



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. Discover the latest news, resources and training on clinical trials and studies, and developments within the Hub.

What is the aim of the Hub?

- Provide resources on all areas of trials, observational studies, and meta-analyses
- Host webinars and roll-out a 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. MRC CTU at UCL welcome feedback from those who haven't had chance to yet. There's still time to input, please do so here: [Feedback Form](#)

Webinars

Developing funding applications

Webinar



21 March 10:00 - 11:30 (GMT)

Register now

<https://bit.ly/4bewkZi>

or scan the QR code:



Four panel members with broad experience of developing international funding applications will share their experiences, challenges and top tips, with a discussion for the audience to join in.

Speakers: Hanif Esmail (Chair, UK), Pauline Beattie (Netherlands), Cissy Kityo (Uganda), Leonard Numfor Nkah (Cameroon), Laura Farrelly (UK)

This MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL Capacity Strengthening Hub's webinar series aims to inform and promote discussion about different roles within clinical trials.



MRC
Clinical
Trials Unit



Register: Developing Funding Applications

Date: Friday 21st March 10:00-11:30 GMT

Speakers: Hanif Esmail (Chair, UK), Pauline Beattie (Netherlands), Cissy Kityo (Uganda), Leonard Numfor Nkah (Cameroon), Laura Farrelly (UK)

Four Panel members with broad experience of developing international funding applications will be sharing their experiences, challenges and top tips and having a discussion for the audience to join in.

[Register: Developing Funding Applications Webinar](#)

Recent webinar

Engaging with Communities – Lessons learnt from Africa and the United Kingdom

This webinar was held in December and featured four panel members working in community engagement across Africa and the United Kingdom, who shared their experiences, challenges, and top tips in an engaging discussion. The event was chaired by Annabelle South, Policy and Impact Research Coordinator at the MRC Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) at UCL, London. 149 people attended live from 49 countries.

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

You can watch the recording of the webinar on the MRC CTU at UCL Hub:

[Webinars](#)

Training

Penta's new online course PentaTr@ining: 'Infection Prevention and Control in Paediatric Settings' starts on 10th March and will run until 11th May. The course will consist of interactive live webinars, thought-provoking case discussions, video lectures, key diagnostic tools, knowledge check quizzes, and a wealth of further educational resources.

For more information please visit: [Infection Prevention and Control in Paediatric Settings | Penta](#)

Link to register: [Registration survey](#)

Penta is one of the most prominent scientific organisations dedicated to paediatric research – focusing on optimising prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases in children.

To keep up to date with more training opportunities, please visit the Training webpage.

[Training](#)

LMIC Mentoring Scheme

58 mentees have now been matched with mentors through the MRC CTU at UCL LMIC Mentoring Scheme. We are now collecting feedback on how the mentoring is going and so far feedback has been very positive.

Why have a mentor?

Mentoring can help to:

- Develop skills and expertise
- 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?

Anyone can be a mentor if they have:

- 3+ years of experience

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 webpage:

[LMIC Mentoring Scheme](#)

New Essential Reading List with certification

The seventh Essential Reading Lists for Patient and Public Involvement was launched alongside the Engaging with Communities webinar in December.

The list draws together resources that are helpful if you are doing Patient and Public Involvement/Community Engagement in a trial or study. It is not an exhaustive list but rather a recommended package of resources.

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

Feedback on our essential reading 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 are "Very understandable and clear"

The lists give "Essential information" and "All resources are very helpful."

[Essential reading lists](#)

New resources

Below is a selection of our new resources

When should factorial designs be used for late-phase randomised controlled trials?

This presentation outlines what a factorial trial is, and why are they useful/difficult, the points to consider and using sample size graphs to choose for or against a factorial design.

[When should factorial designs be used for late-phase randomised controlled trials?](#)

TB-CHAMP trial finds first-ever safe and effective treatment to prevent multidrug-resistant TB in children

The oral antibiotic levofloxacin, taken once daily for six months, can substantially reduce the risk of developing drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) in children, according to landmark results from the TB-CHAMP trial reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*

[TB-CHAMP results in NEJM](#)

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. MRC CTU 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. MRC CTU will do our best to ensure documents on this Hub are kept up to date. Please acknowledge the authors, if you use any slides or training materials owned by other health professionals.

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