New Research Projects

Can the Visual Performance of Visually Impaired Individuals be improved by Colour? (Penny D’Ath)

Some studies support the view that tinted lenses and filters may be of benefit to some patients with visual impairment, however, others have failed to find any significant improvement in visual performance with tinted lenses.

The aim of this project is to determine whether real world reading performance can be improved by optimising VDU colour background in patients with various types of visual impairment.

IPS amblyopia treatment. Phase 3: evaluation of a computerised version of the IPS treatment (Jewls Matthews and Bruce Evans)

The initial phase (a retrospective evaluation of previous treatments) of this study demonstrated an improvement in VA following six IPS (intermittent photic stimulation) treatment sessions. The second phase (a prospective double-masked randomised placebo-controlled trial of the IPS therapy) demonstrated that IPS is an effective treatment for amblyopia in people aged 10 years or over. A computerised version of the IPS method has been developed and EyeNET is supporting phase 3 of the study, a masked randomised trial comparing the conventional IPS with the computerised version.

EyeNET Research Publications

Since the last newsletter, the following EyeNET research paper has been published:


In press


Research Project and Protocol Funding

EyeNET has been awarded continued funding from the Department of Health to the end of March 2006. This funding will allow the network to continue supporting its current projects and also offer funding for new projects.

If you would like to apply for funding for a London based, primary care eye related research project, please contact Helen O’Kelly (details below). Novice researchers are encouraged to apply and assistance can be given to develop a research idea. Training in research methods will also be provided.

If you think you may be interested in research in the future but don’t know where to begin, please get in touch as research training can be provided to whet your appetite. The next course is expected to run in the summer.

UK Federation of Primary Care Research Organisations (UKFPCRO)

The UKFPCRO (formerly known as the UK Federation of Primary Care research Networks) has changed its name to recognise the diversity of organisations that engage with and support primary care research. The UKFPCRO holds its next
annual conference on 28th and 29th November 2005 in Bristol. The theme will be “Impact and Improvement” and the organisation hopes to address issues of implementation and application as well as undertaking research. EyeNET will support 3 places for members who would like to attend the conference. If you are interested please contact Helen O’Kelly (details below). If you have any queries relating to the conference itself, please contact Denys Hancock on 01623 486635, fax 01623 480278 or d.hancock@ukf-pcro.org.

**Patient Recruitment**

In the future, EyeNET will be asked to recruit patients from the London Region to national diabetes research trials, via a network of optometric “recruitment practices”. It is unclear at present what would be expected of these practitioners or their practices, but if you feel you may have an interest in contributing to this area of research then please get in touch. Since the role of practitioners is not defined at present, registering your interest is not a commitment to participate.

**The network**

Our new website is under construction at www.city.ac.uk/optometry/html/eyenet.html. It includes details of the network’s aims as well as completed and current research projects. In time we will be adding annual research meeting reports and newsletters.

EyeNET membership is free and is open to anyone with an interest in primary care eye related research. Members receive newsletters and are invited to attend the annual research meeting, a chance to hear about progress on the network’s research projects.

If you would like to join the network please send your postal contact details, email address and area of research interest (if you have one) to Helen O’Kelly (details below).

London based EyeNET members may apply for research funding from the network. Any members who are seeking research funding but who are not based in London should contact the UKFPCRO (details above) or their local PCT research lead.

**Contact Details**

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