News

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials becomes a WHO Primary Registry

The Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials (IRCT) (http://www.irct.ir/) has become the latest registry to join the list of WHO Primary Registries. This means that IRCT conforms to WHO registry criteria and that registering trials with IRCT satisfies the trial registration policies of many medical journals.

Congratulations to our colleagues in the Islamic Republic of Iran on their achievement.

WHO ICTRP Search Portal upgraded to Version 3

The International Clinical Trials Registry Platform Search Portal (http://www.who.int/trialsearch/) provides a single point of access to information about ongoing and completed trials around the world.

A new way of displaying search results was implemented on 10 December 2008 with the launch of Version 3. The Portal now groups together records referring to the same trial by matching main trial identifiers to secondary trial identifiers found in trial records.

All records on a trial can now be seen by clicking on the + symbol in the search results page:

The record with the earliest date of registration is always shown first:
This new display method will uniquely identify trials when trial details have been recorded in more than one trials register and secondary identifiers have been entered.

Version 3 also includes a filter to restrict search results to trials in children. This option is available via the advanced search page.

**Four more data providers for the WHO ICTRP Search Portal**

The WHO ICTRP Search Portal now includes records from four more data providers: the Chinese Clinical Trial Register, Clinical Trials Registry – India, the German Clinical Trials Register and the Netherlands National Trial Register.

**No data update of WHO ICTRP Search Portal on 30 December 2008**

Please note that the WHO ICTRP Search Portal will not be updating its data sets on Tuesday 30 December 2008.

**Ministers call for trial registration**

Ministers and representatives of ministries of health, science and technology, education, foreign affairs, and international cooperation from over 50 countries met recently at the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health in Bamako, Mali, 17-19 November 2008. In the Bamako Call to Action agreed at the Forum, ministers called on national governments to "To develop, set, and enforce standards, regulations, and best practices for fair, accountable, and transparent research processes", including "the registration and results reporting of clinical trials".

**WHO Research Policy and Cooperation website revamped**

The International Clinical Trials Registry Platform is part of the Department of Research Policy and Cooperation in WHO. To find out more about the work of the Department please visit its recently revamped website at http://www.who.int/rpc/en/.

**Frequently asked questions**

*Question:* Which clinical trials should be registered?

*Answer:* All clinical trials meeting the definition below should be registered. Thus, early and late trials, trials of marketed or non-marketed products, randomized or non-randomized trials – all should be registered.

For the purposes of registration, a clinical trial is any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Clinical trials may also be referred to as interventional trials. Interventions include but are not restricted to drugs, cells and other biological products, surgical procedures, radiologic procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, process-of-care changes, preventive care, etc. This definition includes Phase I to Phase IV trials.

**Presentations & events**

- **Presentation:** Davina Ghersi, WHO ICTRP Coordinator. Title: Reporting the results of research: should funders and ethics committees be accountable? Inaugural Symposium of Clinical Trials Unit, Bern, Switzerland. 5 November 2008.
- **Presentation:** Hazim Timimi, WHO ICTRP. Title: Registration of clinical trials. The National Meeting on Trial Registration. Organized by the Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials, Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran. 26 November 2008.
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.

Recent publications of interest
Listing of the publications below does not imply WHO endorsement.

doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050217
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0050217

doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050230
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0050230

Happy New Year
We wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2009.

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 27th February 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.