Welcome to the latest edition of the PiCRIS News.

As you may be aware Health and Care Research Wales was launched in May 2015 at the Wales Millennium Stadium. Health and Care Research Wales replaces the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR) brand and is a national, virtual organisation funded and overseen by the Welsh Government's Division for Social Care and Health Research.

One element of the new infrastructure is the Health and Care Research Wales Support Centre which will facilitate the implementation of Welsh Government policies and provide 13 centralised support functions and services for the health and social care research community in Wales, one of which is to facilitate primary care engagement in research on a nationwide basis.

The launch of this new infrastructure reinforces the importance given by Welsh Government to primary care research, which has grown through initiatives such as the PiCRIS scheme. We are proud that we now have 106 practices across Wales involved in the scheme.

We, in the Support Centre, are pleased to announce the launch of the latest PiCRIS funding call (2015 – 16) the aim of which is to develop capacity within primary care to participate in research. Interested practices should apply through their local R&D offices. The closing date for applications to be returned to the Support Centre is 27 November 2015.

Featured Practice - The Marches Medical Practice

The Marches Medical Practice is a two site practice in Flintshire, North Wales, with around 15,500 patients. They have 12 doctors, 10 nurses and Health Care Assistants (HCAs) and train GP registrars and medical students.

"I first came across research when I saw an advert by Clarence Medical Centre, Rhyl, which stated that they were RCGP Research Ready. I had no idea what that meant, but looking into it further, I found out how practices were able to carry out good quality research within their patient population. This is something I always thought possible and useful, especially when we carry out so many audits on our patients. I phoned Clarence Medical Centre and the practice manager was very helpful and encouraging, telling me about the PiCRIS scheme and put me in touch with the North Wales mentor, Melissa Van Der Bilj. I have to say her enthusiasm is infectious!

With Melissa’s support, I have been able to bring the practice on board. The doctors had some initial reservations, but this was mainly concern it would involve more work on top of their already busy schedules. However, the PiCRIS scheme awarded us Level 2 funding, which has enabled us to pay for time for nurses and HCAs, receptionists, the practice manager and myself to train in research. It also allows me to have half a session a week to organise the research and delegate appropriately. We have two sites so I make sure that the doctors, nurses and reception staff are kept up to date with regular meetings about the ongoing studies and we discuss future studies. I think that if the staff are at least aware of the basics, then patients are more likely to enquire or take part in research. The Self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) study has seen an excellent response from our patients and Melatools was warmly received. In the coming months we will have HEAT, PACE and CANDID starting. I hope that if we have an inbuilt system within the practice structure then we will continue to carry out research at the practice. I know we have good quality patients for research and having the opportunity to further medicine is both exciting and rewarding.” Dr Neela Chatakondu, Practice Research Lead.

If you would like your practice to feature in a future edition of the PiCRIS News, please contact Iain Reid.
Primary Care Studies in Wales

Below is a selected list of Primary Care studies in Wales. For more details contact your PiCRIS mentor and/or your local NHS R&D Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Type</th>
<th>Study acronym, title &amp; references</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Further details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects Seeking Expressions of Interest (EoI) Prior to R&amp;D Submission</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio 14611</td>
<td>BARACK-D Trial. A potential new treatment for kidney disease</td>
<td>All Wales</td>
<td>EoI</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects which have Received Research Governance Approval*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio 13492</td>
<td>CANDID: CANcer Diagnosis Decision rules</td>
<td>All Wales</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Open to new sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio 17348</td>
<td>BATHE: Bath additives for the treatment of childhood eczema</td>
<td>All Wales</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Additional sites may be required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio 18417</td>
<td>SCIATIC: A randomised controlled trial of adalimumab injection compared with placebo for patients receiving physiotherapy treatment for sciatica (PIC study)</td>
<td>N Wales only</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Open to new sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio UKCRN 11921</td>
<td>HEAT: Helicobacter eradication to prevent ulcer bleeding in aspirin users: a large simple randomised controlled trial</td>
<td>All Wales</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Open to new sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio 12827</td>
<td>FLU-CATS: Evaluation and refinement of pandemic influenza community assessment tools</td>
<td>R&amp;D notified of this study-approval not required</td>
<td>Vision practices only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio UKCRN 19567</td>
<td>ABACus: Awareness and beliefs about cancer, Phase 2</td>
<td>Cwm Taf &amp; Aneurin Bevan practices only</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Open to new sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio UKCRN 17248</td>
<td>PACE: Primary Care use of a C-Reactive Protein (CRP) Point of Care Test (POCT) to help target antibiotic prescribing for patients with COPD</td>
<td>All Wales</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Closed to new sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio UKCRN 11858</td>
<td>WMHN: Wales Mental Health Network - Tissue Bank (PIC study)</td>
<td>All Wales</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Open to new sites in 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Global Governance Approval received but sites may need local health board approval.

Glossary: PIC Participant Identification Centre

Mentors’ Corner

The role of the four PiCRIS Mentors is to provide strategic support to Health and Care Research Wales Research Practices, interested in starting to take part in high quality NHS research activity, or growing their existing portfolio and developing the research capability of their practice.

Q: If needed, what support/advice can I receive when recruiting patients?
A: You will receive study specific training for each study you participate in, however should you require further support during the recruitment period you will be able to access support/advice from the study trial manager and your PiCRIS mentor. You can also receive “hands on” support from the Health and Care Research Wales Workforce e.g. help with database searches, mail outs and patient recruitment.

Q: How can I become involved in Commercial Studies?
A: Periodically you will receive emails inviting Expressions of Interest (EoI) for a variety of commercial studies. The origin of these emails may be from your local Industry Manager (linked to Health and Care Research Wales), your PiCRIS mentor or directly from pharmaceutical companies or Contract Research Organisations (CROs).
Primary Care Research Incentive Scheme

The Primary Care Research Incentive Scheme (PiCRIS) is run by Health and Care Research Wales. It offers support, mentorship (through regional mentors) and funding to primary care practices across Wales. Its aim is to provide practices with an incentive to become research active and embed research activity into daily practice.

Distribution of PiCRIS practices by level of involvement:

- **Level 1**
- **Level 2**
- **Sessional**
- **Affiliate**

A. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
B. Hywel Dda University Health Board
C. Powys teaching Health Board
D. Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
E. Cwm Taf University Health Board
F. Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
G. Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Featured Studies

Heat – Helicobacter Eradication Aspirin Trial

This is a large simple randomised controlled trial designed to test the hypothesis that a 1 week course of H. pylori eradication in patients using aspirin less than or equal to 325 mgs daily will reduce the incidence of subsequent adjudicated peptic ulcer bleeding that results in hospitalisation.

It requires only 1 visit to the surgery for patients and all trial medication is dispensed directly from the study pharmacy.

So far 308 patients have been recruited by Welsh surgeries with new sites needed across Wales. The overall target for randomised patients across the UK is 6,600. The trial will be running until the end of August 2016.

To register an interest and find out more please contact your PiCRIS Mentor or Mina Davoudianfar, who is the trial manager at: mina.davoudianfar@phc.ox.ac.uk

PACE - an update

COPD is common and acute exacerbations account for considerable suffering and resource use. Antibiotics are usually prescribed for acute exacerbations, despite evidence that they do not benefit patients who have a low C-reactive protein (CRP).

The PACE study is a two-arm, individually randomised controlled trial aiming to determine whether the addition of a rapid (<5 minute) CRP point of care test (POCT) to current best practice leads to a reduction in antibiotic consumption without negatively impacting on COPD health status.

Following the completion of the pilot phase of the study, the study team have made several changes in order to simplify the recruitment process for participating GP practices, including changes relating to eligibility assessment and simplified inclusion/exclusion criteria and a shorter baseline CRF (Case Report Form).

This study is currently closed to additional sites.

Diary Dates & Training

PiCRIS Funding Call 2015/16

The latest funding call was launched on 29th September 2015. Please contact your R&D Office for details of how to apply.

Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

For latest training dates about GCP training please visit: www.healthandcarereresearch.gov.wales/training

Research Ready self accreditation

For details on how to obtain Research Ready Accreditation through The Royal College of General Practitioners please visit: www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/research-opportunities-and-awards/research-ready-self-accreditation.aspx

Contacts

If you would like further information about PiCRIS, please contact us.

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PiCRIS Mentors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Mentors</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Wales</td>
<td>Melissa Van Der Bijl</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mel Davies (C&amp;V UHB and Cwm Taf UHB)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>South West Wales</td>
<td>Mark Davies</td>
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