

Birmingham Clinical Research Academy

Newsletter

December 2009

What is the Birmingham Clinical Research Academy?

After a somewhat lengthy gestation period the Birmingham Clinical Research Academy (BCRA) has now been delivered; we have space, staff and are open for business.

BCRA represents a collaboration, in the first instance, between the University of Birmingham (UoB) and the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT).

Prof. Richard Lilford (left) is the Director of the BCRA, and he is supported by **Prof. Julian Bion** (centre) and **Prof. Nick James** (right) who also are co-R&D directors of the UHBFT responsible for non-cancer and cancer R&D services, respectively.



Can the Birmingham Clinical Research Academy help you?

The BCRA, managed by **Jo Foster**, will support those interested in submitting clinical collaborative grant applications from alerting to funding opportunities, through to ensuring contracts and governance requirements are met.

The BCRA aims to maximise the potential for research collaborations. This is achieved by developing the Birmingham Clinical Research Office (BCRO), which is a joint venture between the UoB Research and Commercial Services (RCS)/ College of Medical and Dental Sciences (MDS) Research and Knowledge Transfer (R&KT) Office (under the leadership of **Prof. Paul Stewart**, MDS Director of R&KT) and the Research & Development (R & D) Office at UHBFT, managed by **Dr Chris Counsell**. The BCRO will enhance the management and governance processes (sponsorship, ethics, monitoring) required for collaborative grants as well as offering a Protocol Development Service (PDS).

Protocol Development Service (PDS)

The purpose of the PDS is to help clinicians and academics develop protocols and apply for external funding. The PDS includes a Clinical Research Grant Co-ordinator, **Dr Karen Piper** (0121 414 9095) and a Clinical Research Officer, **Helen McAteer** (0121 414 9096).

With access to multi-disciplinary partners PDS will guide you through the process of putting a high quality application together, as well as;

- Target and notify you of particularly NIHR funding opportunities
- Organise collaborator's meetings
- Help meet deadlines for submitting applications
- Broker academic support and methodological expertise
- Cost grant applications to cover both NHS and University costs
- Advise on contracts, governance, sponsorship and ethics
- Ensure compliance with funding body requirements
- Reference and literature scoping support
- Assistance with submission of applications
- Preparation for selection panel presentations

The PDS is here to help, however please ensure you allow plenty of time for our support from preparation to submission; ideally 2 - 3 months. For further details on how to apply for support please see the attached PDF or alternatively contact us at the email below or visit our website.

Join us for our first Open Day!

On **22nd February 2010** we will be holding our first Open Day at the Postgraduate Medical Centre. This will be an ideal opportunity to learn more about the BCRA and speak to some of the key staff who can help you achieve a successful application. To register your interest please email us at the address below or visit our website for more information.

For more information please contact us at
bcra-enquiries@contacts.bham.ac.uk
or visit us at www.bcra.uk.net

Queen Elizabeth Hospital



- 1 Birmingham Women's Hospital
- 2 Trust Headquarters
- 3 Nuffield House
- 4 Cancer Centre
- 5 Cardiac Critical Care Unit
- 6 Wolfson building
- 7 Medical School
- 8 Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital
- 9 Postgraduate Centre
- 10 RRPPS (radiation protection services)
- 11 Planning

HSRC Building

