

# **Developing a national network of topic- based expertise: an update on Specialty Groups**

**Jonathan Gower**  
**UKCRN Assistant Director**

*10 July 2008*

# 26 Specialty Groups

Specialty Group	Applications for Chair Received	Appointed
Non-malignant haematology	X	
Cardiovascular	✓	
Clinical genetics	✓	
Ear, nose and throat (ENT)	✓	
Ophthalmology	✓	
Infectious diseases and microbiology	✓	
Immunology & inflammation	X	
Injuries & accidents	✓	
Metabolic & endocrine (not diabetes)	✓	
Musculoskeletal	✓	
Nervous system disorders	✓	Clive Hawkins
Oral and dental	✓	
Renal	✓	Caroline Savage

Specialty Group	Applications for Chair Received	Appointed
Urogenital	✓	
Gastrointestinal	✓	
Hepatology	✓	
Reproductive health & childbirth	✓	
Respiratory	✓	
Dermatology	✓	Hywel Williams
Public health research	✓	
Health services research	X	
Paediatrics	✓	
Age and ageing	✓	
Critical care	✓	
Surgery	✓	
Anaesthetics	✓	

# Interview Dates

- Monday 14 July
- Thursday 17 July
- Monday 21 July
- Thursday 24 July
- Friday 25 July
- Thursday 31 July

# Composition of Interview Panel

- Chair - UKCRN Clinical Director
- Two representatives drawn from the NIHR CCRN (CLRN Clinical Directors), TCRNs or PCRN (Clinical Directors or local clinical leads)
- Senior representative from the one of the UK Health Departments
- Key stakeholder representation, with subject knowledge of each Specialty Group

# Stakeholder Input (1)

- Wellbeing
- British Association for Study of the Liver
- British Society of Gastroenterology
- College of Emergency Medicine
- Intensive Care Society
- British and Irish Orthoptic Society
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- British Geriatrics Society
- British Dental Association
- National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease
- British Heart Foundation
- British Cardiovascular Society

# Stakeholder Input (2)

- Public Health Association
- British Thoracic Society
- British Association of Surgeons
- British Orthopaedic Association
- Otorhinolaryngological Research Society
- British Society for Human Genetics
- Anaesthetic Research Society
- British Association of Urological Surgeons
- Arthritis Research Campaign

# Next Steps

- Workshops – Chairs – 3 October (provisional date)
- Specialty Group Meetings - November/December onwards
- Second round Chair applications – before end of year

## Remit of national Specialty Groups

- Provide early advice on the “do-ability” of potential studies (commercial and non-commercial)
- Provide more detailed feasibility
- Provide members of adoption committees
- Advise the UKCRN CC on all topic aspects of the CCRN Portfolio
- Provide input into topic specific training within the UKCRN’s national Training & Education programme.
- Provide the NHS/ Network based contact for groups supported by research funders or professional bodies who are developing studies (i.e. CSGs)

**NOTE: Specialty Groups will NOT have a remit for Portfolio development**

# Roles of Local Specialty Groups (Priority Groups)

- Advise the CLRN on the topic aspects of the local portfolio
- Provide a forum to bring together all researchers (clinical academics, university researchers, nurses, allied health professional etc.) interested in that topic from across the CLRN
- Provide the local focus for activity in that particular topic
- Support the CLRN to provide “Level 2” feasibility required for commercial studies. This will include identifying potential sites/ investigators that could conduct the study, assessing the available research resources including skills, facilities and equipment and providing anticipated patient numbers
- Provide strategic overview of the local infrastructure required to support the topic within an emphasis on identifying blocks and then working with the CLRN team and/or the national Specialty Groups to find suitable solutions
- Contact and involve local TCRN LRNs or PCRN Clinical Leads as appropriate.