

The NIHR's Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network (DeNDRoN) is one of six topic-specific Clinical Research Networks in England that support research to make patients, and the NHS, better.

DeNDRoN supports the development and delivery of clinical research in the NHS in the dementias, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, motor neurone disease, and other neurodegenerative diseases.

North Thames Local Research Network (LRN) is one of 10 LRNs within DeNDRoN. It is leading two projects as part of the national 'Integrating Networks and Embedding Research in Clinical Practice' (INTERACT) programme. The INTERACT programme is a series of innovative projects across the country to test different approaches for embedding research into clinical practice.

Scope

During 2012 Alison has been working as the lead project manager at North Thames LRN delivering two projects within the DeNDRoN's INTERACT programme. These projects are:

- Encouraging a research active environment through improved training of new NHS employees at induction"
- "Improving research access ability in non-research trusts"

The purpose of the North Thames DeNDRoN Local Research Network (LRN)'s initiative was to work in partnership with both Camden & Islington NHS FT and Barking, Havering & Redbridge NHS Trusts to develop and improve their research culture from 'Board to Ward' through a series of activities during 2012.

Method

To work with the LRN team and key stakeholders, in particular Camden & Islington NHS Trust, in developing delivery plans with responsibilities and measurables for the two INTERACT projects.

To work with the LRN team and key stakeholders, in particular Camden & Islington NHS Trust, in implementing the delivery plans for the two INTERACT projects

To identify risks and issues

Before the initiative:

- No online communication with the public or staff promoting how innovative research findings are being applied day to day at Camden & Islington's NHS FT's resulting in better care
- No information to staff on research at Camden & Islington's NHS FT's staff induction
- No easily accessible information on the research journey, type of support available, benefits to staff and patients, how research is being put into practice, or how to be involved.
- No corporate message from the Executive team of either Trust to staff and the public on the importance of embedding research in clinical practice

- No information on research at either the core or SpR junior doctor training. Following an induction in February 2012 to 40 new SpR doctors, a survey-monkey showed:
 - Whilst 80% of SpRs doctors are considering doing research during their psychiatry training at Camden & Islington NHS FT, 100% did not know how to access GCP training and 70% did not know or where unsure about where to find out information about research studies or where to signpost patient too if a patient asked about getting involved in research.
 - 70% said the written information at the induction on research was poor
 - 50% responded that their knowledge of research remained low even after induction
 - Only 30% considered clinical research to be important at Camden & Islington NHS FT

The changes NT DeNDRoN set out to achieve were :

- To improve the staff induction programme by introducing a session on clinical research emphasising that everyone has a role in promoting research opportunities to patients, and to encourage staff to get involved in research themselves as part of their self-development
- To improve the core doctor and SpR doctor induction programme by introducing a session on research, similar to the staff induction but enhanced with a Research Consultant being present to discuss studies, research training and variety of available support.
- To improve equity of access to the public, commissioners and staff through innovative online resources. These would provide up to date information about research studies, research support, studies, publications, how research is being put into practice, and opportunities for being involved
- To increase the number of patients recruited into DeNDRoN studies through better recording in patients' records of their willingness to be approached about research opportunities.

Outcomes:

The online site engagement toolkit helps these, and other NHS organisations new to research, get started on the research journey and offers practical solutions for embedding a cross-organisational research culture.

The toolkit was been submitted in July 2012 to the HSJ awards as an example of excellent practice in the area of improving clinical research.

Figure 1 shows the home page of the online toolkit:

North Thames DeNDRoN Site Engagement Toolkit

NHS National Institute for Health Research
DeNDRoN Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network

Home

- 1. Getting your bearings
- 2. Benefits to organisations
- 3. Benefits to patients
- 4. Research support
- 5. Getting started
- 6. Developing a research culture
- 7. Choosing a study
- 8. Study Life Cycle
- 9. Research resources

LINKS

- North Thames DeNDRoN home
- Contact us



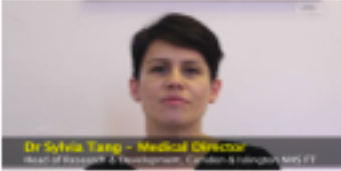




This toolkit is aimed at staff in NHS organisations that are either new to clinical research, or are already conducting research but are new to working with the **Dementia and Neurodegenerative Disease Research Network**. It is a tool to aid your affiliation with your new local Academic Health Science Network

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graph TD; 1((1. GETTING YOUR BEARINGS)) --> 2[2. BENEFITS TO ORGANISATIONS]; 2 --> 3[3. BENEFITS TO PATIENTS]; 3 --> 4[4. RESEARCH SUPPORT]; 4 --> 5{{5. GETTING STARTED}}; 5 --> 6{6. DEVELOPING A RESEARCH CULTURE}; 6 --> 7[7. CHOOSING A STUDY]; 7 --> 8[8. STUDY LIFE CYCLE]; 8 --> 9[9. RESEARCH RESOURCES]; 9 --> 1; TS[YOUR RESEARCH SUPPORT TEAMS];
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Website: www.ntdendrontoolkit.weebly.com

Figure 1

Figure 2 shows a page of adaptable activities and tools for **Developing a Research Culture**

<p>The online 'site engagement toolkit' provides practical, adaptable tools to develop a research culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff induction video and script, for local adaption • Example of a website research page, for local adaption • Staff information leaflet on research • Leaflet insert with FAQs about research by clinicians • Expression of interest in research form • Readiness for Research checklist • Staff competency for research checklist • Online access to GCP training 	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;"> <h3>1. Staff information leaflet</h3>  <p>Click here to download</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <h3>2. FAQs for clinicians</h3>  <p>Click here to download</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <h3>3. Staff induction video</h3>  <p>This is being used in staff inductions, SpR training and core junior doctor inductions. Click here to view the top tips and script template that you can adapt for use in your organisation.</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <h3>4. Case study</h3>  <p>The case study is an interim report on how North Thames DeNDRoN has been working with Camden & Islington NHS FT and other local organisations and research networks, to embed a research culture. The full report will be available in the Autumn 2012</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <h3>5. Business case for DeNDRoN research</h3>  <p>Here is a blank template, a completed template for your adaption is being developed.</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <h3>6. Strategy for Research and Development</h3>  <p>Here are example R&D strategies from East London NHS FT, and Barts and The London NHS Trust</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <h3>7. Research webpage on hospital's public website</h3>  <p>Here is the current page. NT DeNDRoN has developed a comprehensive webpage that has been approved but by the hospital Executive team and should be 'live' by mid July</p> </div> </div>
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