

News from the HSRC



Professor M Grocott

Director

UK Perioperative Clinical Research Forum

The third UK Perioperative Clinical Research Forum will take place at the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) on Monday 12 March 2012 and will be chaired by Dr Rupert Pearse (Barts and the London). The programme includes updates on important ongoing trials as well as opportunities to get involved with several new studies. Registration and programmes are available via the HSRC website and the cost is just £35.

HQIP funded National Emergency Laparotomy Database

The Health Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) has invited the HSRC to tender for the new National Emergency Laparotomy Database on behalf of the RCoA (which will be the legal entity tendering for the contract). The initial proposal that led to this tendering process was submitted by the HSRC in collaboration with the Emergency Laparotomy Network (ELN) in June 2011. This proposal was ranked very highly and the commissioning process initiated. The HSRC/ELN partnership contributed to specification

development during autumn 2011 and received confirmation that the HSRC (RCoA) was an eligible bidder just before the New Year.

Working together, the ELN and HSRC are now developing the final tender document in close collaboration with our key sub-contractors: the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC). The CEU will provide guidance on setting up and managing such a database as well as advice on the development of risk measures. ICNARC will provide assistance with database design and linkage to data within the case-mix programme. Pilot data collection is scheduled to commence in late 2012. In the meantime, Dave Murray and the ELN team have just submitted the first paper describing the pilot data collection phase during 2011 to which many of you will have contributed.

Integrated Perioperative Outcome Network

The long-term aim of achieving systematic data collection moves a little closer with the progress of the HQIP bid and with a plan to work towards shared goals between the ELN, the Hip Fracture Perioperative Network and the Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Great Britain and Ireland Audit and Quality Improvement Committee. Increasing consistency of definitions, data collection and data analysis should allow co-ordinated data collection across the majority of emergency surgery as well as facilitating inter-institutional comparisons of process and outcome across multiple procedure types.

NIAA Researcher Database

The NIAA Researcher Database is now up and running with 15 investigators registered as of 10 January 2012.

In addition to listing the names and institutions of research active investigators, the database provides information about their interests and expertise as well as email contact.

This database will be the basis for the NIAA-HSRC project to map academic anaesthesia in the UK. Please register if you are research active, and please also register with ResearcherID (see January *Bulletin* article). Both registrations can be completed via the NIAA/HSRC website.

HSRC research fellows

Two research fellows were appointed following interview in November. One will be working part-time from February and the second will commence full-time in August. Additional posts will be advertised in late spring 2012. Applicants will initially be taken on for a 6–12 month defined project, with the option to extend to a higher degree dependent on performance and funding.

Quality measures in Anaesthesia

A national survey of the use of perioperative risk and outcome measures, and engagement with clinical registries, has now been circulated and responses are starting to come in. We really appreciate your assistance with completing this survey and the results will be published later in the year.