News

Announcing the Pan African Clinical Trial Registry (PACTR)
The Pan African Clinical Trial Registry (PACTR) was announced as a WHO Primary Registry during the AVAREF forum in Nigeria on 25 September 2009. It is the first WHO Primary Registry in Africa. Our hope is that the PACTR will make it easier to capture information about trials involving people in the countries of the WHO AFRO region. We look forward to filling the gap in our knowledge about clinical trials in Africa and hope the PACTR will inspire researchers in the region to register their trials.

The registry is funded by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and coordinated by the South African Cochrane Centre (SACC) at the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The PACTR is a tangible response to the Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health which called for action by national governments "To develop, set, and enforce standards, regulations, and best practices for fair, accountable, and transparent research processes, including those related to ethical review and conduct, product development and manufacturing, quality and safety of patient care, the registration and results reporting of clinical trials, and open and equitable access to research data, tools, and information". (See also the Lancet editorial)

- Read the Press Release on the EDCTP site or the South African MRC site
- Review PACTR's registry profile on the ICTRP site

The Advisory Group on Clinical Trial Registration and Reporting (AGCTRR)
The 1st Meeting of the AGCTRR will be held 4-5 November 2009 in Geneva. The AGCTRR advises the ICHR on:
- its strategic direction
- scientific and technical issues relating to clinical trial registration and reporting
- the criteria by which a clinical trial registry will be deemed to be assigned the status of WHO Primary Registry
- the WHO trial registration data set
- other issues relating to clinical trial registration and reporting

Stakeholders are reminded that they may contribute items for consideration by the AGCTRR. Submissions will be accepted in electronic format only and should be sent to the ICTRP Secretariat by email to ictrpinfo@who.int. All submissions will be published on the web and must meet certain content and formatting standards. The deadline for submissions is 16 October 2009.

Unified Medical Language System (UMLS) on the Search Portal
On 2nd October 2009 the UMLS meta-thesaurus that the Search Portal uses to generate synonyms of search terms was updated to Version 2009AA. Frequent users may find that this update in the meta-thesaurus may change the results of their search. Details on updates to the Search Portal are kept in...
the version history document which can be found on the site. You can also find more details on UMLS on the United States National Library of Medicine website.

Clinical Trials in Children
The Clinical Trials in Children Search Filter on the ICTRP Search Portal has been revised, resulting in what we believe to be a more accurate search. The search is now hierarchical, searching first for age and then by keyword. This improves our ability to correctly identify records for children's trials.

The ICTRP will continue to make modifications to this search filter and we welcome user feedback. If you have suggestions please contact us. You can learn more about how the clinical trials in children search filter works by visiting our web site.

Towards 100,000
On the 30th September 2009 the database of the ICTRP Search Portal contained 93,944 records pertaining to 92116 trials. The status for 29,219 of these trials is recorded as "currently recruiting". The ICTRP Secretariat is looking forward to celebrating the registration of the 100,000th trial.

Presentations and events
• 4th Meeting of the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum, Abuja, Nigeria, 24-26 September 2009
• ECCO 15 - 34th ESMO Multidisciplinary Congress, Berlin, Germany, 20-24 September 2009
• 17th Cochrane Colloquium, Singapore, 11-14 October 2009
• 1st StaR Child Health Summit: ‘Reaching for the Stars’, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 26-27 October 2009
• 1st Meeting of the Advisory Group on Clinical Trial Registration and Reporting (AGCTRR), Geneva, Switzerland, 4-5 November 2009

Publicity material
Help us to raise awareness of trial registration and of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP). Please contact us if you are organizing a meeting and would like to distribute postcards or other material about the ICTRP to delegates.

Contact us
WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP)
Department of Research Policy and Cooperation (IER/RPC)
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia,
CH-1211 Geneva 27,
Switzerland

http://www.who.int/ictrp

The WHO Registry Platform e-Note is scheduled for publication on the last Friday of every second month. The next e-Note is scheduled for circulation on Friday 18th DECEMBER 2009. Suggestions for the next edition can be sent to via http://www.who.int/trialsearch/Contact.aspx.

Subscription via LISTSERV: Please send an e-mail to listserv@who.int with “subscribe ictrpnews first_name last_name” in the body of the message (without any “ “). The subject line can be left blank.

Previous issues of the eNote are available at http://www.who.int/ictrp/news/enote/en/index.html