

UKTMN ANNUAL REPORT 2020



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

We would like to acknowledge the difficulties faced in 2020, not just for this Network but for everyone involved in the clinical trials community. Covid-19 has had an unprecedented impact on clinical trials and the way in which we work, but as a virtual Network we have worked hard to ensure support and resources are provided for members.

We know from the feedback we have received throughout the year that the events, guidance and resources the UKTMN has provided has been welcomed by our members. Though we have faced challenges, our members have shared expertise and solutions to problems via a range of UKTMN initiatives.

Collaboration is now thriving, and the UKTMN are working closer than ever with leading academic groups in clinical trials. We believe these partnerships allow trial management to be at the forefront of clinical trials, and we hope to further build on these collaborations in future.



MEMBERSHIP

316 trial management professionals joined the UKTMN in 2020, bringing our total membership to over 1000.

We were also pleased to introduce an associate membership category, available for those who may not work within trial management but are involved in trial conduct research relevant to trial management, and receive tailored communication.

Full and associate membership is free, get in touch with us via email if you not yet a member and are interested in joining!

RESOURCES

The UKTMN Competency, Skill and Assessment Framework for Trial Management was released on International Clinical Trials Day (20 May 2020). The framework is designed for trial management professionals to assess their skills and behaviours, whilst highlighting areas for development across all levels of experience. More information and a copy of the Framework can be found here: <https://www.tmn.ac.uk/page/CFTM>

The framework was beta-tested by seven UKTMN members prior to release.

A review of the Competency Framework was launched in November 2020 (six months post-release). An online survey was released for members to complete in order to evaluate the framework. This feedback will be used to consider whether any changes should be made.

Full website re-build – a new host organization has been sought to enable better support and reduce yearly fees. Consideration was taken to increase usability for members and access to useful resources. New website should be launched in January 2021.

COVID-19 resources were made available for members via the UKTMN website, including links to online training, links to regulatory guidance and news updates.

EVENTS

The UKTMN Annual Conference 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19, but has now been rescheduled to take place online in March 2021. A full programme has been drafted and the conference is scheduled to take place across three consecutive days (am only). Attendance is planned for around 150 members with a fee associated.

We held a UKTMN virtual networking event, hosted on 15 June 2020. This event provided an opportunity for members to network, share ideas/expertise and discuss COVID-19-related issues for trials and how challenges could be overcome and was attended by 100 members. A summary of discussions and ideas shared were added as a resource for members on the UKTMN website.

A UKTMN rapid presentation event was hosted on 23 July 2020. Members were invited to submit an abstract for rapid presentation during an online event, showcasing ways in which trials have been adapted due to COVID-19. Advice and ideas were shared by attendees and 9 presentations were included. The event was attended by 130 members, plus an additional 50 catch-up views.

The UKTMN E-consent event was hosted on 27 November 2020. Members were invited to attend this online event, which provided guidance from a panel of experts including the HRA and MHRA regarding the process of electronic consent for clinical trials and was attended by 200 members with a high level of interaction. A recording and supplementary information will be provided via the UKTMN website.

Twitter live chats were held on 30 March and 14 May 2020. The chats focused on the impact of COVID-19 and gave social media followers an opportunity to be involved in discussion of trial management challenges.

WEBINARS

10 member-exclusive webinars have been provided this year, covering a wide range of trial management topics. The sessions were attended 'live' on average by 50 members, plus an average of 20 catch-up views. Recordings have been made available to members via the UKTMN website. These webinars provided an opportunity for trial management professionals to present their work and to hear how to be involved with trial management research.

- Career development survey results and ways forwards (97 attendees)
- BlueIce E-health Application (25 attendees)
- Estimating site performance 2; why it is important and how to get involved (25 attendees)
- Competency Framework; about the framework and why it's important (50 attendees)
- The PeRSEVERE project; managing trial dropouts and retention (65 attendees)
- The Ambition trial; global trials and trial management (60 attendees)
- The SafeTXT study; increasing follow-up in young people (25 attendees)
- INCLUDE ethnicity framework; ensuring research is inclusive (45 attendees)
- Automating data flow between medical records and electronic data capture (60 attendees)
- Estimating Site Performance 2; study update and how to get involved (40 attendees)

The first series of webinars were hosted on behalf of the Trials Methodology Research Partnership. It ran from May 2020 – October 2020 with each partner organization presenting one session per month. An average of 120 attendees attended each session, plus an average of 45 catch-up views. Recordings have been made available via the TMRP website and excellent feedback has been received about the webinar programme.

A second methodology webinar series began in November 2020, hosted on behalf of the TMRP.

TRAINING

Face-to-face training courses have not been possible in 2020 due to Covid-19, however many online events have taken place in lieu of this.

Two UKTMN online training courses are in development; Principles of costing a trial (Q1 2021) and How to be an effective trial manager (date TBC). We aim to train 25-30 delegates at each course.

A one-day Recruitment and Retention course (delivered by University of Liverpool and Trial Forge) is now scheduled to take place in January 2021 after having to postpone the face-to-face session scheduled for March 2020. We aim to train 25-30 delegates during this session.

We conducted a survey to understand the training needs of trial management professionals in March 2020. The results have been used to prioritise training areas. 250 responses were received and we we plan to submit the survey data for journal publication in 2021.

PROMOTION AND COLLABORATIONS

We are an active partner in the MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership which has been funded since June 2019. We hosted a webinar series hosted on behalf of the TMRP, information above.

UKTMN Executive Group representation has been established within the Good Clinical Trials Collaborative, ensuring trial management aspects are considered within the development of the guidelines.

We are working in close collaboration with the UKCRC CTU Network, ensuring the UKTMN is represented at the Executive Committee level and at CTU Directors' meetings.

The UKTMN are represented within the UKCRC Registered CTU Network Trial Management Operational Group by the UKTMN Manager, to ensure close collaboration between both groups. Specific collaboration with this group has helped to develop career development online resources such as a 'top tips' document and examples of role profiles.

An invitation has been received to join NIHR Methodology Incubator Steering Group, which is an initiative to increase capacity-building and career development opportunities. This place ensures UKTMN members are represented.

We have continued to collaborate with Trial Forge on the Estimating Site Performance 2 project, which was launched October 2019.

The UKTMN Twitter account gained 251 new followers since December 2019, and we now have 613 in total. Around 15k impressions were achieved over each rolling 28-day period this year.

A Twitter initiative was launched in October 2020 using the hashtag #IAMATRIALMANAGER; with twitter followers encouraged to provide information about their experience and expertise, which promotes trial management within the wider trial community and shows variety within the role of trial manager.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The career development results paper was published in the Trials Journal in May 2020; Mitchell. E, Goodman. K, Hartley. S et al. Where do we go from here? – Opportunities and barriers to the career development of trial managers: a survey of UK-based trial management professionals. Trials 21, 384(2020).

<https://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13063-020-04316-z>

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

We took to Live Twitter to announce the publication of the career development paper: catch up here: <https://twitter.com/UKTMN/status/1259800601069867009>

The results of the career development survey were presented to the NIHR Academy Careers Initiative Group (by invitation) and recognition of importance of the topic and discussion was opened regarding future collaboration.

New website resources have been developed specifically for trial management career development, including resources developed by the UKCRC CTU Trial Management Operational Group (details above).

The UKTMN Trial manager of the Year initiative was launched May 2020. Members were encouraged to submit a nomination for themselves or a colleague and 15 nominations were received. This initiative provided a platform to recognize the success of trial management professionals, and their contribution to the wider trial community. Claire Amos (UCL) was awarded the title and a special commendation was awarded to Lucy Fletcher (University of Oxford). The same initiative will take place next year, though will be disseminated more widely with nominations encouraged from non-trial management staff.

MISCELLANEOUS

A survey was disseminated to all members regarding barriers to attendance at the UKTMN Annual Conference in January 2020. 130 responses were received which provided ideas as to how to improve future conferences.

Forum use increased throughout the year with 32 threads posted since December 2019.

A COVID-19 commentary paper was published: trial management during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, which was led by the UKTMN Executive Group with input from UKTMN members; Mitchell, E.J., Ahmed, K., Breeman, S. et al. It is unprecedented: trial management during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. *Trials* 21, 784 (2020).

<https://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13063-020-04711-6>.

This collaboration involved UKTMN members, providing trial managers an opportunity to be involved in academic writing and publishing their work.

UKTMN EXECUTIVE GROUP

Eleanor Mitchell (Chair)	University of Nottingham
Suzanne Hartley (Deputy Chair)	University of Leeds
Lucy Fletcher (Funder representative)	University of Oxford
Louise Bowman	University of Oxford
Sarah Cockayne	University of York
Barbara Farrell	University of Oxford
Kirsteen Goodman	Glasgow Caledonian University
Helen Hickey	University of Liverpool
Sarah Lawton	Keele University
Ryonfa Lee	University of Oxford
Alison McDonald	University of Aberdeen
Shelley Rhodes	University of Exeter
Jodi Taylor	University of Bristol
Natalie Wakefield (Manager)	University of Nottingham
Jill Barton	University of Oxford - stepped down March 2020
Roisin Boyle	The Royal Hospitals Belfast - stepped down June 2020
Michelle Gabriel	University College London - stepped down November 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the UKTMN funders; the Nuffield Department of Population Health (NDPH) at the University of Oxford, for their ongoing support and recognition of the value of UKTMN and the Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Nottingham for hosting the Network.

We would also like to thank everyone who has been a part of our achievements this year, including all of our members and collaborators.

UKTMN Members

UKTMN Associate Members

[MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership](#)

MRC-NIHR TMRP Working Groups

[UKCRC Registered CTU Network](#)

UKCRC Registered CTU Network Trials Management Operational Group

[MRC Hubs for Trials Methodology Research](#)

[The Global Health Network](#)

[Health Research Board Trials Methodology Research Network](#)

[Health Data Research UK](#)

[Good Clinical Trials Collaborative](#)

[NIHR Methodology Incubator Group](#)

[NCRI Cancer CTU Training Subgroup](#)



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