



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.

Recent webinars

How to be a Good Trial Manager (TM)

This informative, interactive webinar was the second in the series of webinars focusing on different role in clinical trials held by the MRC Clinical Trials Unit through the Capacity Strengthening Hub.

It generated some insightful questions and excellent engagement from the live audience of over 800 in 117 countries.

A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

Increasing access to timely haemoglobin results: unlocking potential point-of-care tests

More than 200 people from 93 countries joined this webinar on the potential of point-of-care haemoglobin tests for managing patients with severe anaemia, including the challenges around their use. There was fruitful discussion and very positive engagement from the audience.

A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

Resources highlighted in the webinar include:

- [Briefing papers](#) about Point-of-care haemoglobin tests and management of children with severe anaemia, available in English, French and Portuguese
- [Systematic review](#) on use of point-of-care haemoglobin tests to diagnose childhood anaemia in low- and middle-income countries
- [Short film](#) on Point-of-Care Haemoglobin test

Please visit our webinar page to watch recordings of past webinars including 'How to be a Good Principal Investigator (PI)', and to find out about future events.

[Webinars](#)

News

New LMIC Mentoring Scheme

We are delighted to introduce our new LMIC Mentoring Scheme on the Hub.

The aim is to link those working on clinical trials and studies in different organisations in LMIC (Low-and Middle-Income Countries) for online mentoring. The mentoring could be role-specific or for other goals such as career development, promotion, work-life balance, or building self-confidence.

The scheme has been developed in response to a demand for mentoring 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](#)

A Webinar, 'Making the best of Mentoring', is being held on 30th January 2024. This will also be recorded and viewable on the Hub.

[Register](#)

New Essential Reading List with certification

We would like to announce the launch of our first Essential Reading List, **Trial Set-up**. This was developed to enable people working in specific roles or in specific areas of clinical trials and studies to easily find a range of relevant resources, and in response to requests for certification.

This list, on Trial Set-up, was launched as a pilot. A certificate can be obtained by taking the quiz after reading/watching the resources.

Feedback has been very positive so we will launch further lists in 2024.

[Essential Reading Lists: Trial Set-up](#)

Upcoming webinar: Making the Best of Mentoring

Tuesday, 30 January 2024 | 10:00 – 11:15 GMT

The first webinar this year will be on the topic of 'Making the best of mentoring'. A panel of four experienced mentors from Africa, India and the UK will be passing on their experience and top tips and holding a discussion for the audience to join in.

This webinar is aimed at early or mid-career researchers who may have no or some experience of being a mentor and might benefit from the discussions. We would also welcome senior and experienced researchers to join the webinar and/or to sign up as mentors on our scheme.

[Register](#)

The webinar coincides with the launch of our Mentoring Scheme.

[Mentoring](#)

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](#)

OCTOPUS Trial Podcast series

Octopus is a new clinical trial for people living with progressive multiple sclerosis (MS), which is designed and run by the MRC CTU at UCL. Thanks to its multi-arm multi-stage platform design, Octopus has the potential to transform the way treatments for progressive MS are tested. The trial is now open in the UK and will be recruiting participants for the next few years.

The podcast mini-series will explore the trial from different perspectives by talking to neurologists, MS experts and people affected by MS.

[OCTOPUS Trial podcast series](#)

A PK Day - A film about PK (pharmacokinetic) studies

PK (pharmacokinetic) studies look at how medicines move in, through and out of the body. Researchers carry out these studies to find out how much, how often and for how long person needs to take a particular medicine for it to safely do its job.

This animation follows a young PK study participant over one full day at a clinic.

[A PK Day](#)

How do you design trials in smaller populations? A framework

A recorded presentation

[How do you design trials in smaller populations? A framework](#)

STAMPEDE trial podcast series

This series features 3 podcasts:

1. A new era for prostate cancer research
2. The role of the patient voice
3. Impact and legacy

[STAMPEDE Trial Podcast Series](#)

Adaptive Platform Clinical Trials

A slide presentation explaining the design of adaptive platform trials and how this has been used in the STAMPEDE trial and COVID-19 trials.

[Adaptive Platform Clinical Trials](#)

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 opportunities, short courses 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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