MRC Clinical Trials Unit (MRC CTU) at UCL Capacity Strengthening Hub

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the quarterly Newsletter for the MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL Capacity Strengthening Hub. Here you can find the latest news on resources and training in the area of clinical trials and studies, and developments on the Hub.

What is the aim of the Hub?

- Provide resources on all areas of trials, observational studies, and meta-analyses
- Host webinars and our new mentoring scheme
- Advertise new training opportunities

What is the target audience?

- Individuals/organisations working on clinical trials/observational studies globally

We would be very grateful for your feedback to enable us to improve the Hub – please click here:
Feedback

Recent webinar

Making the best of mentoring

This webinar was held in January to launch the LMIC Mentoring scheme.

Four experienced mentors from Africa, India and the UK talked about their experience and top tips for successful mentoring, and answered questions from the audience.

225 people attended live from 90 countries, and so far there have been 68 views of the recording.

If you would like to find out more about mentoring and how to get the most from it, you can watch the recording on our Webinars page.

Our next webinar will be 'How to be a good Data Manager'.

Please visit our webinar page to watch recordings of past webinars on being a good Principal Investigator or Trial Manager, Trial designs, and Point-of-care haemoglobin tests.

Webinars

Click here to join our LMIC Mentoring scheme (as a mentor or a mentee).

LMIC Mentoring Scheme

News

New LMIC Mentoring Scheme

We have now launched our new LMIC Mentoring Scheme on the Hub.

Aim of the scheme
To link those working on clinical trials and studies in different organisations, mainly in LMIC (Low-and Middle-Income Countries) for online mentoring.

Why have a mentor?
Mentoring can help to:

- Develop skills and expertise in your role
- Meet goals such as career development, promotion, management/leadership, or building self-confidence
- Be successful in areas such as applications for grants or fellowships, and writing papers.

Who can be a mentor?
You could be a mentor if you have:

- 3+ years of experience in your role

or

- Other experience - for example,
    - to mentor on grant applications - 1 successful proposal
    - to mentor on getting papers published – 1 successful publication.

How are people matched?
On the sign-up form mentors indicate areas that they are able to give support in, and mentees indicate 3 areas on which they would like support. We then match them accordingly, taking into consideration their roles, areas of interest, language(s) they speak, and time zones.

Success so far
To date around 70 mentors and 70 mentees have signed up for the scheme. So far we have had very positive feedback.

Why was this mentoring scheme set up?
A demand for mentoring was expressed in the Needs Assessment conducted with LMIC partners of MRC Clinical Trials Unit in 2022.

To find out more and sign up for the scheme, please visit the Mentoring Page on the Hub.

Mentoring

3 new Essential Reading Lists with certification

Following the successful launch of our pilot Essential Reading List, Trial Set-up, we have developed 3 further lists to support those in different roles:

- Trial Manager
- Clinician
- Clinical or Research Nurse

Feedback on our pilot:

- 100% said the concept of reading lists, with quizzes and certification, is 'useful' or 'very useful'
- 44% said this reading list was 'excellent', and 47% 'very good'
- One user commented that it is a "good mixture of reading and video material" and other comments echoed this.

The lists were developed to enable people working in specific roles or areas of clinical trials and studies to easily find a range of relevant resources, and in response to requests for certification. A certificate can be obtained by taking the quiz after reading/watching the resources.

Further lists are being developed and will be available soon.

Essential Reading Lists

New resources

Below is a selection of our new resources.

Please do explore all our resources using the interactive searchable tool on the MRC CTU at UCL Capacity Strengthening Hub Resources page.

Resources

Podcast: Lessons from UKCTOCS, a large-scale trial in ovarian cancer screening

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the MRC Clinical Trials Unit and World Cancer Day, we highlight our work throughout the past two decades to help detect ovarian cancer earlier. This article is part of a series highlighting 25 major achievements from the 25 years since the MRC CTU at UCL was formed. It focuses on UKCTOCS, the largest screening trial ever in ovarian cancer.

Lessons from UKCTOCS

Recorded presentation: Identifying who benefits most from treatments: estimating interactions and subgroup effects in aggregate data meta-analysis

Recorded presentation (link button)
https://training.cochrane.org/resource/estimating-interactions-and-subgroup-effects-in-aggregate-data-meta-analysis

Templates for Trial Master Files

A SOP and a template have been added from MRC Clinical Trials Unit Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):

- Trial Master File (TMF) Index Template (from Paper Trial Master File (TMF) Management SOP)
- eTrial Master File (TMF) Plan template (from *Electronic Trial Master File (TMF) Management SOP)*

These can be found through the Search button in the resources section:

Search resources

About the MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL

This Hub aims to provide resources on the design, conduct, analysis, and knowledge transfer and exchange for randomised controlled trials, observational studies, and meta-analyses. We also advertise new training and other opportunities, run webinars, and are hosting a new LMIC Mentoring Scheme.

The resources shared on the Hub have been created by the MRC CTU at UCL and partners, some

are for particular trials and studies and others are more generic. They may be useful for those conducting clinical trials and studies in different countries, and could be used as a template to adapt for other contexts. Country-specific regulations, and the needs, resources, expertise and local knowledge in the setting, will be important to take into account. We will do our best to ensure documents on this Hub are kept up to date. If you use any slides or training materials, please acknowledge the authors.

MRC CTU Quick Links

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