

# The ON TRACK Network

March 2018



Edition 19



Welcome to the March edition of the ON TRACK Network newsletter

## ON TRACK News

- ❖ This month saw a busy week in Auckland with PSANZ and IMPACT meetings
- ❖ ON TRACK was heavily involved; co-hosting the IMPACT meeting (see over for details), as a networking partner and hosting a lunchtime meeting (see over for summary from Chris Thurnell)
- ❖ My Baby's Movements Trial is heading into the active phase at New Zealand sites next month – get ready Auckland City Hospital, Counties Manukau and Christchurch Women's!

## The 2018 ON TRACK Trial Concept Development Workshop Liggins Institute Feb 19-20th



The second annual ON TRACK Network Trial Concept Development workshop was attended by 56 delegates from all around New Zealand including representatives from all maternal and perinatal health professional disciplines.

The workshop aims to develop promising concepts for clinical trials into collaborative, multicentre proposals suitable for submission for competitive grant funding. This year, four trial concepts from midwifery, obstetric medicine and general practice were considered. Trial concepts included an intervention for treatment of neonatal hypoglycaemia, correction of fetal malposition in labour, assessment of a preeclampsia screening test and use of a family health history tool in general practice to improve health of mothers and babies. On day one Lead Investigators presented their concepts to the whole group before moving into smaller groups to refine their study design and methodology with the help of experienced facilitators. These included international clinical trial experts Lucille Sebastian (NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, Sydney) Jennifer Dawson (senior neonatal research nurse, Melbourne) & Jo Said (MFM specialist,

Melbourne); local clinical trial experts Colin McArthur, John Kolbe, Robert Scragg & Les Toop; biostatisticians Greg Gamble & Thomas Lumley; consumer representatives Sandy McGivern, Naomi Siddall, Ebba Peterson, Lorris Skelton, Mele Fakaosilea & Angie Samuels; and Māori research advisor Helen Wihongi. By the end of day one concept groups had developed a trial protocol which was submitted for critique by the review panel. At the start of day two the panel considered the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal identifying areas of each proposal that needed improvement. Further small group work and discussion followed. At the end of the workshop, Lead Investigators presented their planned next steps including identifying new collaborators with specific expertise (e.g. a health economist), redefining the research question and gathering preliminary data through consumer and clinician surveys and observational studies.

Feedback included comments like *"amazing learning opportunity; it was a steep learning curve; it was great meeting others who were so supportive"*. The ON TRACK Network looks forward to offering further support to these groups as trials develop.



The ON TRACK Network hosted a lunchtime meeting at PSANZ to provide an opportunity for Site Network Leaders, Site Network Co-ordinators, researchers, clinicians and national exec committee members to get together and learn from each other about how ON TRACK can work at local sites. It was great to see Site Network Leaders such as Kirsten Gaerty from Hawkes Bay and Melissa Brown from National Women's Health there and to hear an inspiring talk from Chris Thurnell. Chris is from Tauranga, a busy secondary unit, which has not historically engaged in research.

Chris provided a long and interesting list of what benefits the ON TRACK Network has bought to Tauranga. We thought it may be of interest to you all.....

- We get more than we give to the relationship with the ON TRACK Network
- It has added a new dimension to our department
- Educates staff and raises awareness of evidence based medicine
- We are more aware of new evidence related to trials we are involved in e.g. GDM knowledge is better after recruiting to TARGET
- Researchers like Michelle Wise come to talk to us about new trials and give educational talks in their area of interest 'inspirational'!
- Insight into research methodology and analysis has helped us critique our own research reading
- Improved communication with academic centres. Easier to call for advice when on first name terms
- Disseminate other research findings highlighted in ON TRACK Network newsletters
- Identify and nurture previously unseen talents in colleagues
- Feedback from other conferences using Education fund 'funded by our OTN trials'
- Hope to replace our protocols with up to date evidence based practice generated by trials we have taken part in
- Promoting research as a core part of our clinical work

Thanks for sharing these thoughts with us Chris. Hopefully they will inspire other sites to get more active with ON TRACK.

## Multicentre Trials currently recruiting in NZ

GEMS

hPOD

HINT2

DIAMOND

MBM

OBLIGE

PROVIDE

PAEAN

## Embedding Research into Clinical Practice

The ON TRACK and the PSANZ IMPACT Networks co-hosted this highly successful two day meeting at the ANZ Viaduct Events Centre in Auckland 24-25<sup>th</sup> March.

Professor Nik Zeps opened the meeting with some thoughtful consideration of what embedding research into clinical practice really means. UK speakers Professors Anna David and Sara Kenyon told us about the UK NIHR clinical trial network and how it works for them in maternal and perinatal health. It seems we have things to learn but they were also keen to take back home some of our initiatives – trial concept development workshops and monthly newsletters, some things new to them!

Dr Sarah-Jane Paine gave an insightful talk on responsiveness to Māori health and the importance of this when planning our future trials. It was also great to have Dr Bev Lawton and Wendy Dallas-Katoa join us from He Hono Wāhine (RANZCOG), we hope this is just the start of a relationship with ON TRACK, thank you for your support.

During the remainder of our time we heard ON TRACK updates from current trials such as OBLIGE, PROVIDE, DIAMOND, hPOD and GEMS; proposed trials from past workshops such as the Latte Trial and C\*STEROID; and new ideas such as a RCT of transfusions vs IV iron therapy after PPH expertly presented by Esther Calje.



It was really was fantastic to see so much clinical trial research activity across New Zealand – congratulations to all!

