm and 324 in the observational arm). Recruitment is steady but please keep on recruiting, especially to the randomised arm. Please visit our website www.rescue-asdh.org to keep an eye on recruitment numbers and contact us if you have questions about your site. We do need continuing support to maintain and hopefully increase the recruitment rate.



DEX-CSDH: Dexamethasone in Chronic Subdural Haematoma trial (www.dex-csdh.org)

- Participating sites: 26
- Patients recruited 579 (target 750)

We have now reached 80% of the target so definitely on the home stretch now! Please continue to help find eligible patients. For more information please contact Ellie Edlmann (eedlmann@nhs.net).



GLOBAL HEALTH:

Has been funded and is progressing well. Protocols, training courses and videos are all in process. Contact has been made with a number of collaborating institutions from developing countries.

ROAM: Radiation vs Observation following surgical resection of Atypical Meningioma: a randomized controlled trial

The ROAM trial is progressing well with 9 patients recruited to date. 17 UK, 12 EORTC and 4 Australian sites are now open. Please visit the website for further updates www.roam-trial.org.uk



TOPSAT2: Treatment of poor grade subarachnoid haemorrhage trial.

TOPSAT2 is progressing, 11 patients have been recruited to date. Recruitment and the opening of additional sites has been slow but is ongoing. If you have not already expressed an interest to join and wish to do so please contact the TOPSAT team. www.topsat2.co.uk



PRaM-GBM Study: Predicting sites of treatment failure and tumour recurrence in the invasive margin of glioblastomas

Recruitment is progressing well and new sites are continuing to come on board, 34 patients have been recruited to date. There have been a number of withdrawals from the study, please can you ensure that the protocol is followed to hopefully limit the number of patients who discontinue. If you wish further information or to register interest please contact Stephen Price sjp58@cam.ac.uk or trial coordinator Nazma Begum nazma.begum@addenbrookes.nhs.uk



FORVAD: Cervical Foraminotomy vs Anterior Cervical Discectomy in Cervical Radiculopathy

Approvals are now all in place and recruitment is due to start this summer. For further details and to express interest to join please contact either Simon Thomson simon.thomson1@nhs.net or trial coordinator Julie Croft J.Croft@leeds.ac.uk



SCIL: Interleukin-1 receptor antagonist in the treatment of aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage

A randomised double blind placebo controlled phase III trial with a target cohort of 1000 patients. The plan is to start recruitment this summer. For further details and to express interest to join please contact either Andrew King Andrew.King@manchester.ac.uk or trial coordinator Helen Bradley Helen.Bradley@christie.nhs.uk



Further ongoing trials:

HIFU
High intensity ultrasound for the treatment of sacral tumours

RECEDE
Regeneration in cervical degenerative myelopathy

CEREBRAL MUTISM STUDY

CI: Stana Bojanic, Oxford

CI: Mark Kotter, Cambridge

UK Contact: Conor Mallucci

Currently Completed Trials

BASICS: *British Antibiotic and Silver Impregnated Catheters for ventriculoperitoneal Shunt trial*
 Recruitment has completed (n = 1606). The trial is in final follow up with data lock on 31st May. The plan is to present the final data late 2018 both in UK and also at a European meeting.

NERVES: *Nerve root block vs surgery for sciatica secondary to a prolapsed lumbar disc.*
 Recruitment has been completed (n = 163/140). The trial is in the data cleaning phase. The plan is to present the final data and to publish summer 2019.

Future Trials under development

VISION: *Venous stenting versus shunting in IIH for optic nerve disc swelling.*
 EME call for intra-operative imaging
 Cranioplasty trial for timing of plate replacement
 Seizures post TBI

Please get in touch if you have any other neurosurgical related trials planned that you would like to share on this newsletter.

BNTRC Update and Projects

Neurosurgical trainees in the UK have had a busy and successful 2017. The current portfolio of projects includes:

Ongoing projects:

UCES (Understanding Cauda Equine Study)
 UCES steering committee are in the final stages of set-up and aim to be able to start recruitment in April 2018. Many units have a trainee organiser set up but we are still missing participants from Salford, Sheffield, Nottingham, Stoke, Southampton, St George's, Queen Square. If anyone from those units would be keen to get on board please fill out the form:
goo.gl/forms/5bFzh980UVKuCgGs2



Completed projects:

MEMBRAIN
 MEMBRAIN has completed recruitment in February 2018. A total of 23 neurosurgical units have contributed to data collection. The target of 500 patients has been exceeded already with a deadline of 31st March for final input of data. Following this, the plan is for presentation of results at the Autumn SBNS.

RED-GB
 RED-GB has been completed and published in Neuro-Oncology Practice. Results have also been used to inform a NIHR application for funding for a RCT to investigate early re-operation for residual enhancing disease. 3 members of the BNTRC (Ruichong Ma, Aswin Chari and Angelos Koliass are included in the application).

National EVD audit

The national EVD audit has been accepted and published in the JNNP late 2017.

ENTICE (Evaluation of National Treatment and Investigation of Cauda Equina):

ENTICE project was a joint NANSIG-BNTRC project and has completed recruitment. Results are being analysed and a manuscript is in preparation.

Following completion and publication of many successful trials, we aim to open up a fresh call for new projects with priority to projects exploring 'areas of unmet interest' such as paediatrics, NPH, peripheral nerve.

Dates for your Diary

SBNS Autumn meeting, London - This is a joint meeting with the
ABN 19th-21st Sept 2018



EANS Congress of European Neurosurgery, Brussels
21st-25th Oct 2018



BNRG, Edinburgh November 2019