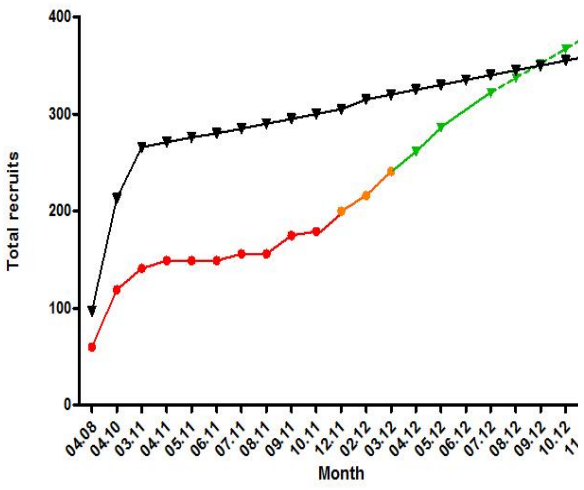
Newsletter July 2012

Dear GAPP collaborators,

It is six months since we last wrote to you and we thought it was time for a brief update. We have had a busy start to the year and are looking forward to further developments over the next few months.

- We are delighted to have had presented our findings at several meetings so far this year. Poster abstracts have been presented at the **British Society for Haematology Annual Scientific Meeting** in Glasgow ("Expanding the GAPP project – feasibility of remote platelet phenotyping"), the **SSC meeting of the ISTH** in Liverpool ("Head to head comparison of 96 well plate aggregometry and gold standard LTA for detection of platelet defects" and "A mutation in ANKRD18A causes a severe form of congenital thromobocytopenia") and at the British Pharmacological Society Cell Signalling meeting in Leicester ("A novel mutation in the DRY motif of the P2Y12 receptor results in chronic bleeding in a patient"). We were lucky enough to receive **young investigator awards** for the SSC abstracts. We currently have two manuscripts currently submitted for review. We have several planned abstracts at the **BSHT meeting in Bath in October** this year which report a number of **new mutations found in platelet expressed proteins discovered in the GAPP project.**

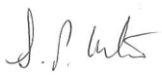


- The increase in accrual that we previously reported has continued. **We are now in the NIHR "green zone" (80% or over of target accrual).** This is a dramatic improvement given that we were in the red zone only 9 months ago. The help of the **Comprehensive Local Research Network**, in particular our lead network in Birmingham and the Black Country, has been invaluable in enabling this. The graph on the left shows our recruitment over time – the black line represents our projected or target recruitment, and the line below shows actual recruitment coloured to represent times when we were in the NIHR red, amber and green zones. We estimate that we should **cross the black line and be at 100% of our target accrual in September 2012**

- We continue to examine **new methodologies** that could be used alongside conventional lumiaggregometry for diagnosing inherited and acquired bleeding disorders. You may have noticed findings from these techniques included in our patient reports. In addition to Marie Lordkipanidzé's work on the **96 well plate (Optimul)** method in collaboration with Professor Tim Warner we have also started examining a **whole blood flow cytometry** technique which can be **undertaken remotely**. This is being performed by Natasha Dovlatova who is working jointly between the University of Birmingham and University of Nottingham. We hope to **present initial data comparing this method to LTA** at the **BSHT meeting**.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support of the project. Please remember to contact us if you have patients you feel may be eligible for the study, initial queries can be directed to Gill Lowe, Clinical Fellow, at g.c.lowe@bham.ac.uk. Finally, we wish you all a great summer and hope you get the chance for a holiday and some relaxation at some stage,

Best wishes



Steve Watson, Chief Investigator - on behalf of the GAPP collaborative. **Principal Investigators:** Dr Martina Daly (Sheffield), Dr Stuart Mundell (Bristol), Dr Andrew Mumford (Bristol) and Dr Paul Gissen (London)