

## Report for March 2024 meeting of ABCD committee

### Academic Sub Committee Update

The committee members are as follows:

Steve Bain  
Ketan Dhatariya  
Mark Evans  
Ben Field  
Rajna Golubic  
Petra Hanson  
Iskandar Idris (chair)  
Parth Narendran (Chair)  
Katherine Owen  
Dimitris Papamargaritis  
Emma Wilmot  
Shivani Misra

Snapshot of activities

#### **A) Recruitment of additional members of the academic subcommittee**

Several members are coming up to the end of their term on the academic subcommittee. Professor Choudhary stepped down due to commitments with another charitable organisation. We are delighted to have Dr Shivani Misra to join our academic committee in February 2024.

#### **B) ABCD Research grant**

The 2023 research call was advertised in Jan 2023 and applications was closed in the summer. Nine applications were received and seven underwent second review. We were delighted with the overall quality of applications this year and two applicants were successful – Dr Lauren Quinn (£11,973.28), who will undertake a study on the ‘acceptability of adult screening for Type 1 diabetes’ and Dr Gordon Sloan (£38,027.00) who will investigate ‘the efficacy of cerebral bioenergetics as a biomarker for neuropathic pain in peripheral neuropathy’.

The 2024 Research grant was launched in January 2024. Following discussion and agreement with the academic subcommittee, we have amended the policy to allow associate members (i.e. allied health care professionals, nurses, non-clinical academics) to apply for funding.

#### **C) Dragon’s Den grant funding scheme**

This is a small grant funding scheme that we launched for the first time alongside the main ABCD grant above. The aim is to encourage busy clinicians and research fellow to ‘pitch’ for a research project. Two successful applicants were awarded approximately £10,000 each. They are: Dr Emma Johns ‘Hybrid closed loop to prevent Recurrent DKA in High Risk People with Diabetes and Dr Oluwaseun Anyiam, ‘Can High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) improve maintenance of diabetes type 2 remission?’ The 2024 Dragon Den’s scheme will be launched in June 2024.

#### **D) Membership of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)**

We were successful in becoming an AMRC member following discussions at the end of last year. Membership benefits include: 1) connections with other network and charities 2) support on resources to improve best practice

3) to influence positive changes via cross-sector initiatives and meetings with policy makers and developing position statements 4) to access additional resources and funding

#### **E) Diabetes Update - Loughborough**

The Diabetes Update ran from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. This was again a 3 days event as a residential course in Loughborough. It was well attended and by all accounts was highly successful. Plans are in place to continue with this next year as part of a 3-year rolling programme that will cover the diabetes curriculum. We envisage significant interest from industry in supporting this programme.

#### **F) Access to research training for D+E trainees**

The academic subcommittee feel that exposure and training in research for trainees is an important part of developing a strong speciality. We are exploring how best this can be placed in the curriculum and will report back in due course. Dr Ben Field will lead on this.

#### **G) Other activities**

The academic subcommittee has also supported other activities within the ABCD including supporting nominations for the named lectures for the Niru Goenka lecture. For this, submissions are invited from ABCD members for this named lecture at the forthcoming ABCD Conference in September 2024. Closing date for nomination is 24<sup>th</sup> May and the successful nominee will be informed on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024. ABCD academic subcommittee are also involved in marking ABCD meeting abstracts

#### **Discussion regarding joint grant funding with UK research foundation**

Following membership of AMRC, we have undertaken early discussion with Novo Nordisk UK research foundation (NNUKRF) for a joint funding programme. In brief, UK research foundation provides funding of £260,000 per year to support research fellowships (Salary, consumables and registration fees) and education for health care professionals working in diabetes and small grants, up to £12,000 available to all disciplines working in diabetes. Funds are provided via an unrestricted grant from Novo Nordisk. Similar collaboration between JDRF and NNUKRF is already in existence but for research fellowship only, and based on a memorandum of understanding with a 50/50 split and maximum commitment from JDRF to £150,000. Due to a much smaller pot of funds available from ABCD, it is agreed that funds from both sides are not equal, however, both parties agree this should not prevent a collaboration. In addition, any joint fund arrangement is flexible and non-binding. DCT and NNUKRF have committed funding for 2024. Therefore, any potential collaboration would take place in 2025 earliest.

**We aim to obtain DCT Trust approval prior to further discussions for the next stage. If DCT Trustees are positive, further discussion will be arranged on what the collaboration could look like to be taken to both DCT and NNUKRF Trustees.**

Iskandar IDRIS 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

# ABCD Academic Sub committee Report March 2024

## **Achievements 2023 (since last report)**

ABCD Research grant

Clinical update for Diabetes 2024 was successful

Application for AMRC membership for the ABCD grant was approved

Launched Dragon's Den funding scheme

## **Plans 2024**

Launch the next ABCD grant

Launch the next Diabetes Dragon's Den grant

AMRC membership and explore joint funding with other charities

Explore how to implement research exposure into curriculum for D+E trainees