

Dear Colleagues

As you will be aware by now, there is increasing interest in clinical trials in children with rheumatic disease, both Industry sponsored and Investigator-led. The CSG is working closely with the MCRN to ensure that these are of the highest quality to improve the evidence base to provide optimal care for our patients and are in keeping with the Clinical Research Strategy of the UK Paediatric Rheumatology community that we have developed together.

We would like to emphasise the benefit of adoption of clinical trials onto the UK CRN Portfolio, and especially by the MCRN. This provides access to research nurses and other infrastructure which is paramount to the success of clinical trials in the face of clinical pressures. This support is also channelled through the comprehensive local research networks (CLRNs) in England where there are not MCRN LRNs, and equivalent research networks in the devolved nations.

Currently, most but by no means all enquiries re potential Industry-sponsored clinical studies come direct to the CSG or MCRN. This means that both the MCRN and its MCRN-Industry team, and the CSG can initially assess studies on behalf of all to ensure such studies reach certain standards and appropriateness for a UK population and clarify whether the studies will be suitable for adoption onto the Portfolio.

We would therefore suggest that if you or your centre is approached directly by a pharmaceutical company to engage in a clinical study / trial, then please let me or any member of the CSG know so that we can facilitate contact with MCRN and optimize the support to all participating units. Decision as to which centres are chosen by companies as recruiting sites is the responsibility of the respective company.

Any queries, please let me or any of the CSG members know (http://www.arc-research.org.uk/med_director/paedrheumcsg.asp)

With kindest regards and best wishes

Michael

Dr Michael W Beresford

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Chair, on behalf of the MCRN/arc Paediatric Rheumatology CSG