



Dear BSPAR Member,

Re: **Forthcoming MCRN/arc Paediatric Rheumatology CSG Meeting - 28th January 2008.**

A couple of points to bring to your attention regarding this meeting:

1. Developing a Strategy: A key priority for the CSG is the development of a comprehensive research strategy for clinical trials and related studies in paediatric rheumatology. This will take place through wide-ranging consultation and be made available to open and inclusive participation.

I'd like to draw your attention to this process which has already been widely publicised. I'd like to invite your comment and suggestions to the CSG and its members.

Details of the CSG members and all activities of the CSG are available through the BSPAR (<http://www.bspar.org.uk/>), arc (<http://www.arc-research.org.uk/default.asp>) and MCRN (<http://www.mcrn.org.uk/>) websites. Alternatively, please forward comments to Jennifer Blakeburn, CSG Administrator (jennifer.blakeburn@mcrn.org.uk).

2. Consumer Involvement: There is an important opportunity to inform the work and direction of the CSG and initial pilot work is underway with the CSG and MCRN to develop these models of partnership further through a number of local initiatives. Across the BSPAR community there are already positive experiences of involving patients and parents – there will be scope for tapping into this expertise for clinical research relevant to the CSG agenda.

Any such groups, experiences, opportunities or ideas most welcome: please forward to the CSG and MCRN Consumer Liaison Officer, Jenny Preston: Jennifer.preston@mcrn.org.uk

I am always very keen to hear from you on either of the above or any other matters related to the CSG (m.w.beresford@liverpool.ac.uk)

With best wishes for 2008,

Dr MW Beresford

Chair, MCRN/arc Paediatric Rheumatology CSG