

# INTRODUCING UK TREND



## Who we are

The UK Translational Research Network in Dermatology (UK TREND) was established in 2013 by members of the research group of the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD). It is a network of professionals, patients and carers developed in response to the widely recognised need to identify, support and promote skin science research with a direct benefit to patient care. We are a membership organisation funded initially by the BAD and governed by a steering committee led by Professor Nick Reynolds with an advisory board chaired by Professor Chris Griffiths.

## Our aims

The aims of the network are to support, facilitate and further develop internationally-leading, translational research in skin biology and skin disease across the UK for the direct benefit of patients. There is a significant amount of unmet clinical need in skin disease, and we aim to increase the amount of research and raise the profile of skin disease by developing collaborative working partnerships within the skin science and dermatology community (see box).

## What is translational research?

Translational research seeks to translate new findings and discoveries from basic and applied research into new drugs, diagnostic aids, devices and treatment options and directly use these findings to improve patient care. Translational research seeks to bridge the gap between the advances in basic and applied science and use these concepts to provide practical improvements in hospitals and clinics.

## Develop a strategy for translational research priorities

We are currently in the process of developing a strategy for research priorities in skin science to act as a focus for fundraising, developing multi-centred research consortia and engaging with

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Professors Chris Griffiths and Nick Reynolds.

patients and carers. Once developed the strategic research priorities will help us identify new areas of collaboration and provide the catalyst to develop funding strategies and research design. Two such BAD-supported initiatives illustrating the benefits of collaborative exchange are BADBIR (BAD Biologic Interventions Register) and BADGEM (BAD Dermatology and Genetic Medicine). BADBIR is a network of 151 hospital sites actively registering psoriasis patients receiving biologic treatments with an aim to assess the long-term safety of these new therapies. BADGEM links dermatologists with an interest in genetics to geneticists with an interest in dermatology, to encourage the sharing of knowledge and to exchange ideas in clinical medicine and research. Using these successful partnerships as a model we will develop similar consortia.

Our next step is to consult with the wider community working in skin disease to jointly agree on future research priorities to present to stakeholders and funding bodies. We will work closely with UK DCTN (UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network), which has recently reported the top 10 most important questions for research into acne, hidradenitis suppurativa, vitiligo and eczema.

## Engage with organisations

We know that sharing expertise and developing partnerships is the most effective way to develop successful funding proposals and put skin disease research high on the priority of public, private and independent research funders. UK

TREND is part of the active and growing skin science research community, and we encourage dermatology nurses and nurses with an interest in skin health to become a member and promote the network to local patient groups and patients. Joining UK TREND is free and open to patients and carers with an interest in translational research. Please visit [www.uktrend.org](http://www.uktrend.org) to find out how to join.

## Open Meeting

We are holding an Open Meeting in London on Thursday, 13 November, 12:30-17:30, to discuss research priorities and collaborative working. The meeting is free and open to anyone with an interest in translational research; however we would like you to register by sending an email to [catherine.thums@bad.org.uk](mailto:catherine.thums@bad.org.uk), or through [www.uktrend.org](http://www.uktrend.org) **DN**

## Links

UK TREND [www.uktrend.org](http://www.uktrend.org)  
UK DCTN [www.ukdctn.org](http://www.ukdctn.org)  
BADBIR [www.badbir.org](http://www.badbir.org)

## Aims of UK TREND

### Develop:

- ▶▶ A UK strategy for translational research in dermatology and skin biology

### Facilitate:

- ▶▶ Collaborative working involving clinicians and basic scientists to facilitate international and cross-speciality collaboration

### Support:

- ▶▶ Training and mentoring to equip the next generation of non-clinical and clinical scientists and nurses in dermatology research

### Promote:

- ▶▶ Opportunities for funding and the availability of resources and expertise
- ▶▶ Dermatology and skin biology research nationally and internationally

### Work with:

- ▶▶ The UK DCTN and NIHR Comprehensive Clinical Research Network
- ▶▶ Patient support groups

### Engage with:

- ▶▶ Industry, stakeholders, funding agencies and patient support groups.