

# Meningitis NW



December 2011

Welcome to this festive edition of the  
Meningitis NW newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the festive weather at the moment and are looking forward to some holiday time over the Christmas and New year period.

We have had a good few months since the last newsletter and are well underway. We now have over 10 sites recruiting and several more in set up. We also have 27 patients enrolled. Congratulations to the teams at South Tees and Leeds for some excellent recruitment numbers. Keep up the good work. You can compare how you are doing with other sites on page 2 (correct at time of going to press)!!

We have also been officially accepted onto the NIHR Portfolio and our UK CRN number is 11179.

We have a spotlight section on page 3 where we put the spotlight on our researchers and find out exactly who else is part of the wider MeningitisNW team. We are also hoping, along with the MRF, to gain some media coverage so don't be surprised if you see something in your local newspaper.

You can find out about any dates for your diary on the last page.

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



Fiona McGill  
Clinical Research Fellow

Tom Solomon  
Chief investigator



# League Table

Site	In set up	Recruiting	No. recruited
South Tees		✓	9
Leeds Teaching hospitals Trust		✓	8
North Cumbria University Hospitals		✓	3
Warrington		✓	2
Stockport		✓	2
Bolton		✓	2
Newcastle Hospitals		✓	0
Royal Liverpool		✓	0
Whiston		✓	0
Trafford General		✓	0
Macclesfield		✓	0
Pennine Acute Trust	✓		
Manchester Royal Infirmary	✓		
Wythenshawe	✓		
Morecombe Bay	✓		
Wigan	✓		
Wirral	✓		
Countess of Chester	✓		
Bradford	✓		
Crewe	✓		
Southport	✓		
Blackpool	✓		
Aintree	✓		
Walton	✓		
Salford			
East Lancs			
Tameside			



## Researcher Spotlight

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



**Name:** Adam Swift

**Where do you work?** Royal Bolton Hospital

**What is your job/role?**

CT1 in ACCS (Acute Care Common Stem) currently working in Acute Medicine. Basically a junior doctor on a medical ward. It's a busy admissions ward, but a great team of doctors and nurses make it a fun job.

**What is your background?** I was born in Bristol, but brought up in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. After school, I moved to Manchester to study Medicine at university. Apart from a brief stint back at Newcastle University for a year studying microbiology and immunology, I've remained in the North West ever since and plan to for the future. It's a great place full of friendly people and a fantastic atmosphere. I've worked at Royal Bolton Hospital since 2009. During that time I've worked in a number of different departments, including Emergency Medicine, Elderly Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics & Gynaecology. I'll be moving in August to work at Salford Royal in Manchester.

**What are your research interests?**

Before this research project, my main experience had been at Newcastle University, where I undertook lab work into the potential improvement of treatments for children suffering from Respiratory Syncytial Virus infection. I was surprised with how much I enjoyed the laboratory aspect and I plan to expand these skills further.

**Likes.** Reclining chairs, motorcycles & Alton Towers

**Dislikes.** Adverts, Marmite & traffic jams

**Where will you be spending Christmas?**

I'll be trying to see relatives so will be going in between Northampton and Sheffield, and a few days back in Manchester (Working rather than relaxing, unfortunately!)

**Name:** Jamie Calderwood

**Where do you work?** St James University Hospital, Leeds. Infection and Travel Medicine Department.

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

**What is your background?** I was born in Airedale Hospital in 1979, which means I'm a child of the 70s. I grew up in the local area, and left school at 16 to train as an engineer! I kind of fell into nursing as a way to become a paramedic, but I enjoyed being on the wards so much that I stayed in nursing. After qualifying from the University of Bradford in 2007 I worked for a little time at Airedale on a Surgical Admissions unit. Very early in my training I was exposed to some of the prejudice and stigma associated with those living with HIV. My mentor at the time said something that has stuck with me over the last few years: "I don't care what the patient has got or how they got it. At the end of the day they're ill and need us to look after them. They're still a person no matter what they have" (thanks Alex). I had two goals for my nursing career: 1) to work in ICU and 2) work with those living with HIV. After completing my preceptorship at Airedale I jumped at the chance to work on Neuro ICU at Leeds. I worked there for 3 years – some of the most challenging years of my life both personally and professionally. So looking for a new challenge! This made me think about working with people with HIV. I spotted the Research Nurse job working with Dr Minton here in Leeds, applied straight away and here I am 6 months later with a near vertical learning curve and enjoying every minute!

**What are your research interests?**

Currently I'm working towards my BSc in Healthcare Practice. Two big projects I'm working on are examining the life cycle of HIV and how the types of treatment affect the virus. For my dissertation I am investigating whether being on treatment affects a person's risk-taking behaviour.

**Likes:** My Guitar and music in general, Classic Land Rovers 1960-70, Books and reading

**Dislikes.** Clowns! A little strange I know but they really scare me..., The X-Factor, Automated Telesales calls.

**Where will you be spending Christmas?** With family in Chester.



# News items

Some people have been asking about the electronicCRF and data entry at site. We are currently migrating all Brain Infections UK online resources to a shiny new webserver. This will provide a better all round service in terms of the websites and OpenClinica (the electronic database). In particular, it will allow us to provide external access to OpenClinica. We hope this will be available in the New Year to those who want to make use of it.

We will be having the second steering committee meeting for Meningitis NW on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012. I hope to have looked at some of the initial data by then. The presentation from that will go on the website.

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)

The Institute of [Infection and Global Health](#) is currently in the process of moving premises. We are moving to a brand new building just over the road in the University. This does mean that phone numbers and fax numbers will be changing. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, we don't know what they will be. I will let you all know asap and the info will also go on the website. We apologise for any disruption that is caused during this period. The easiest way to get hold of me during this period may be via my mobile.

## 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.



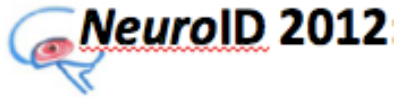
## Christmas Holidays

There will be no one in the BrainInfectionsUK offices between the 24<sup>th</sup> December and the 3<sup>rd</sup> January. You can still send faxes during that time, however, if you need to make an URGENT enrolment e.g. the patient is about to be discharged then please phone me on my mobile or e-mail.





# Dates for your diary



Liverpool NeuroID Course 17/18th May 2012  
[www.liv.ac.uk/neuroidcourse](http://www.liv.ac.uk/neuroidcourse)



British Infection Association Spring Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
[www.britishinfection.org/drupal/content/bia-annual-spring-meeting](http://www.britishinfection.org/drupal/content/bia-annual-spring-meeting)



Liverpool NeuroPACES Course 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012  
[http://www.liv.ac.uk/neuroscience/neuro\\_paces.htm](http://www.liv.ac.uk/neuroscience/neuro_paces.htm)

All the team at BrainInfectionsUK  
would like to wish you all a very  
merry Christmas and a happy New  
Year.

