



BSPAR Members

11<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Dear BSPAR Members,

**Re: Letter from Professor T Stephenson: "Improved care for children: a new opportunity"**

You may recall I wrote on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008 drawing your attention to the important developments in your local area concerning the Comprehensive Local Research Networks (CLRNs).

(<http://www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/networks/comprehensive/clrns.html>)

Professor Terence Stephenson, Vice-President for Research & Science, Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health has recently written an important letter regarding this to all members of the RCPCH. He also wrote to BSPAR – A copy of this letter I have linked to the MCRN/arc Paediatric Rheumatology CSG web page on the BSPAR website.

In brief, he:

- Reiterates the importance of engaging locally in discussions with your CLRNs about recognising paediatrics as a separate Speciality Network Group.
- He comments that the current list of priorities does not include non-medicines paediatric research and therefore research for the benefit of children may be lost across 15 Specialty Network Groups and 25 different geographical patches.
- He underlines that the problems and challenges of doing research in children are different (ethics, consent, invasive procedures, litigation etc) and historically this has led to the paucity of data we have to support the practice of paediatrics. For this reason, specific support is needed and so asks us all to engage in emphasising locally the importance of this
- Encourages members to engage locally in meetings and working-groups if non-medicines therapies for children are amalgamated with the MCRN

On behalf of the BSPAR Executive I was asked to respond to him (attached) and write to you all to draw attention to this letter.

With kindest regards,

Dr MW Beresford

Chair, MCRN/arc Paediatric Rheumatology CSG