Dear UKNC colleague,

I would like to introduce myself, I am a Neonatal Senior Lecturer at Imperial and MRC Clinician Scientist Fellow. My research interest involves using routinely collected data for pragmatic neonatal clinical trials. A key aspect of this is developing a Core Outcome Set for preterm babies requiring neonatal care: Core Outcomes In Neonatology (COIN). The COIN project is funded by the MRC and will start from September 2016.

We are looking for neonatologists and paediatricians to join the multiprofessional steering group for the COIN project. We are particularly interested in representatives who practice in Local Neonatal Units (LNUS) and Special Care Baby Units (SCBUs). Previous research or academic experience is not required.

The steering group will be chaired by Professor Marian Knight (National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit) and the first meeting will be on 15th November 2016 in London. All travel and related expenses will be reimbursed.

The aim of a core outcome set is to achieve consensus across a wide range of stakeholders (including parents and patients) about which outcomes form the minimum, core, to be collected in future research. This is to ensure studies collect outcomes that are important to parents, patients and health professionals and not just to researchers. In addition, core outcomes sets facilitate high quality systematic reviews and meta-analyses by ensuring uniformly collected outcomes.

The development of the COIN project will follow well stablished COMET methodology ([http://www.comet-initiative.org/)](http://www.comet-initiative.org/%29). Briefly this will involve:

1. A systematic review of neonatal clinical trials to determine the outcomes measured in such trials (ongoing)
2. A systematic of qualitative studies and data to extract outcomes considered important to parents and patients (ongoing)
3. A two Stage Delphi process involving different stakeholder groups (parents, patients, clinicians, nurses) to arrive at a core outcome set – this will be informed by the systematic reviews

The steering group will oversee the project and will include parents, ex-preterm adults, representative charities (Bliss), neonatal clinicians, neonatal nurses, neonatal academics as well as representatives from the RCPCH and the National Neonatal Audit Programme. The intention is to have two steering group meetings:

1. Agree the scope, review the outcomes extracted from systematic reviews and determine the outcomes to be included in the Delphi process
2. Interpret the results of the Delphi process and agree a dissemination plan

The aim is to complete the project by September 2017.

We are looking for two clinician representatives from UK neonatal units to join the steering group. If you are interested please email me at christopher.gale@imperial.ac.uk I have attached the current COIN protocol for your information.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Gale

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