

The Research Connection

August 2009

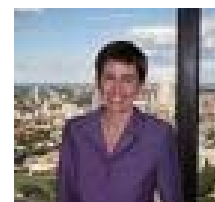
Volume 1, Issue 1

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

Welcome from Catherine Bourgeois, Director.

If you are not already familiar with us, the **NSW Clinical Trials Business Development Centre (ClinicalTrials_{NSW})** is an initiative of the Office of Science and Medical Research; a NSW Government department. Created in 2007, it is recognition of the State Government's dedication to support and foster clinical trial research in NSW. Our objective is to increase the quantity and quality of clinical trials occurring by marketing NSW's clinical research capabilities and facilitating trial placement and conduct of trials in this state. We are delighted to release this first issue of *The Research Connection* and aim to keep all our stakeholders informed and up to date on current issues and initiatives occurring in our industry. We will be releasing four issues each year so please circulate this to your colleagues who are interested.

Warm regards,
Catherine Bourgeois



WHO ARE CLINICALTRIALS_{NSW}?

ClinicalTrials_{NSW} assists with the placement of trials in NSW by connecting sponsors with the clinical research community. To facilitate and improve capacity, quality and timeliness of clinical trials **ClinicalTrials_{NSW}** provides the following services:

- Point of contact for industry sponsors to facilitate clinical trial placement in NSW and provision of information on service providers in NSW for clinical research.
- Promotion of NSW to the international market.
- Facilitation in the development of functional cooperative networks in specific therapeutic areas to enable future trial partnerships.
- Committed to working with researchers and NSW Health in developing and implementing strategies to promote efficiencies in clinical trial management within NSW.
- Maintaining the **ClinicalTrials_{NSW}** database of experienced investigators throughout NSW.
- Provision of information to stakeholders on trial activity in NSW including information on infrastructure, clinical strengths, costs and opportunities.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

- Medical Device Clinical Trials Training—Oct 09

- NHMRC CTC Investigator Training 25 Sep 09

- NSW Public Health Ethics Application Process Training Sep 09

- The **NHMRC CTC** is holding a one day seminar for investigators with an idea for a clinical research. **Concept Development Workshop for Investigators** is on Friday 25th September and is a superb opportunity for clinicians serious about developing their clinical research concept. See the CTC Outreach program website for details (www.outreachclinicaltrials.org.au/)
- ClinicalTrials_{NSW} will be hosting training on **How to Conduct Clinical Trials for Medical Devices** in the coming months. Training will be performed by **Perficio Clinical and Regulatory**. Perficio has several years experience in running device trials including direct invaluable experience of the Medical Director Dr Martin Devitt who worked in the TGA as the head of Clinical Section in the Office of Devices, Blood and Tissues. Details to be released shortly.
- **NSW Health** and **ARCS Australia** have organised training for **Researchers in the NSW Ethics Application Process**. The aim of the program is improving the quality of ethics and research governance submissions in NSW assisting with times for approval and authorisation. The training will be open to any industry or research staff involved in ethics submissions and will be occurring from September 2009. Details will be published on the ARCS website.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

In 2008 **ClinicalTrials_{NSW}** contracted an external consultant to conduct an audit of the clinical trial activity in NSW and a survey to assess the barriers and facilitators to conducting clinical trials in NSW. Over 200 people from research and industry participated.

The final report contains 20 recommendations based on the information and opinions collected as to what **ClinicalTrials_{NSW}** can do to increase the quantity and quality of clinical trials occurring in our state.

ClinicalTrials_{NSW} hosted a workshop on the 28th April 2009 to invite researchers, consumers and industry to contribute suggestions of strategies as to how to achieve this. Over 60 people attended the workshop held at the Department of State and Regional Development and it was facilitated by Prof Stewart Dunn.

“...what ClinicalTrialsNSW can do to increase the quantity and quality of clinical trials...”



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The recommendations for development into strategies were grouped into 7 topic groups:

Recommendations

1. Promote the needs of researchers to government bodies and secure support for them
2. **Facilitate collaboration and networks around therapeutic areas to enable efficiency in research**
3. Promote NSW as a place for clinical trial research to the international market
4. **Improve ethics and governance timelines**
5. Promote clinical trial benefits to the general public
6. **Provide education and training for researchers on clinical trial processes indemnity issues, and winning funding for research**
7. Advocate for career opportunities and progression for research staff

“...highlight the benefits and positive outcomes from being involved in clinical research”


Some of the key messages from the day:

- *ClinicalTrials_{NSW} could take the role of linking the networks together by setting up introductions and forums.*
- *More information for the public on clinical trials needs to be made available to highlight the benefits and positive outcomes from being involved in clinical research.*
- *Assist in the provision of education on insurance and indemnity.*
- *Host booths at national conferences to promote clinical trial networks and to encourage more physicians and research staff to join and collaborate.*
- *Training on accurate completion of the NEAF and SSA by Department of Health.*
- *Advise and communicate training courses that become available for hospital and industry staff.*
- *Promote NSW and Australia to overseas markets by identifying the strengths of NSW researchers.*

The strategies and suggestions collected will be used by ClinicalTrialsNSW to plan further specialised and targeted programs.



Professor Stewart Dunn facilitates the Workshop



WEBSITE LAUNCH!

Take a look at our new website released August 2009.

www.clinicaltrials.org.au

ClinicalTrialsNSW has re-launched the website to make it more informative for researchers, participants and sponsors interested in conducting research in NSW Australia.

Some of the new features include:

- A conference calendar of relevant industry seminars, conferences and congresses occurring in Australia and elsewhere,
- A list of service providers in NSW for the clinical trial industry,
- A calendar of meeting dates for NSW Health Human Research Ethics Committees in 2009,
- Online access to request site details from our database and the opportunity for sites to register to be a part of the database.
- A news page for communicating upcoming training opportunities, seminars and announcements from NSW stakeholders. Contact us if you have a news story to contribute.



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ClinicalTrials_{NSW} is committed to:

Enhancing the health of patients by increasing the availability and quality of clinical trials through the promotion and facilitation of clinical trials in NSW and Australia.

For more information or if you would like to contribute to our newsletter please contact

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NEW SOUTH WALES
Clinical Trials Business Development Centre