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

Thank you to everyone who has shared feedback to help the team to improve the Hub ,if you haven't shared your feedback yet, you can do so here: **Feedback**

Webinars

Next webinar

How to be a good Data Manager – Wednesday 3rd July, 10:00-11:15 BST

If you work with data and would like to hear top tips from experienced data managers, you could sign up for our next webinar, ‘How to be a good Data Manager’.

This is the third webinar in our popular series to inform and promote discussion about different roles in clinical trials.

Register

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 over 100 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 the MRC CTU Hub:

Webinars

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

LMIC Mentoring Scheme

Previous webinars

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

News

New look Home page
We have changed our Home page to make all the pages more accessible. We now have separate pages for News, Training, Feedback and Essential Reading lists.

The Feedback form now has less text so it is quicker to leave feedback. Your feedback is valuable to help us improve, and will be anonymous.

Feedback Form

LMIC Mentoring Scheme

Over 50 mentees have now been matched with mentors through the MRC CTU at UCL LMIC Mentoring Scheme. Feedback has been very positive, and we are now collecting feedback on how the mentoring is going.

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. They are then matched accordingly, taking into consideration their roles, areas of interest, language(s) they speak, and time zones.

To find out more and sign up for the scheme, please visit the Mentoring Page:

LMIC Mentoring Scheme

New Essential Reading List coming soon

The fifth Essential Reading List for Data Managers is coming soon. It will include the recording of the webinar How to be a Good Data Manager (to be held on 3 July).

The lists aim to enable people working in specific roles or areas of clinical trials and studies to easily find a range of relevant resources.

A certificate can be obtained by taking the quiz after reading/watching the resources, but this is optional.

Feedback on our first four lists:

- 100% said the concept of reading lists, with quizzes and certification, is ‘useful’ or ‘very useful’
- 87% said the reading lists are ‘excellent’ or ‘very useful’ and
- 100% said the content of the reading lists is ‘Excellent/Very good’.
- Users commented:
  “The [trial set-up] reading list is vital as it equip us with knowledge and skills”
  “This is so helpful, there is a real lack of 'official' training for Trial Managers, so resources like this are great”
  The lists give “Essential information” and “All resources are very helpful.”

Essential Reading Lists

New resources

Below is a selection of our new resources.

MRC CTU at UCL Symposium - "Innovative phase III randomised clinical trial designs"

The symposium, held in 2023, covered three areas that have successfully been used to address multiple research questions under one master protocol:

1. Multi-arm multi-stage (MAMS) randomised platform trials
2. MAMS-ROCI (aka DURATIONS) designs
3. Personalised Randomised Controlled Trial (PRACTical) designs.

Watch the recorded presentations and download the slides from 12 sessions.

MRC CTU at UCL Symposium - "Innovative phase III randomised clinical trial designs"

Podcast – Subgroup analysis – Who benefits most from treatment?

Clinical trial results usually tell us how effective a treatment was on average for the overall group of participants, but a key question for clinicians, patients and policy makers is: which individual patients benefit most from the treatment and which don't benefit as much?

Subgroup analysis: who benefits most from treatment?

Podcast - Estimands: Answering the right research questions – the next in the series of Trial Talk podcasts from MRC Clinical Trials Unit

An estimand is a description of the research question a trial seeks to answer, which can help researchers better understand how their study should be designed and analysed. Estimands also provide a clear way to communicate treatment effects to different stakeholders.

Estimands: Answering the right research questions

Podcast - Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in clinical trials

The MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL is committed to actively involving patients and the public in our trials.
Two members of the Unit's PPI Group, Richard Stephens and Ian Newsome, discuss what PPI means to them, how they got involved as patient representatives in clinical research, and how the MRC CTU at UCL embeds PPI into our trials.

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in clinical trials

Podcast – ARREST – Rifampicin for Staph. Aureus bacteraemia

Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus) bacteraemia is a common infection worldwide, with mortality rates of around 20%, but little research has been done on how best to treat it. This 10min episode explores the results of the ARREST trial, which looked at adding rifampicin to standard antistaphylococcal antibiotic treatment.

ARREST: Rifampicin for Staph. aureus bacteraemia

The full 20min podcast is also available on the Hub and an animated abstract and 5min recording summarising the results.

ARREST: Rifampicin for Staph. aureus bacteraemia (full length)

Animated abstract
Lay summary

GDPR video

The MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL, Penta and the Health Research Authority have produced a new animated video to help children and young people understand General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when they are being asked to take part in a trial.

GDPR Video

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

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 will also advertise new training opportunities and short courses.

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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