

# Translational Research Network in Dermatology Open Meeting



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Chair UK TREND  
Steering Committee

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## Aims

Following on from its successful launch in June, UK TREND held an open meeting at Willan House on 13 November 2014, attended by 45 delegates from across the UK, representing dermatology physicians, nurses, researchers, industry colleagues and patients. The aim was to define the future direction of this Network.

Prof Nick Reynolds (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) outlined the main objectives of UK TREND, with the overarching aim: 'To support, facilitate and further develop internationally-leading, translational research in skin biology and skin disease across the UK for the direct benefit of patient care.' Prof Eugene Healy (Southampton) outlined preliminary results from the recent e-Delphi exercise to identify and prioritise key questions in dermatology translational research. The results highlighted interest in atopic eczema and prompted lively debate; a more detailed report is eagerly awaited. Dr Shernaz Walton (Hull) gave examples of translational research applied to the clinical setting and Dr Sara Brown (Dundee) described filaggrin as an example of rapid translation of molecular genetics to clinical practice in eczema care. Prof Irene Leigh (London/Dundee) reported on the recent progress made by the genetics network BADGEM ([www.badgem.org.uk](http://www.badgem.org.uk)) in developing a UK register for patients with rare genetic skin disease. Prof Stephen Ersser (Leeds) reported national and international translational research in the nursing profession and Mr Mike Jaega (DEBRA) eloquently described how patient advice and intervention in the early stages of study design can improve the progress and outcomes of research.

## Outcomes

The meeting was a forum for open debate and the multidisciplinary group of delegates gave active contribution to group discussion. Priorities identified for developing the network include engagement with non-clinical scientists, the nursing profession and patient groups. Colleagues from the pharmaceutical industry were represented by delegates from Amgen and Novartis, and gave valuable insight to engender future productive collaborations. The existing highly successful networks – UK DCTN and BADBIR –

were agreed to be valuable examples for appropriate structure, funding and governance.

## Opportunities for involvement

The next open meeting of UK TREND will be held as part of the BSID annual conference in Southampton 27 -29 April 2015, and delegates at the BAD annual meeting in Manchester in July 2015 will be invited to attend a UK TREND Special Interest Group session.

In response to the e-Delphi exercise, atopic eczema will be prioritised as a key research area in 2015. An open meeting is being scheduled for the spring of 2015; further details will appear shortly on the UK TREND website. In the meantime, we would welcome expressions of interest which should be sent to Catherine Thums ([catherine.thums@bad.org.uk](mailto:catherine.thums@bad.org.uk)).

Methotrexate compared to azathioprine for the treatment of moderate-to-severe atopic eczema in adults: a multi-centre, randomised controlled trial (MAZE) is in the planning stage of development. MAZE will compare the efficacy and side effect profile of methotrexate and azathioprine in the treatment of moderate-to-severe atopic eczema in adults. If you are interested in contributing to the design of this study and/or acting as a recruiting centre we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Prof Nick Reynolds ([nick.reynolds@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:nick.reynolds@ncl.ac.uk)) in the first instance. A planning meeting (supported by UK TREND) will be held at Willan House, 4 Fitzroy Square, London on **13th February**. Contribution from patients and/or patient groups would be particularly welcome.

The steering committee would like to thank all those who took part in the UK TREND launch and open meetings in 2014. If you wish to find out more or keep updated with the Network please visit: [www.uktrend.org](http://www.uktrend.org)

