



FiCTION Spring Newsletter

FiCTION (Filling Children's Teeth: Indicated Or Not)

New Manchester practice give insight into success

DCO Dental Practice joined FiCTION early 2015 and in this article they shed light on reasons for such rapid recruitment

In the last few months the FiCTION team have been working with a small number of practices in the North West of England to help recruit the final few patients needed for the FiCTION trial. Simon Cove at DCO Dental Practice in Timperley was keen to take part and with the help of the team at the practice, they have recruited 11 participants in a matter of months.

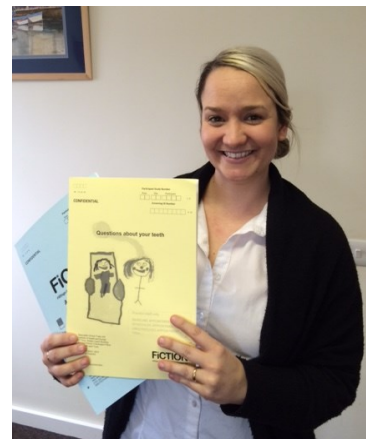
Lorna Macpherson met up with Maddison Ingram to see how they found the experience of recruiting participants and how they feel going forward.

Maddison explained that DCO Dental Practice have been involved in a number of other research studies, but none as big as the FiCTION trial. They are taking part in another study at the moment so they are not completely new to the experience of taking part in research, however

the paperwork side of FiCTION is larger than other trials they have taken part in. That didn't put the team at DCO off however and Maddison explained that the set up phase hadn't taken as much time as she had envisaged. The training sessions helped Maddison to get a clear picture of what processes would need to be set up for the trial to be a success.

It is clear from visiting the practice that they have a strong team mentality. Simon (GDP), Michelle (Therapist), Elaine (Head Receptionist) and Maddison (Receptionist) have worked together and have made sure that other members of practice staff have been involved too. Maddison explained how, for the set up phase, it was crucial to have a system in place for recording which patients had been contacted and who was attending, especially when various staff could speak to or see a patient who had been invited. Maddison also expressed how useful it was to have many people in the FiCTION team who could be contacted if she had a query.

Simon and the team decided that the best way to recruit participants was to have a FiCTION recruitment day. After sending invitation letters to patients who met the inclusion criteria, patients booked to attend a special Saturday surgery specifically for check-up appointments. At this appointment, if a patient was eligible to take part in the trial, Maddison consented the patient in a separate meeting room away from reception. Patients who decided to take part in the trial were then randomised and booked a treatment appointment specifically for the amount of treatment needed and the arm they had been randomised to. The treatment appointments took place in the Easter School Holidays.



Photograph—Maddison Ingram, DCO Dental Practice, Timperley

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(Lorna Macpherson, FiCTION Team)

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Maddison explained how more patients than she thought were interested in taking part in the trial. The children taking part especially liked their FICTION goodies.

Maddison found the hardest part of the set up and recruitment phase to be completing the screening log and keeping track of everyone who was able to attend, however having a FICTION recruitment day made it easier to manage who had been contacted, screened and recruited to the trial. Despite the log being a time consuming process Maddison agrees that this process did allow her to think through the entire recruitment process and have a plan of action in place.

The team at DCO now have 11 patients recruited to the trial and most have returned for their first treatment appointments. Maddison feels more relaxed about the process and now that patients are aware of what is expected at future visits, she feels the trial is more than manageable. Maddison is happy to discuss elements of the trial with the patients, having consented all of the patients taking part. She also believes that the conversations between the children, parents and Simon at the recruitment appointment have been useful for getting children and parents on board.

Maddison's advice to anyone taking part in research in Primary Care is to get organised from the start. Having to record information after the event would have been incredibly difficult. Maddison has added pop up notes to all trial participants to ensure that anyone seeing the patient, booking appointments or looking at the history of a patient can see that they are taking part in the trial and can also see what arm they have been randomised to.

It is a pleasure to have Simon, Maddison and all the team at DCO taking part in the FICTION trial and we wish them every success with the trial.



FICTION Team at IADR, Boston



March the 11th to the 14th saw many of the FICTION team attend the International Association for Dental Research General Session which was held in Boston this March. This is the world's largest dental research conference and over 6000 delegates were in attendance.

Despite the amount of work that goes into the study, many of the FICTION team have other responsibilities and research projects ongoing. Some of this work was presented in Boston. However, as always there was a great deal of interest from researchers from far and wide in the FICTION project and how we are all getting on.

It is sometimes easy to forget the degree of interest in FICTION that exists from even further afield than the United Kingdom. We try to always take these opportunities to promote the hard work that the FICTION practices are doing. This will really help improve our understanding about the effectiveness of the treatments we do, allowing us to better care for our young patients. Everyone involved in the FICTION trial should be reassured that their input will have an impact not only here in this country, but also internationally.

FICTION Fitness Fever

The first ever Plusnet Yorkshire Half marathon took place this April and the FICTION team had representatives there.....

On Sunday 12 April a team of 14 from the Paediatric dentistry team at the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital ran the first ever Plusnet Yorkshire half Marathon to support Sheffield Hospitals Charity. The team (photographed) included the FICTION Clinical lead for Sheffield, Professor Chris Deery (back right). Chris did exceptionally well, completing the half marathon in under the 2 hour mark.



The whole event raised around £20,000 for Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity and this will go towards buying toys for waiting rooms and to improve a sedation room. We hope you join us in passing on a massive congratulations to Chris and the rest of the team for their brilliant efforts!! London next year.....?



Photographed—Chris Deery, Clinical Lead for Sheffield back right)

(Ref <http://www.sheffieldhospitalscharity.org.uk/news/yorkshire-half-marathon.aspx#.VUNUa15Vg-8>)

Meet a FiCTION Team member

In this issue of the FiCTION Newsletter we have chat with the Trial Administrator Amy Caldwell-Nichols who is based in Dundee.

What was your background before joining the FiCTION Team?

I suppose you could say that the story started when I moved to Scotland from Birmingham to attend Aberdeen University in 2003. When I graduated in 2007 I took the decision to stay in Scotland and found employment as a Recruitment Consultant for the Oil and Gas industry. After a year or so, I decided to return to Aberdeen University, but this time as a member of staff. In 2010 I moved house and Dundee University were advertising for an administrator on the FiCTION trial and I was fortunate enough to be offered the position.

When did you join the FiCTION Team?

I joined the FiCTION team in September of 2012. This is my first role working on a research trial, so everything was very new and exciting. The time at which I joined FiCTION, we were still at the early stages of recruiting practices to take part in the trial, and it has been lovely to work with these practices for almost 3 years and see how the trial has grown and developed in that time.

What do you enjoy most about working within dental research?

I think without doubt the highlight of working on such a large research trial is the different people that I am lucky enough to work with. Given that the trial is a national trial, I have colleagues based in Cardiff, London, Yorkshire, Manchester, Newcastle, and of course the close team based here in Dundee. Working across all the centres is so important in creating a vibrant FiCTION community that I feel very fortunate to be a part of. Added to this are the fantastic practices and the dental teams who have agreed to be a part of FiCTION. During my time on the trial I have been fortunate enough to meet teams in practices across Scotland and a few down in London. What always impresses me is the enthusiasm of the dental teams who are at the coal face of recruitment. They are always truly welcoming and cooperative.

When you're not working hard on FiCTION, what do you enjoy doing with your spare time?

When my husband is onshore we both love nothing more than taking our mad border collie Bella for long walks on the beach and into the hills. I enjoy socialising with family and friends, and getting back to Birmingham as often as I can to catch up with people.

In other FiCTION Team News

Joining Amy in Dundee is a new addition to the FiCTION Team, Victoria Pickering, and below is an introduction to the newest member of the FiCTION family.

Victoria Pickering recently joined the team in Dundee. Victoria's main role within the trial team will be to act as the main point of contact for all the practices that are based in Scotland.

Since starting with the team in March, Victoria has already started making regular, weekly phone calls to each of the practices and is happy to offer help and advice where needed.

Victoria has made the trip to visit 3 practices so far, and has plans in the pipeline to get out on the road and visit all 22 practices around Scotland who are taking part in the FiCTION Trial.

Victoria studied at the University of Dundee initially gaining her Diploma, and then her degree in Nursing. When nursing changed so much Victoria decided it was time to leave the profession and return to her other love, administration.

Victoria works part-time (mornings only) which allows her quality time with her two dogs. When asked what Victoria enjoyed doing when she isn't working with on FiCTION, Victoria said; "***I plan lots of trips for in the afternoons. The beach and Camperdown Park are first on the list – especially with the good weather we are seeing at the moment***".



Photographed:
Victoria Pickering, Dundee

For those Scottish practices who may want a reminder, Victoria's contact details are as follows: **01382 383918 / v.z.pickering@dundee.ac.uk**



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What is FICTION?

The FICTION study (Filling Children's Teeth: Indicated or Not) is a multi-centre Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) funded by the NIHR HTA, which aims to provide evidence on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of three treatment approaches to managing decay in the primary dentition.

The FICTION trial is addressing the Health Technology Assessment Programme's commissioning brief and the research question "What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of filling caries in primary teeth, compared to no treatment?" It will also compare an intermediate treatment strategy based on the biological (sealing-in) management of caries with no treatment and with fillings.

The study is a primary care-based multi-centre, three-arm, parallel group, patient-randomised controlled trial. Practitioners will recruit 1461 children, (3-7 years) with at least one primary molar tooth with decay into dentine. They will be randomised and treated according to one of 3 treatment approaches:

- conventional caries management with best practice prevention
- biological management of caries with best practice prevention
- best practice prevention alone
- followed up for at least three years

The joint Chief Investigators are based at the Universities of Dundee, Leeds and Newcastle – Professor Jan Clarkson (Dundee), Dr Nicola Innes (Dundee), Professor Gail Douglas (Leeds) and Professor Anne Maguire (Newcastle). The full trial team includes collaborators from Universities in Cardiff, Dundee, Glasgow, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield and both QMUL and KCL in London. This multi-disciplinary research team has been established to work alongside a UK-wide team of specialist paediatric and Primary Care dentists and members of their teams. This is to ensure that whilst the trial design and conduct is of the highest standard, it remains practical and pragmatic.