

# Meningitis NW

August 2012

## Welcome to the fourth edition of the Meningitis NW newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the summer edition of the Meningitis NW newsletter although as I write this the sun is struggling to come out from behind the clouds in Liverpool. I hope you have all managed to see some sun over the past few weeks at least.

With the summer brings the enterovirus season and numbers have been picking up in the study and we have now passed the 250 mark.

We had a great day at the beginning of July with a visit from the Meningitis Research Foundation along with some of their supporters, some of the research nurses involved in the study and some of the patients. We had some discussion about the background to the study and the progress made so far. There were also opportunities for some brain teasing activities! See the last page for some pictures of the day.

We have 2 spotlights in this edition. One will introduce you to our data manager, Chloe Smith, and the other highlights one of our 'top' research nurses Lindsey Barber, who has done a fantastic job recruiting patients at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport.

See page 2 for our medal table and Gold goes to Team Leeds again. Well done. Recruitment number correct as of close of play on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Thanks again for all your help and support. We couldn't do this without you.

Dr Fiona McGill (Research fellow)

Prof Tom Solomon (Chief Investigator)

# League Table

Site	In set up	Recruiting	No. recruited
Leeds Teaching hospitals Trust		✓	39
South Tees		✓	31
Royal Liverpool		✓	28
Stockport		✓	24
Countess of Chester		✓	15
Newcastle Hospitals		✓	14
North Cumbria University Hospitals		✓	11
Crewe		✓	11
University Hospitals of Morecombe Bay		✓	9
Warrington		✓	8
Salford		✓	8
Aintree		✓	7
Calderdale		✓	7
Southport		✓	6
Whiston		✓	6
Wigan		✓	5
Bradford		✓	5
Wirral		✓	5
Manchester Royal Infirmary		✓	4
Lancashire Teaching hospitals		✓	4
Macclesfield		✓	4
Bolton		✓	3
Trafford General		✓	3
Pennine Acute Trust		✓	2
Walton Centre		✓	0
Wythenshawe	✓		
Blackpool	✓		
East Lancs	✓		

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:** Chloe Smith

**Where do you work?** Brain Infections UK at Liverpool University

**What is your job/role?** Research Data Manager for the Brain Infections Group. Currently helping Fiona with all things data related on her ongoing Meningitis Study and also helping to set up the ENCEPH-UK study.

**What is your background?** I was born in sunny Bournemouth but moved up to Liverpool for University (although not quite got the scouse accent). After University I started working in the NHS pretty much straight away, so nearly 5 years now. I moved into this job in January 2012.

**Name three things you like.**

1. My twin sister- Sophie (most of the time)
2. Krispy Kremes
3. Everton Football Club

**And three things you dislike.**

1. When Sophie borrows my clothes
2. Cauliflower cheese
3. Liverpool Football Club

## Researcher Spotlight No 2



**Name:** Lindsey Barber

**Where do you work?** Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport

**What is your job/role?** Research Nurse

**What is your background?** I was born and bred in Manchester, just a stone's throw from what is now the Trafford Centre. After school, I originally began a Business and IT degree but soon realised I really wanted to be a nurse, following in my mother's footsteps. I trained over the Peaks at The University of Sheffield and had a great experience of various specialities. Moving back home to Manchester after qualifying I worked at Manchester Royal Infirmary for a year before moving into community nursing, which is where I thought I'd stay forever... however, I heard from a friend about a research nurse/coordinator post in a private company that sounded very interesting and thought it would give me valuable experience of industry working. The job was a steep learning curve and I soon realised just how interesting and worthwhile medical research was, as I was overseeing and assisting studies being setting up and recruiting patients for 5 large hospitals around the North West. After leaving the company and having my son I saw my current post advertised at my local hospital and knew that I wanted to move back into a more patient focused role, still within research. I have now been here for 18 months and hope to remain for much longer still as there is so much opportunity for growth and development.

**What are your research interests?**

I have been lucky enough to be involved in a very wide range of research studies, from Oncology to Cardiology, Neurology, Rheumatology and Orthopaedics, Maternity and many more. I really enjoy working within a diverse portfolio as it means I am constantly learning!

**Name three things you like.**

Reading (when I get the chance), walking my dog Billy and of course my son Alfie.

**And three things you dislike.**

Litter, bad manners and cleaning my car (dog + toddler =lots of mess!)



# News items

We are now all set up for online data entry and many sites have started using it. The system we are using is an open source web based database called OpenClinica. Some of the first people in the study to use it described it as straightforward and simple to use. Please do let me know if you are having any issues with it though. Having on line data entry will allow us to review and analyse the data a lot quicker. Please do remember to let myself or Chloe know when you have filled in a CRF so we can check and complete it.

## Research Update Day

This was a well attended event with lots of positive feedback. People got to hear about all the studies in the Brain Infections UK portfolio.

Provisional date for NeuroID (incorporating the research update day) next year will be 8-10<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Please also look at our website if you haven't already at [www.braininfectionsuk.org/meningitisnw](http://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](http://www.braininfectionsuk.org)

## Keeping up to date.

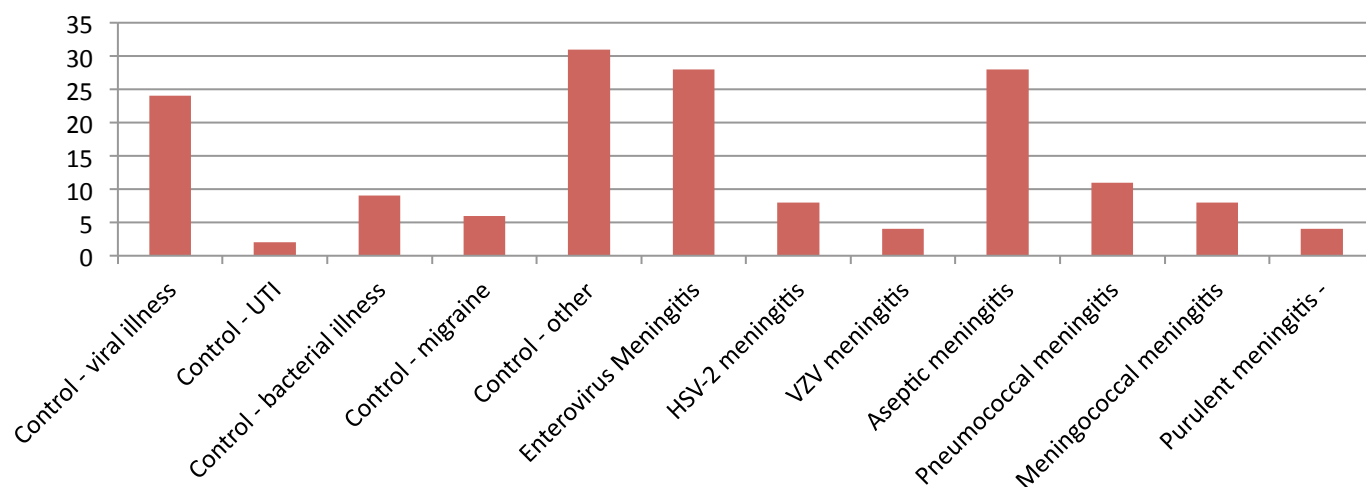
You can keep up to date with the goings on at the institute by 'liking' us on facebook or 'following' us on twitter.

## Reminder time

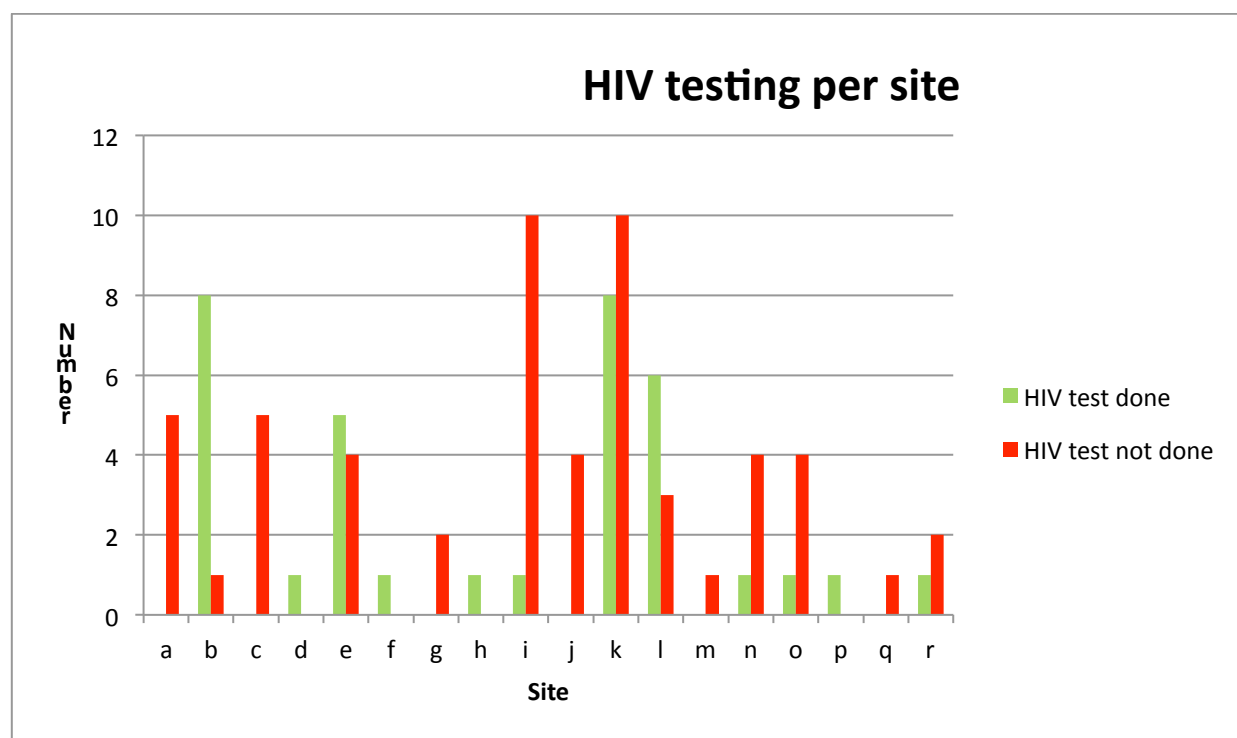
- We need more patients recruited **prior to LP** in order to get some extra CSF for the substudies – please remember if you are based on an acute medical ward. Thanks to those that are doing this – numbers are improving.
- We need more patients with **TB meningitis** – remember they are eligible too
- 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. HIV testing is still poor – individual site results will be issues to each site. Anonymised results are shown on page 5.
- 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



**HIV testing – number of HIV tests done in each site in patients with proven meningitis of any cause**



# Dates for your diary

FEDERATION OF  
infection societies



Healthcare Infection Society and Federation of Infection Societies Annual Conference. 19-21<sup>st</sup> November, BT convention centre, Liverpool.

**Followed by**

British Infection Association Trainees meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> November, Foresight Centre, Liverpool

[www.britishinfection.org/](http://www.britishinfection.org/)



Some pictures from the Meningitis Research Foundation visit to Liverpool, 3<sup>rd</sup> July.



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