



TREAT-NMD Partner Newsletter No. 1

Welcome to the first newsletter for all TREAT-NMD partners! We hope you will find it a valuable resource.

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1. About this newsletter and the mailing list

Everyone who has just received this message is a designated “key contact” for their partner organisation. All of you have been subscribed to a mailing list called “treatnmd-partners”, which is intended to be a simple way for partners to keep in touch with one another. If you ever want to write a message to reach the key contacts in every partner organisation, write to treatnmd-partners@newcastle.ac.uk and your message will automatically be distributed to everyone. It’s simpler than having to remember to copy everyone in. A list of the key contacts for all partners is attached to this message.

This partners list is temporarily hosted on the Newcastle mailserver, but it will move to the TREAT-NMD server when that becomes fully operational in the next month or two. It is not controlled or moderated by the Newcastle team – it is a list for ALL PARTNERS.

Suggestions:

* DON'T use this list for communications that are only of relevance to one or two partners: remember your message will go to everyone.

* DO use it whenever you have anything interesting to report, any questions to ask of the entire network, or any news or information that it's important everyone should hear. For the TREAT-NMD network to be a success, it's vital that we keep each other informed – and speaking from the Newcastle perspective we can say we're all extremely keen to hear what you're all involved in.

We're starting off the communication with a brief newsletter with some information from Newcastle. Feel free to respond directly to the list with your own news, or alternatively you can write directly to the Newcastle team with suggestions – see section 6 below.

2. Introducing the Newcastle coordination team

The Newcastle coordination office now has four team members dedicated to the TREAT-NMD project. Here's a little bit about us:



STEPHEN LYNN – PROJECT COORDINATOR

Stephen did his Undergraduate degree in Applied Biology at Sunderland University (UK) and his PhD in Molecular Physiology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK). He went on to work as a Postdoctoral research associate at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK).

In 2001, Stephen moved to the University of California, San Francisco to study the role of oxidative stress and mitochondrial defects in the development of neurodegeneration associated with ageing. In September 2002, he moved to Stanford University to complete these studies in the Department of Neurology and Neurological Sciences. From there he joined the British Consulate General in San Francisco as the Vice Consul for Science and Innovation in November 2003. Stephen joined the TREAT-NMD network on 5th March 2007.

Contact details:

Email: stephen.lynn@newcastle.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)191-241-8697



EMMA HESLOP – ASSISTANT PROJECT COORDINATOR

Emma studied for her Undergraduate degree in Health and Human Sciences at Durham University, graduating in 2000. For six years she worked as a Project Coordinator in the Durham University Sleep Lab studying mother-infant sleep. During this time she completed her Biological Anthropology MSc (Research).

Emma joined the TREAT-NMD network on the 14th December 2006 and is responsible for leading the work relating to shared activities and tools; developing strategies for extension of the network activities to other disease groups; enhancing international relations and collaborations; developing and improving access to comprehensive training and education activities.

Email: emma.heslop@newcastle.ac.uk



RACHEL THOMPSON – PROJECT ASSISTANT

Rachel gained her Masters Degree in Chemistry from Oxford University in 1998 and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from Edinburgh University in 1999. After spending six years working in Prague in the Czech Republic as a project manager for a translation company and latterly as a Czech to English translator, she returned to the UK in 2005 to work in IT /web support and admin. Rachel joined the TREAT-NMD network on 19th February 2007 and is the first point of contact for administrative queries relating to the network.

Email: r.h.thompson@newcastle.ac.uk

ARRON SCOTT – IT OFFICER

Arron has been with Newcastle University for over 7 years, initially at the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences. In 2006, he joined the School of Clinical Medical Sciences. He has been responsible for providing a wide range of IT support and training. Prior to joining the University, Arron was with Newcastle Local Education Authority, supporting IT within the National Curriculum and working on a number of innovative projects such as "Newcastle Schools on the Internet". Arron joined the TREAT-NMD network on 5th March 2007 and is the first point of contact for queries relating to the website and IT in general.

Email: arron.scott@newcastle.ac.uk

3. Start your own email forum

This is not the only TREAT-NMD discussion list. Some partners have already set up other lists in order to have a forum for discussing issues specifically relating to their workpackages, and we are inviting you all to do the same. List members do not have to be members of the network: the list owner can invite anybody at all to contribute to the discussion.

At the moment we already have forums for discussing issues relating to the ENMC conference on antisense oligonucleotides, for outcome measures and for standards of care. Once the TREAT-NMD server is fully functional, you will be able to set up your own email forums via the partners section of the website, but in the meantime if you would like one to be established for you, please contact Rachel, who will provide you with further details.

4. Publicising TREAT-NMD at conferences

We'd like to encourage everyone attending conferences, workshops or other meetings to publicise the TREAT-NMD network and raise awareness of its existence wherever possible.

Appropriate publicity material (including posters and leaflets) will be placed on the TREAT-NMD website for download.

A question: are any of you intending to go to the European Biomarkers Summit and Proteomics Europe conference and exhibition (Amsterdam, September 2007)? This would be a useful opportunity to get feedback for relevant topics for TREAT-NMD. Please see http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/htmlemails/EBS_PE_FinalCFP.html for details, and please inform us if you're going!

Indeed, please inform us of **all** conferences you have been involved in or are planning to go to where you have / will be able to publicise TREAT-NMD.

5. Resources

* The TREAT-NMD website will expand substantially over the coming months and will provide useful resources for partners – for reporting on activities, for creating email forums, uploading presentations and conference /workshop notifications. We'll keep you informed of this as it happens.

* We intend to issue this newsletter on a weekly basis but its success largely depends on the information you send us! Therefore, please e-mail us with any information you have on upcoming education and training opportunities including workshops, conferences, funding, exchange programmes, clinical placements, visiting professorships and lectureships.

* A second, more general, newsletter will be distributed to a wider audience on a suggested monthly basis. This newsletter will be used to generate interest in the TREAT-NMD network and disseminate information produced by the network.

6. Send us your news and views!

We encourage all partners to send their own news and updates, either directly to all partners by writing to this list at treatnmd-partners@newcastle.ac.uk or to r.h.thompson@newcastle.ac.uk or emma.heslop@newcastle.ac.uk for inclusion in the next newsletter. In future we'd like to include other sections in the newsletter, such as one on newly published research that is of interest to the network. What else would you like us to include? Write to r.h.thompson@newcastle.ac.uk with your feedback.