

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Meningitis NW newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Sorry for the delay in the fifth edition of the Newsletter but things have been busy in the world of meningitis!

Recruitment is going well and we know have all our sites in the NorthWest recruiting. We currently have 529 patients enrolled into the study (as of 22/02/2013), congratulations to you all.

Please see the league table on page 2 to see how you compare to other sites.

Matthew Robinson is a new research nurse working at Calderdale Foundation trust and he is in the spotlight on page 3.

You can find out about some updated results on page 5 and don't forget to put the dates in your diary. In particular we hope many of you will join us for NeuroID 2013 – this incorporates an update day about all the UK research and the fantastic NeuroID course.

Thank you again for all your help and support with this project.

Fiona McGill
Clinical Research Fellow

Tom Solomon
Chief investigator

League Table

Site	In set up	Recruiting	No. recruited
Leeds Teaching hospitals Trust		✓	54
Royal Liverpool		✓	49
South Tees		✓	39
Countess of Chester		✓	31
Stockport		✓	30
Manchester Royal Infirmary		✓	28
Bradford		✓	27
Lancashire Teaching hospitals		✓	24
Salford		✓	20
Wirral		✓	20
Crewe		✓	18
Blackpool		✓	18
Calderdale		✓	16
Aintree		✓	16
Newcastle Hospitals		✓	15
University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay		✓	15
North Cumbria University Hospitals		✓	14
Southport		✓	13
Pennine Acute Trust		✓	12
Wigan		✓	11
Whiston		✓	11
East Lancs		✓	11
Warrington		✓	10
Macclesfield		✓	8
Mid yorks		✓	5
Trafford General		✓	4
Bolton		✓	3
Tameside		✓	3
Wythenshawe		✓	2
Walton Centre		✓	0
York	✓		
Leicester	✓		

We would like to introduce you to some members of the wider MeningitisNW team so in this section we will put the spotlight on them!

Name: Matthew Robinson

Where do you work? Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

What is your job/role? Generic Research Nurse. I started in November 2012.

What is your background? I was born and raised in South East London. After training at St Bartholomews' in London I worked as a staff nurse at University College Hospital and then in a variety of community/district nursing roles in Camden and Islington. I moved north, initially to Leeds, in 2005 where I have worked in intermediate care, rheumatology research and substance misuse. I'm now settled in Halifax with my wife Jo and spend most of my time running around after our 2 year old son Oliver.

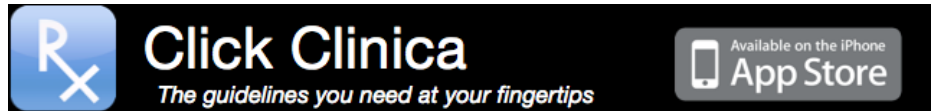
What are your research interests? I belong to the trust's R&D department and my role is generic, so I work on a variety of studies in different specialities, one of which is the meningitis NW study.

Name three things you like. Football, sleep (I have a 2 yr old son), growing vegetables

And three things you dislike. Mushrooms, spreadsheets, the fact I like football.

If you would like to contact Claire Matata (Brain Infections UK research nurse) regarding the Meningitis NW study (or any of the other BrainInfections UK Studies) she can be contacted on **0151 706 4395**

Improving the surveillance of infectious diseases - ClickClinica®. A free smartphone app, designed by members of the brain infections group here in Liverpool, has been developed that provides doctors with access to guidelines on all acute medical emergencies. In return it helps us gather information on disease activity in the UK and around the globe. The app has recently been featured in articles in the Guardian and the Lancet Infectious Diseases (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/2012/nov/26/clickclinica-app-map-disease-outbreaks>). You can download it for free from the Apple app store. It will be available on the Android market by the end of March. It is anticipated that this will provide epidemiological data on meningitis and improve recruitment to this study.



Please look at our website if you haven't already at www.braininfectionsuk.org/meningitisnw

Many of the documents needed for the study can be accessed from here. You can also have a look at the other studies in the Portfolio and see how they are doing at www.braininfectionsuk.org. This site also has a new educational section – NeuroID e-learning http://www.braininfectionsuk.org/neuroid_elearning/index.html.

Keeping up to date.

You can keep up to date with the goings on at the institute by 'liking' us on facebook or 'following' us on twitter.

Tri-Marathon – our nutty nurse, Claire Matata, will be running 3 marathons to raise money for the Encephalitis Society. She has never run a single marathon before so please do support her. You can sponsor her through the following link www.justgiving.com/claire-matata1.

NeuroID 2013

This is a combination of the highly successful **NeuroID Course** and the **Brain Infections UK research update day**. Both were highly popular last year and received very favourable feedback.

The research update day is on the 8th May and is free. The course follows on the 9th-10th May and costs £231. Please see links on the last page to register.

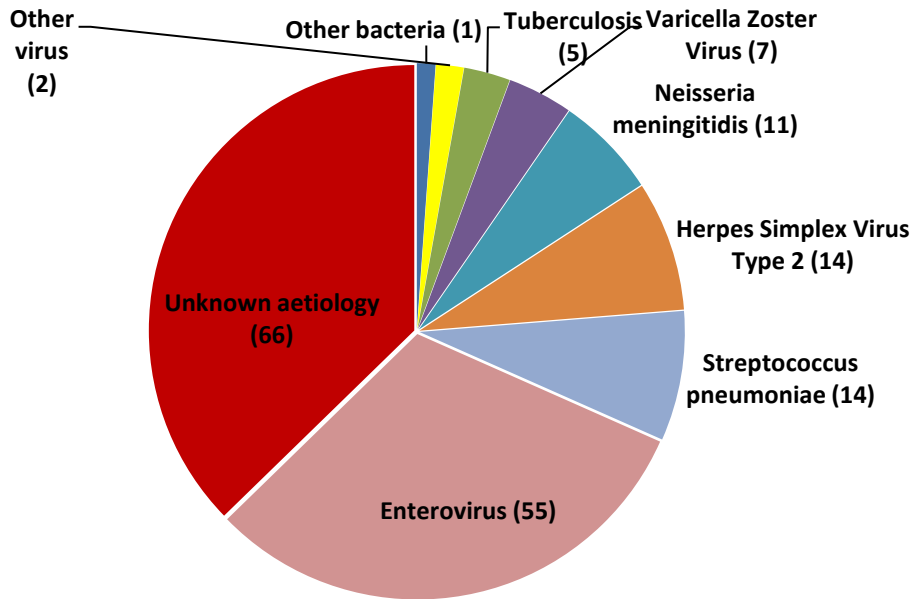
Thanks to all who came on the New Year update day in January. We had a great time and it was good to meet the research staff, the funders and the patient representatives. Feedback was positive and we hope to make this an annual event. See <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.449772995076481.104337.184437834943333&type=3> for some photos from the event.

Reminder time

- Thanks to all who are inputting the CRFs into OpenClinica **promptly**. Please try and input your data as quickly as possible after the patient is recruited.
- We need more patients recruited **prior to LP** in order to get some extra CSF for the substudies – please remember if you are based on an acute medical ward. Thanks to those that are doing this – numbers are improving.
- Please make sure you **record a date on the PAXgene samples** (as I have received more than one for some patients but don't know which came first!) I have some new stickers with a space for date if people want them let me know.
- We need more patients with **TB meningitis** – remember they are eligible too
- Don't forget to check the **HSV type specific serology** on patients with HSV meningitis
- Don't forget to offer an **HIV test** to all patients with meningitis.
- Encourage juniors/ward staff to make sure **concurrent glucose** is done (whether in the study or not)
- Encourage **full viral PCR work up** in cases of aseptic meningitis, including stool and throat PCR for enterovirus
- Remember to ask patients if they would be willing to self take **genital swabs** if they have aseptic meningitis
- Remember to ask patients about **genital lesions** – past and present.
- For patients who have consented to substudies please try and make sure the patient had the **PAXgene sample taken as soon as possible** – preferably within 48 hours of admission.
- Remember to take the **second PAXgene sample** at 3-5 days/discharge.

Results

Aetiology showing **38% with no pathogen identified.**



Current locations of sites involved in the Meningitis NW



Dates for your diary

NeuroID2013

A chance to find out about the latest developments in brain infections research followed by a two-day approved CPD course for clinicians of all grades who want to update their knowledge and skills. Click on the link below for more information and to register.



The banner features the NeuroID 2013 logo on the left, which includes a stylized head profile with a brain and a diamond shape. To the right of the logo, the text reads: "8th May Brain Infections UK Research Update" and "9th-10th May Liverpool Neurological Infectious Diseases Course". Below the logo is an orange box with the text "8th-10th May, Liverpool, UK". At the bottom center is the website "www.liv.ac.uk/neuroidcourse" in orange, and on the right is a starburst graphic with the text "Book now!".

Neuro ID 2013
8th-10th May, Liverpool, UK

8th May **Brain Infections UK Research Update**
9th-10th May **Liverpool Neurological Infectious Diseases Course**

www.liv.ac.uk/neuroidcourse Book now!



British Infection Association Trainees meeting and Spring Meeting 15th and 16th May 2013

<http://www.britishinfection.org/drupal/>

**Thankyou again for all
your help from all at Brain
Infections UK.**