



July 2010



My name is Marek Plaskota and I am the Research Nurse at the Princess Alice Hospice. This newsletter contains up-to-date information on research projects the Princess Alice Hospice is involved in.

Princess Alice Hospice supports today's evidence-based approach to clinical practice. We highly value the role of research as a source of information contributing to the body of knowledge related to our practice. We work in close collaboration with University of Surrey, Kingston University and St. George's University of London. Dr Jennifer Todd, Consultant in Palliative Medicine is the Chairman of the Hospice Research Committee.

The e-version of this newsletter can be found here: http://pah.org.uk/research/marek/Documents/PAH_July_2010_home.php

Due to Dr Jennifer Todd's career break:

Dr Aruni Wijeratne will be taking over as the Hospice Research Lead, the Chairman of the Hospice Research Committee and the Principal investigator for the BTcP Registry on 4th August 2010

Dr Caroline Lucas will be taking over as the Principal investigator for the Cephalon Study on 1st July 2010



10-11 June 2010

Princess Alice Hospice was inspected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in relation to Cephalon Trial. The inspectors were impressed with a high level of involvement of the Principal Investigator (Dr Todd) in overseeing and conducting the study. There were no issues regarding patients' safety.

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New

Study to explore how palliative care nurses recognise and respond to the non-religious spiritual needs of their patients- *submitted for NHS Ethics*

Study aims to ascertain how palliative care nurses recognise and respond to non-religious spiritual needs of the dying patient.

Researcher: *Alison Cruise, CNS*

European multicentre open-label study of breakthrough cancer pain: assessment of fentanyl buccal tablets (FBT), titration and treatment in opioid-tolerant patients- *in progress-3 patients recruited to date*

The purpose of this open-label randomised study is to compare the titration regimen between patients treated with FBT at a starting dose of 100mcg (group A) and those with a starting dose of 200mcg (group B).

Researchers: *Dr Jennifer Todd, Marek Plaskota*

An assessment of the impact that the Certificate in Essential Palliative Care has on the candidates' self efficacy and attitudes towards caring for palliative care patients- *in progress-23 participants recruited*

This study aims to evaluate changes in self efficacy and attitudes from before and after completing the certificate course.

Researchers: *Dr Sinead Henderson, Dr Caroline Lucas, Marek Plaskota*

What is the impact of an interprofessional practice placement on teamwork, learning, interaction and relationships between undergraduate students in a hospice setting?-in progress

The aim of this project is to evaluate the impact of an interprofessional education placement on learning and relationships between students from different professional backgrounds.

Researcher: *Dr Nick Dando, Specialist Palliative Care Registrar*

Abstral BreakThrough cancer Pain Registry-in progress-4 patients recruited

The aim of the registry is to monitor the Abstral titration experience of patients with breakthrough pain. The BTcP registry will collect information to complement the current clinical data package with information regarding the use of Abstral in the 'real-world' setting.

Researchers: *Dr Jennifer Todd, Marek Plaskota*

Nurses' experiences of using terminal sedation as a symptom control measure-submitted

The aim of this MSc study is to identify how nurses feel when caring for terminally sedated patients and what support might be needed.

Researcher: *Marek Plaskota, Research Nurse*

What are palliative care nurses' experiences of caring for patients with verbal communication difficulties-submitted

The aim of this MSc study is to identify how verbal communication difficulties impact on palliative care and to use this information to influence practice and future research.

Researcher: *Donna Lawrie, Registered Nurse at Royal Marsden Hospital*

An exploration of carers' dilemmas in relation to facilitating dying at home for terminally ill cancer patients-submitted

The aim of this MSc research study is to explore carers' dilemmas in relation to facilitating dying at home for a close relative who has terminal cancer.

Researcher: *Julia Lowes, Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Specialist at Epsom-St Helier NHS Trust*

The prognosis in palliative care study (PiPS)-analysing data

The purpose of this Cancer Research UK funded study is to develop a new prognostic index to improve clinicians' estimates of survival for palliative care patients. It is envisaged that the resulting scale will be used in clinical practice to aid decision-making.

Researchers: *Dr Paddy Stone, Dr Caroline Lucas, Dr Jennifer Todd, Marek Plaskota*

Hypnotherapy study-preparing for publication

The purpose of this study is to assess the effectiveness of hypnotherapy as a therapeutic intervention for palliative care patients with cancer diagnosis suffering from anxiety.

Researchers: *Dr Caroline Lucas, Marek Plaskota, Rosie Evans, Kathy Birch, Dr Treena Saini*

To explore the lived experience of family carers of people with motor neurone disease-interviews in progress

The aim of this MSc study is to understand the lived experience of family carers of people with motor neurone disease in order to enable the development of support services for the future, as well as adding to the palliative care professional knowledge base.

Researcher: *Carole Cousins, Specialist Practitioner*

The experience of voluntary sector (i.e. independent charitable hospices) palliative care chaplains counselling people who are at the point of realising that they will not recover: navigating (redundant) hope and no hope-*accepted for publication*
This MSc project is an inquiry into how palliative care chaplains counsel terminally ill people who have given up hope for recovery (redundant hope) and are facing the loss of all hope.
Researcher: *Dr Steve Nolan, Chaplain*

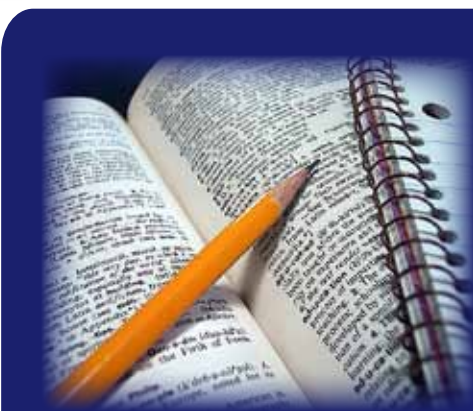
A study to identify the support needs of general nurses caring for dying patients in a non-specialist setting-*submitted*
This MSc study aims to explore and address the gap in provision of emotional support offered to nurses working in a non-specialist setting
Researcher: *Angie Redpath, CNS*

What is the impact of an interprofessional practice placement on teamwork, learning, interaction and relationships between undergraduate students in a hospice setting?-*in progress*
The aim of this project is to evaluate the impact of an interprofessional education placement on learning and relationships between students from different professional backgrounds.
Researcher: *Dr Nick Dando, Specialist Palliative Care Registrar*

How do nurses in specialist palliative care assess and manage breakthrough pain? A questionnaire based multicentre study -*applying for NHS and University Ethics approval*
The aim of this survey is to ascertain how specialist palliative care nurses manage breakthrough cancer pain.
Researcher: *Dr Simone Ali, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, South Downs Health NHS Trust*

If you are interested in any of the above projects, want to be more involved in research at PAH, have any new research ideas about issues which affect your daily practice or want to understand more about the research process, please contact Marek Plaskota, Research Nurse.

Research Committee Dates for 2010
6th September
6th December



RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Following the first Research Workshop which took place in May, further workshops are scheduled for:

14th September, 17th November, 20th January

Seminar Room 1 is booked between 14.00-16.00

The MHRA is responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices work and are acceptably safe. The principal aim of the agency is to safeguard the public's health. The MHRA's Good Clinical Practice (GCP*) Inspectorate assesses the compliance of organisations conducting clinical trials with EU and UK legislation.

GCP Inspection Findings Classification:

CRITICAL - where evidence exists that :

- the safety, well-being or confidentiality of trial subjects either have been or have significant potential to be jeopardised, and/or
- the clinical trial data are unreliable indicating a systematic quality assurance failure

MAJOR - non-critical finding that may have not developed into a critical issue, but may have the potential to do so unless addressed and/or where evidence exists that a number of departures from GCP guidelines have occurred within a single area of responsibility indicating a systematic quality assurance failure

OTHER - where evidence exists that a departure from GCP guidelines, procedural requirements has occurred, but it is neither Critical nor Major

All the findings of the MHRA inspection at PAH were classified as OTHER!

* GCP- Good Clinical Practice is defined as "*a standard for the design, conduct, performance, monitoring, auditing, recording, analyses, and reporting of clinical trials that provides assurance that the data and reported results are credible and accurate, and that the rights, integrity, and confidentiality of trial subjects are protected*"

The UK Regulations require that all trials within their scope adhere to the principles of GCP. It is required that researchers develop procedures and systems for trial management that meet the principles of GCP, and that these are clearly documented so that adherence is readily demonstrated.

further information available here:

http://www.ct-toolkit.ac.uk/route_maps/stations.cfm?current_station_id=290&view_type=list

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Medicines/Inspectionandstandards/GoodClinicalPractice/index.htm>

Novice Researchers, and anybody interested in learning about research- if you would like to see short articles like this in future issues of Research Update, please let me know. Any suggestions are welcome.

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Caring when it matters