This is our first newsletter of 2014, updating participants and research partners on the DEEP study. We are nearing the end of the recruitment phase of the study and we would, again, like to thank all involved for participating in what we believe is a very important piece of research. Although we will no longer be recruiting we will continue to collect data from participants for the next 2 years. As always please feel free to contact us should you have any queries about the study or your involvement. Our contact details are below.

Dr Justin Durham—Chief Investigator

Change of phone number
Please note that our contact number has recently changed and is now 0191 208 7976

New team members
We have recently welcomed four new members to the DEEP team. From left to right: Kimberley Pickering (Research Nurse), Nichola Lansdowne (Research Hygienist), Sally Gerrard (Project Secretary), and Sian Wallace (Temporary Project Secretary).

About the DEEP study
DEEP stands for Developing Effective and Efficient care Pathways in persistent pain. Focussing on pain affecting the face or mouth, we are aiming to gain an understanding of people’s journey through the health service, learning more about their experiences and how this can be improved.

We are recruiting people from dental and GP practices as well as from hospital clinics. People can take part if they have been experiencing pain for more than 3 months and this pain is not from their teeth for example toothache, gum boil, abscess, gum disease etc.

We have recruited 80% of the sample we need at the time of writing and thank all the patients and clinical teams for their help with this. Without this help and the data you give us the study would not be a success and we would not be able to help guide decisions on improving care for persistent head, face or mouth pain.

Interviews
In addition to the information we are gathering from completed questionnaires, we are currently carrying out in-depth interviews with a number of DEEP patients. The purpose of these is to help us to get a detailed picture of the experience of using health services for people with persistent head, face or mouth pain.

Questionnaires
We are sending out questionnaires to participants every 6 months and one additional questionnaire at 14 months. We send them out at these intervals to find out how people’s experiences have changed since they joined the study. It is important that we get as many questionnaires returned as possible as this will allow us to draw stronger conclusions at the end of the study.

Results
Based on some of the initial questionnaire data that we have received, we have submitted two papers to the International Association for Dental Research conference in June. These have been accepted by this highly prestigious conference and this means that early, interim, findings from the study will be presented to an international group of researchers interested in improving patient care.

We are also planning on holding a event for patients involved in the study to come and learn more about the early results and have their say on them in early Sept 2014, so watch this space for further details!

For more information you can visit the study website: http://research.ncl.ac.uk/deepstudy/
Contact: Sally Gerrard, Project Secretary to DEEP, Institute of Health & Society Newcastle University, Baddiley-Clark Building, Richardson Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4AX.
Telephone: 0191 208 7976 e-mail: sally.gerrard@ncl.ac.uk
Follow us on twitter: @DEEPStudy

New Study
An undergraduate dental student is running a new study as a spin-off from DEEP using Twitter. If any of you are avid Twitterati or would just like to learn more either “follow” @PAINDiarystudy, email paindiarystudy@ncl.ac.uk or visit our website http://research.ncl.ac.uk/deepstudy/ in the next month. The study is planned for June/July.