News

The ICTRP Clinical Trials Search Portal turns 1!
The WHO ICTRP Clinical Trials Search Portal was launched on the 4th May 2007. The first year has seen the Portal continue to evolve with the addition of new features and an advanced search function since it was launched.

During its first month (May 2007) there were 5,925 sessions (46,125 hits) on the Portal which then settled to an average of 1,934 sessions (16,092 hits) each month between June and December 2007, increasing to an average of 2,345 sessions (18,702 hits) each month from January until the end of April 2008. Access increased again when the UMLS thesaurus was added to the condition and intervention fields of the advanced search function in February, with the month of April 2008 seeing 2,732 sessions and 21,012 hits.

We are pleased to see this steadily increasing use of the portal and hope users are now able to more easily find the trials they are looking for. To help us make further improvements to the site we have started formal usability testing with the support of the US National Cancer Institute and are looking forward to learning the results of that testing.

As a reminder, the address for the simple search is http://www.who.int/trialsearch/ and for the advanced search is http://www.who.int/trialsearch/advsearch.aspx.

Future improvements to simple search function
We are now working on applying the UMLS thesaurus to the simple search function and hope to publish the site with this additional feature in June 2008.

WHO Primary Registries now in Sri Lanka and the Netherlands
On 19th March the Sri Lanka Clinical Trials Registry (SLCTR) was announced as a WHO Primary Registry at the inauguration ceremony of the Annual Academic Session of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA). A letter formally recognizing the SLCTR as a WHO Primary Registry was handed to the SLMA President, Professor Lalitha Mendis, by Dr Agostino Borra, WHO Representative for Sri Lanka.
The ICTRP also welcomes The Netherlands National Trial Register (NTR) as a WHO Primary Registry. This registry was one of the first 5 registries recognized as meeting the requirements of the ICMJE (http://www.icmje.org/faq.pdf).

To more information on the registries in Sri Lanka and the Netherlands please visit the ICTRP web site and view their profiles: (http://www.who.int/ictrp/network/list_registers/en/index.html), or go directly to the web site for each registry: http://www.slctr.lk/ and http://www.trialregister.nl/trialreg/index.asp.

**Journal Editors in India announce policy on trial registration**

Eleven of the key medical journals in India have indicated that, from January 2010, they will only consider publication of a trial if it has been registered prospectively. The journals that have signed up to this policy include:

- Indian Journal of Medical Research
- Indian Journal of Cancer
- Indian Journal of Chest Diseases and Allied Sciences
- Indian Journal of Medical Sciences
- Indian Journal of Ophthalmology
- Indian Journal of Pediatrics
- Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India
- Journal of Parasitic Diseases
- Journal of Postgraduate Medicine
- Journal of Vector Borne Diseases
- National Medical Journal of India

To read the editorial announcing this policy, go to: http://www.icmr.nic.in/ijmr/2008/february/editorial2.pdf.

**Reporting the Findings of Clinical Trials**

People making decisions about healthcare need access to knowledge derived from the findings of clinical trial research. The WHO will shortly announce the first phase of a consultation process aimed at fostering debate of the issues associated with reporting the results of clinical trials. A discussion paper on the topic will be published in the June issue of the WHO Bulletin http://www.who.int/bulletin/en/. Individuals interested in contributing to the first phase of the consultation are encouraged to visit http://www.who.int/ictrp/results/consultation. The consultation will be launched as part of International Clinical Trials Day on 20th May 2008 (http://www.ecrin.org/clintrial.html).

**Presentations & events**

   a. Key Note Address: Tikki Pang, Director, Department of Research Policy and Cooperation, World Health Organization, Geneva (via tele-link). Title: Evidence Informed Health Policy.
   b. Workshop: Clinical Trials Registration and Results Reporting; The CONSORT Guidelines and Beyond.
i. Chairs: Peush Sahni, Editor, National Medical Journal of India, New Delhi; K Satyanarayana, Editor, Indian Journal of Medical Research, New Delhi; George Thomas, Editor-Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, Chennai.

ii. Resource Persons: Davina Ghersi; WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, Geneva; Kay Dickersin Director, US Cochrane Center, Center for Clinical Trials, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA; Peter Gotzsche Director, The Nordic Cochrane Centre, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark


Recent Publications


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The WHO Registry Platform e-Note is scheduled for publication on the last Friday of each month. The next e-Note is scheduled for circulation on Friday 27th June 2008. Suggestions for the next edition should be addressed to ictrpinfo@who.int with “e-Note” in the subject line.

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