

---

## **How can clinical trialists serve the needs of clinicians and patients more effectively?**

### **Monday 25 June 2007**

---

#### **JANET DARBYSHIRE**

IDENTIFYING RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN THE UK CLINICAL RESEARCH NETWORK  
10.40 – 11.00

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

Janet Darbyshire joined the Medical Research Council in 1974 to co-ordinate clinical trials and epidemiological studies in tuberculosis in the UK and in Africa. Subsequently she developed the MRC's programme of clinical trials in HIV infection and in 1998 established the MRC Clinical Trials Unit. She directs the Unit's programme of trials in cancer and HIV infection and other disease areas. She is a member of many Trial Steering Committees, Data and Safety Monitoring Committees, and has worked closely with community support groups in HIV infection and in cancer. Since February 2005, she has been the Joint Director of the UK Clinical Research Network with Professor Peter Selby.

#### **ABSTRACT**

The UKCRN aims to provide a world class infrastructure to support clinical research, funded by commercial and non-commercial organisations. The original six Topic-specific Clinical Research Networks (TCRNs) in cancer, diabetes, stroke, medicines for children, mental health and dementia and other neurodegenerative disease and the primary care research network (PCRN) were also tasked with the development of high quality research portfolios. The Comprehensive Research Network (CRN) is now being set up to support clinical research in all other areas of health care but does not have a remit for portfolio development. However, UKCRN will work with clinical and academic communities, patients and the public and funders to facilitate portfolio development and oversight in other areas.

The approach to the research portfolio differs between TCRNs and PCRN but all Networks are committed to involving patients and the public (PPI) at all stages of the research process. The longest established network in cancer has two consumer members on all the Clinical Studies Groups, which are responsible for portfolio oversight and development, and a Consumer Liaison Group which brings them together. UKCRN has a team which oversees PPI activities across all the TCRNs, PCRN and CRN.

#### **RELEVANT COMPETING INTERESTS**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Grants/Research Support:    | Many to NRC CTU some of which I am PI/co-applicant |
|                             | (MRC, CR-UK, NIH, etc)                             |
| Consultant or Advisor:      | None   |
| Company financial interest: | None   |
| Other:                      | Some support from Pharma to MRC CCTU for trials    |