

# Cascade

Issue Number: 4

October 2008

## In this month's issue:

**'HRU - Haemostasis Research Unit'** – A look into the newly opened research unit into Haemostatic disorder that will benefit patients from across the country and the globe. Written by Dr Benny Sorenson.

**'2008 User Reference Guide'** – For information and quick reference guide to the services provided by the department.

**'Anticoagulation Services'** – feasibility notice for GP/PCT providers for the future of anticoagulation services in the community. Written by Dr Graeme Thomson

**'Training and Development'** – A look ahead at our next 2 day educational activity 'Current Practice in Haemostasis' to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

**'GP Education and Information Session'** – A chance for the Centre to provide education to practitioners in the community.

## HRU – Haemostasis Research Unit

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, the Centre for Haemophilia and Thrombosis launched a new Haemostasis Research Unit, generously opened by the Chair of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Patricia Moberly.



(L-R) - Patricia Moberly (Chairman, GSTFT Board), Dr Benny Sorenson (Senior Research Fellow, C4HT), Dr Savita Rangarajan (Consultant Haematologist, C4HT), Dr David Bevan (Head of Department, C4HT)

Dr David Bevan, Centre Director, stressed that the objectives of the Haemostasis Research Unit are patient-based: to translate research and development into improving, optimizing and individualizing treatment for patients with congenital and inherited bleeding disorders. The Haemostasis Research Unit has already established a comprehensive long-term research plan based on National and International collaborations.

Dr Benny Sorenson, MD, Ph.D. has been appointed Senior Clinical Research Fellow, with special brief to co-ordinate research activities and strategies to accelerate research productivity. Dr Sorenson briefly summarized the four main research areas: Optimising management of Haemophilia; improving management of peri-operative bleeding; improving understanding of immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP); and developing testing of platelet function for more effective diagnosis of primary haemostatic disorders.

The strategic aim of the Haemostasis Research Unit is to renew the Centre's position as a national and international research resource, and position the Unit as a contributor to the Academic Health Sciences Centre being developed across King's, Guy's and St Thomas' in South London.

For further information or questions, do not hesitate to contact Benny Sorenson on [benny.sorenson@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:benny.sorenson@gstt.nhs.uk)

## 2008 User Reference Guide

The Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis have produced a User Reference Guide for services provided by the department. Our 2008 User Reference Guide will be distributed to users in the next month, and will replace the 2006/2007 version that is currently used for our department information.

This guide contains:

- Contact Information for both Clinical and Laboratory staff
- Testing Repertoire
- Reference Ranges for current testing Repertoire
- Introduction to the Centre Management Team
- Useful information about the service provided by our:
  - Diagnostic Laboratory
  - Nutristasis Unit
  - Molecular Genetics Laboratory
  - Clinical Trials Service
  - Blood Products Service
  - Centre Clinics
  - Vitamin K EQA Scheme (KEQAS)

For you copy, please contact our editorial team either by phone or email contact as listed at the conclusion of this newsletter.

## Contact Us

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## Feasibility of moving our anticoagulation service into the community

The Anticoagulation Clinic of the Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis would like to 'sound out' interest for our proposal aimed at taking services currently provided at our major hospital sites, into the community.

We are currently discussing ideas on the feasibility of distributing parts of our anticoagulation services to local community. These sites would allow for ease of access to our many anticoagulation patients who would continue to receive the highest level of care in anticoagulation therapy monitoring through our dedicated centralised dosing and practitioner service at St Thomas' Hospital.

The movement of these services to be closer to patients in their communities is a key Department of Health initiative to patient led service which we intend to develop.

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The basis of this proposal would be the development of a close working, collaborative network of GP surgeries and PCT sites where patients can attend phlebotomy services close to their home without the inconvenience of presenting at our major hospital campus'.



This hub and spoke model, would allow for patient convenience both in coordination of appointment systems with local GP or PCT services. Coordination of IT systems and courier network will enable a fast, efficient and reliable service to be maintained with no negative impact to patient care.

We would like to gauge a level of support or interest from GP/PCT providers in the community on this proposal and allow you to share your views of anticoagulation services in our community. A more formal meeting could be arranged to discuss the proposed plan and to demonstrate the service we will provide and evaluate benefits and impacts this may have on local services.

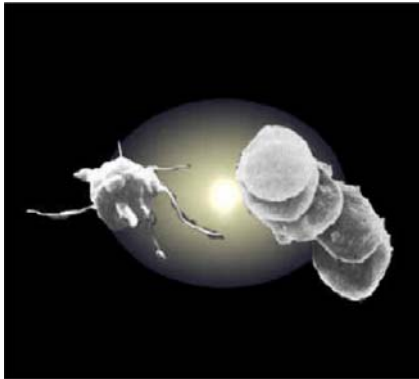
If you would like to speak to someone about this proposal, receive more information or attend a discussion meeting, please contact:

Dr Graeme Thomson (Anticoagulation Lead Consultant)  
Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis  
Ph 020 7188 2805  
email: [Graeme.Thomson@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Graeme.Thomson@gstt.nhs.uk)

## Training and Development

The Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis will be holding its next bi-annual 2 day training course on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

The course, which will focus on both clinical and laboratory aspects of Haemostasis, will be presented by leading experts in the field, gathered from within Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and throughout the United Kingdom. Case presentations will also be presented to give real life experience to the information given to participants.



The venue for this year's 'Current Practice in Haemostasis' course will be the Governor's Hall at St Thomas' Hospital. A truly grand room which adds a sense of history and time honoured excellence that is Guy's and St Thomas'.

Bookings for participant places can be made through the Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis by contacting Jackie Smith on +44 (0) 20 7188 2794 or email [Jackie.smith@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Jackie.smith@gstt.nhs.uk). Information and registration packs are available for download on the department website, [www.c4ht.com](http://www.c4ht.com).

Please check our website for more up to date information regarding educational activities provided by the Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis.

## Laboratory contact details

If you have any queries regarding testing in the laboratories of the Centre, any in depth information not covered in this edition, or would like to arrange testing of your patient samples please do not hesitate to contact one of our dedicated team members.

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Dr Mike Mitchell, Jacky Cutler  
+44 (0) 20 7188 2798

Nutristasis Unit  
Dr Dominic Harrington  
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## GP Education and Information Session

The Centre for Haemostasis and Thrombosis held its first in a series of education and information session for GP's and other health professionals on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

The session featured informative presentations from two of the leading experts in the field of Haemostasis and Thrombosis, Dr Gary Moore and Dr Dominic Harrington.

Dr Moore and Dr Harrington spoke on the aspects of laboratory testing for Thrombophilia Screening and Vitamin K deficiency which are rarely seen by those outside of the testing community.

Through the information presented and intuitive questioning from the audience present, the results obtained in a typical report of these tests was analysed and advice given on interpretation and possible avenues of further investigative testing and diagnostic direction.

The Centre will be conducting further sessions in the community and would like to invite any GP or allied health professional to attend. Please keep your eye on the department website ([www.c4ht.com](http://www.c4ht.com)) for further details.

## Editorial contact

If you have any comments about **Cascade** or have any suggestion about relevant areas of interest you would like to see covered please contact the editorial team:

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