

## July 2009 Newsletter

### STAFF CHANGES

#### *Change in Clinical Lead*

Sadly, South Coast's Clinical Lead David Wilkinson formally resigned on the 16th June. We would like to thank David for his commitment and contribution to South Coast DeNDRoN.

David will continue his work as Director of the Memory and Assessment Research Centre (MARC) at Moorgreen Hospital and will continue as Chief Investigator/Principal Investigator in DeNDRoN dementia studies.

Dr Helen Roberts (Deputy Clinical Lead) has agreed to act as interim Clinical Lead while the recruitment process for a new Clinical Lead goes ahead. South Coast DeNDRoN would like to thank Helen for her support during this time. Helen is a Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in elderly medicine based at Southampton General Hospital.

Thanks and good wishes go out to Debbie Marchant, DeNDRoN research nurse at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Debbie was seconded last year to support the work of DeNDRoN. Following her year's secondment Debbie has decided to return to her former role of nursing in elderly care. Debbie will be missed for her contribution to the team. She has shown commitment to DeNDRoN and her colleagues.

"Thank you and good luck Debbie!"

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

South Coast DeNDRoN is supporting the national annual DeNDRoN conference. This year the conference is being held at the Rose Bowl in Southampton. Members of South Coast team have helped devise the programme and will be contributing to the smooth running of the day.

We are extremely pleased to announce that two Patient and Public representatives from our Steering group and Working party will be actively involved on the day. Michelle Stace will be co-chairing the whole day with Professor Alistair Burns. Cynthia Russell will be chairing the Patient and Public Involvement question time session in the afternoon. For further details please contact South Coast DeNDRoN or go to the DeNDRoN web sit – [www.dendron.org.uk](http://www.dendron.org.uk).

### RAISING AWARENESS

#### *Shopping Centres & Libraries*

Over the past few months we have had three awareness days at local shopping centres. Two more are planned in the next few weeks. The aim of these events is to raise awareness amongst the general public about research. We believe these events have the potential to increase the numbers of people who may want to enter a study or be involved in some way with research.

Some of the local libraries now have leaflets and information packs available, including the Isle of Wight. We have also held an open surgery at a local library. If anyone can assist with distributing leaflets and posters to their local library could they please contact us.

#### *Patient & Public Involvement (PPI)*

Ruth Chandler, a new 'Coordinator of Service User & Carer Involvement', has started with Sussex PT. One day a week is dedicated to DeNDRoN and we welcome her to the team.

South Coast DeNDRoN would like more PPI representatives on their Steering Committee particularly representatives for Huntington's disease and Motor Neurone disease.

Anyone interested please contact the South Coast DeNDRoN office.

#### *Professional Involvement*

The team continues to raise awareness of research with professionals to get them more involved with recruitment. Professional packs are available to highlight specific trials and we are available to attend team meetings to give updates on the current trial status.

Please contact the South Coast DeNDRoN office for more information about the Professional Packs or to arrange talks.

### RESEARCH SITE SPOTLIGHT

*Originally written for the Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust by Caroline Coleman, DeNDRoN Research Nurse based at Blandford;*

Dr Simpson has worked full-time in elderly mental health since 1992. His main research interests have included treatment resistant depression in later life and clinical trials for memory enhancing treatments. He is currently supported by Caroline Coleman (in the middle), a research nurse funded by SC DeNDRoN. They are currently recruiting an additional member of the research team.

They are currently taking part in a study of people who have Parkinson's disease as well as memory problems. (Recruitment is now closed for this trial).

They are soon to take part in a study with people who have mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

Recently, recruitment to Euro HD has started, which aims to make a large database of people over Europe to facilitate future research.



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### TRIALS UPDATE

#### Currently Recruiting Alzheimer's Disease (AD) Studies

##### Hampshire

**DeNDRoN 033 Roche** Requires a diagnosis of mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease & is for non-smokers who are currently taking Aricept.

**HTA-SADD** HTA study of antidepressants for depression in dementia – a definitive multicentre pragmatic RCT of clinical and cost effectiveness.

**DOMINO AD** Donepezil and memantine in moderate to severe AD.

**DeNDRoN 028 CONNECTION** A global phase 3, double-blind, placebo-controlled safety and efficacy study of oral study drug in patients with mild to moderate AD.

**DeNDRoN 033 Roche** A dose ranging, randomized, double blind, parallel group placebo-controlled multi-centre study of RO5313534 used as an add-on to donepezil treatment in patients with mild to moderate symptoms of AD.

##### Sussex

**DeNDRoN 022** A phase 3 multi-centre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group efficacy and safety trial of study drug in subjects with mild to moderate AD who are Apolipoprotein E4 non carriers.

**DeNDRoN 023** A phase 3 multi-centre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group efficacy and safety trial of study drug in subjects with mild to moderate AD who are Apolipoprotein E4 carriers.

#### Starting Soon

**DeNDRoN 034 Servier** Safety and efficacy of S 38093 versus placebo in patients with AD. An international, multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study.

**DeNDRoN 037 Elan DADE** Dependence in AD in England: A cross-sectional study of the impact of patient dependence on others on costs and caregiver burden in AD in England.

#### Currently Recruiting Huntington's Disease (HD) Studies

Dorset (Hampshire awaiting approvals)

**EURO HD** – An international registry and biobank to further research in Huntington's disease.

#### Currently Recruiting Parkinson's Disease (PD) Studies

Hampshire & Dorset

**PDGEN** DNA bank for PD

**PDMED** Large randomized assessment of the relative cost effectiveness of different classes of drugs for PD

**PDREHAB** Randomised controlled trial to assess the clinical and cost effectiveness of physiotherapy and occupational therapy in PD.

#### Currently Recruiting Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Studies

Hampshire & Dorset

**MND Biobank** DNA bank for MND

We are hoping to be involved in recruitment to other MND studies in the near future.

It is expected that access to trials in the neurodegenerative diseases will be available in Sussex in the near future.

