



PD GEN Newsletter

March 2008

PD GEN technical support

We have expanded the facilities for getting PD GEN packs prepared to reduce the delay that some of you have experienced recently. The new PD GEN technician is now well versed in sample processing, so please increase the rate at which samples are collected if you can.

Support for PD GEN recruitment

The Comprehensive Research Networks (CRN) are in the process of developing research support networks throughout England. Those of you without DeNDRoN support should contact the Research and Development Manager in your local hospital trust to discuss getting research nurse support for PD MED and PD GEN from the CRN. Such an appeal has already been successful in the West Midlands.



Wellcome Trust funded genome wide association study in Parkinson's disease

The PD GEN Management Committee agreed to join a successful bid by a consortium of UK Parkinson's disease research centres to the Wellcome Trust for a whole genome analysis in 2000 cases and controls to identify the strongest association regions and to replicate this in a US/NIH data set. The consortium will also perform preliminary functional characterization of positive association regions using correlation with whole genome brain expression data to infer their possible effects on gene expression. They will also identify variants that influence sub-phenotypes such as dementia and levodopa-related dyskinesias and identify genes and pathways that require further genetic and functional characterization using DNA, flash-frozen brain, model organism research and *in vitro* techniques.



PD MED Collaborators' Meeting

The PD MED Collaborators' Meeting will be held as usual in the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham on 8th/9th May. This will include the PD SURG Collaborators' Meeting since we will have the first presentation of the results of the PD SURG trial. Book early to avoid disappointment!

British and Irish Neurologists' Movement Disorders Group

For some years, geriatricians with an interest in movement disorders have been represented by the British Geriatric Society Movement Disorders Section and nurses have had the Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialists Association. Now neurologists have their own organisation called the British and Irish Neurologists' Movement Disorders Group. The Group first met in Birmingham in January 2007 and the second meeting was held in Liverpool in February 2008. The next meeting will be organised in London by Professor Kailash Bhatia.

The chair of the Group is Professor Carl Clarke and the treasurer Dr Donald Grosset. Junior and senior neurologists, neurosurgeons and non-clinical neuroscientists are very welcome to join the Group by emailing its secretary Dr Malcolm Steiger (malcolm.steiger@thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk).

The Group has joined with its sister organisations representing the nurses and geriatricians to form the British Movement Disorders Group (BritMODIS). This virtual group is in the process of affiliating with the Movement Disorders Society and we may be able to have an inaugural meeting at the Chicago Movement Disorders Society Congress in June 2008.

Centre	Pts in PD MED/PD SURG	Samples in PD GEN	Patient Samples	Carer Samples	% PD MED/ SURG pts entered
King's College, London – PD SURG	26	0	0	0	0%
Macclesfield General Hospital	9	0	0	0	0%
Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mother Hospital, Margate	14	2	1	1	7%
Frenchay Hospital – PD SURG	53	8	4	4	8%
Royal Bournemouth Hospital	22	2	2	0	9%
New Cross Hospital (Wolverhampton)	21	5	3	2	14%
Walton Centre – PD SURG	40	11	6	5	15%
West Cumberland Hospital	20	4	3	1	15%
Llandudno Hospital (also Ysbyty Gwynedd, Eryri Hospital)	51	14	8	6	16%
Wansbeck Hospital	50	13	8	5	16%
Delancey Hospital/Gloucestershire Royal	33	7	6	1	18%
Staffordshire General Hospital	5	1	1	0	20%
Royal United Hospital Bath	33	9	7	2	21%
Southern General Hospital	9	4	2	2	22%
St Richards Hospital, (Chichester)	18	6	4	2	22%
Leicester Royal Infirmary/Leicester General Hosp.	75	30	17	13	23%
North Devon district Hospital	32	11	8	3	25%
Walton Centre (Liverpool)	24	9	6	3	25%
Princess of Wales Hospital	43	16	12	4	28%
Birmingham Heartlands	7	3	2	1	29%
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	55	27	16	11	29%
Hereford County General	32	16	10	6	31%
Rotherham General Hospital	3	2	1	1	33%
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, B'ham	35	19	12	7	34%
Fairfield General Hospital	132	84	51	33	39%
QE, B'ham – PD SURG	64	38	27	11	42%
Watford General Hospital	23	20	11	9	48%
City Hospital, B'ham	111	81	55	26	50%
Colchester General Hospital	6	6	3	3	50%
St Peter's Hospital	6	5	3	2	50%
Arrowe Park, Wirral/Victoria Central Hospital	41	40	22	18	54%
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital	198	224	126	98	64%
Bronllys Hospital	12	11	8	3	67%
Yeovil Hospital	40	41	28	13	70%
Dumfries & Galloway Infirmary	5	8	4	4	80%
Torbay Hospital	16	26	14	12	88%
Total	1364	803	491	312	36%

Can we help?

PD GEN, University of Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit, Robert Aitken Institute, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT. E-mail: PD-trials@bham.ac.uk Fax: 0121 415 9135