

N102 Final project report

Award Title:

Defining the remit and setting the scope for the new Trial Conduct Working Group: opportunities for transformation under the partnership

Budget (and final spend if known)

£4790

Applicants (and their affiliations including hub)

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Summary of award objectives

The objectives of this award were to:

- Facilitate the merging of the existing HTMR recruitment and trial conduct working groups.
- Provide an opportunity for members to meet one another and foster collaborations.
- Stimulate discussion and exchange ideas for TMRP trial conduct working group activities.

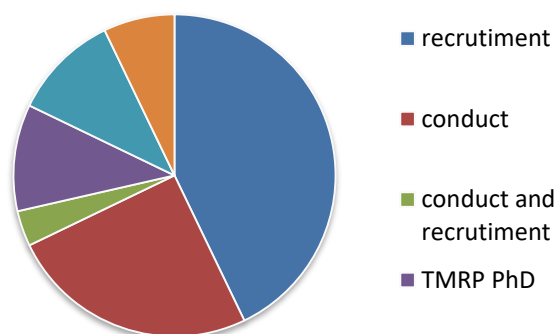
What was achieved compared to objectives

The meeting took place on the 21st November at the Hotel Indigo, Birmingham.

Co-applicants identified active members of the HTMR Trial Conduct or Recruitment Working Groups and invited these members to attend the face-to-face meeting. In addition to the existing Working Group members we also invited representatives from the new partners of the TMRP namely: PhD students; Patient Public Involvement (Derek Stewart); HRB TMRN (Sandra Galvin); HDR UK (Matt Sydes represented); UKTMN (Helen Hickey); UK CRC CTUs (Athene Lane represented). Twenty eight

members attended the meeting and represented members of the existing Working Groups and new members of the TMRP partnership (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Meeting delegate affiliations.



The merging of memberships and fostering of collaborations was facilitated by a “speed-dating” style session allowing meeting participants to introduce themselves informally, get to know others and identify common interests. This session was well received by participants and received good feedback after the meeting as an enjoyable but productive exercise.

“The speed dating bit was fab because it allowed everyone to get to know each other in a fairly short amount of time.”

The afternoon session provided an opportunity for the group to identify, discuss and agree on key areas for the TMRP Trial Conduct Working Group to focus on and how the group could be most effectively operationalised. This was discussed in a mixture of small group and whole group sessions.

With regard to defining key topic areas for future collaborative effort, the group discussed a number of future activity areas across trial conduct and agreed on six key topic areas on which to focus future activity and include in the Expression of Interest form for dissemination across the group, the wider TMRP and its partners. These six topics are:

1. Recruitment to trials (Informed by the Priority I research agenda)
2. Retention to trials (Informed by the Priority II research agenda)
3. Qualitative Research within trial conduct (e.g. generation of good working practice documents, costing models, connectivity and learning across existing data sets, capacity building)
4. Communication (e.g. best methods(inc who, what, where, when, how) for communicating with participants (potential and enrolled), with sites, with collaborators, funders, regulators, etc)
5. Data quality and monitoring (how to maximise good data and best monitor trials)
6. Inclusivity (ensuring trials are conducted in an inclusive way)

The discussions that followed the agreement of the TCWG topic areas focussed on the organisational structure of the group and plans for operationalisation. The group agreed that there would be a structure following a number of topics, but expecting that many people would want to be a part of

more than one topic. The call be put out will ask for whether or not people want to be associate members (on mailing lists, but not actively in topic groups), members (active in topic groups) and topic leads. Topic leads will form the core management of the Working Group with meeting with the co-leads of the WG. The conceptual model of the Working Group will be to form communities of practice to utilise evidence and a community of researchers developing the evidence.

What Outputs / Examples of impact have been generated or are in progress / planned

The TMRP Trial Conduct working group has circulated an Expression of Interest form to TMRP partners. This includes an option to express interest/involvement in the six topic areas identified from the meeting. A gap-analysis focussed review of this initial list of interested parties will be conducted by the TCWG co-leads to identify additional networks and partners to strategically target. This next wave of EOI gathering will likely take place in Spring 2020.