



# FiCTION Autumn Newsletter

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

## FiCTION Collaborators attending a recent meeting in Edinburgh



Back row L-R: Marilyn Laird, Grieg Taylor, Sarah McDonald, Ferranti Wong, Chris Speed, Chris Deery, Richard Welbury, Alex Keightley, Nick Steen. Middle row L-R: Heather Coventry, Anne Maguire, Nicola Innes, Gail Douglas and Jan Clarkson  
Front row L-R: Ruth Freeman, Barbara Chadwick, Elspeth Barker and Mark Palmer

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## Meeting of FiCTION Collaborators

A Collaborators' Meeting was held on 10th September 2013 prior to the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry Conference in Edinburgh with attendees from all Clinical Centres (Scotland, Newcastle, Leeds/Sheffield, Wales and London) and invited speakers. The main purpose of the meeting was to spend some time as a group reflecting on trial progress to date and to consider how to maintain momentum during the next steps of the study.

Along with updates on the trial from Professors Anne Maguire, Gail Douglas, Jan Clarkson, Mr Alex Keightley and Mr Chris Speed there were 3 invited speakers. Sarah McDonald, who works at Springburn Health Centre in Glasgow gave an excellent account of her experience of being a FiCTION dentist which was both encouraging and enlightening. Professor Ruth Freeman, one of the FiCTION grant holders, presented a proposal from Dr Zoe Marshman (University of Sheffield) and herself on qualitative research which could give insight into how best to promote engagement with research in Primary Dental Care and finally Heather Coventry spoke about the parallel research she is undertaking for her PhD alongside FiCTION. The event was a good opportunity for the FiCTION research team, who are widely spread around the UK, to meet together and spend time discussing the study in person. *(A huge thank you to **Marilyn Laird**, Senior Trial Administrator **Amy Caldwell-Nichols** Trial Administrator, and **Elspeth Barker** Clinical Lead Secretary based in the Dental Health Services Research Unit, University of Dundee, for taking on the task of co-ordinating this event.)*

## Recruitment Survey

Recruitment of patients into research studies conducted in dental primary care settings is proving to be challenging for researchers around the UK with most projects being conducted in this setting experiencing difficulties and delays in reaching their required target number of patients. To address this we recently launched a Recruitment Survey for completion by the FICTION dental practices to explore what aspects of the FICTION trial had most effect on recruitment of children to the study. Here's what Alex Keightley (NIHR HTA FICTION Clinical Research Fellow / Honorary Post-CCST Trainee in Paediatric Dentistry), who conducted the survey, discovered:-

*Over the course of August, we asked FICTION practices their views on recruiting patients to the trial. We were delighted that nearly every recruiting practice took the time to respond to the online survey. Overall, sites rated the importance of the research question being asked by FICTION as highly relevant, along with the need to conduct this type of research in general dental practice, with one respondent highlighting the "Usefulness of final result of research" and "keen to make a difference to the future of dentistry" as being important motivators for recruitment to the trial.*

*Engaging with families and involving them in answering what really works best for decayed primary teeth was also noted as a positive, with comments including "Children love it! Love the colouring in and merchandise" and "Parents very keen to be part of the trial".*

*The main difficulty reported was the challenge in identifying eligible children with decay. Whilst no one is disappointed to find a large proportion of children to be decay free, a number of respondents highlighted "Radiographs where appropriate when examining child patients" as an important way of identifying children with the early decay that could benefit from the interventions being explored in the trial. The other main difficulty reported is the increasing pressures on time both within practices from routine workloads, and for families; we very much appreciate the additional time practice staff and families are committing to make FICTION a success.*

*Finally, it was great to hear that "good support from the Fiction team" was rated so highly. The "community spirit" engendered via local meetings and communications (like this newsletter) was very positively rated, and we intend to keep that up as the trial progresses.*

*These findings were echoed at the London meeting of FICTION dental practice staff. Practice representatives said that taking part in the trial was beneficial for the dental practice and patients, and had become a talking point within the practice. This in turn was having positive effects on parental awareness of the issues around maintaining good oral health in their child's dentition, and that the children themselves were showing better motivation towards improving their oral hygiene. The London practices, who are doing very well in recruiting patients, were very positive about their involvement in the trial with comments on the importance of the trial including the following "This will change the future of dentistry".*

## A warm welcome to all New Practices to the trial

### NEWCASTLE & TEESSIDE

Shotley Bridge Dental Care  
 Guidepost Dental Practice  
 Louise Hunter & Associates  
 Amble Dental Practice  
 Eston Dental Practice  
 Roseberry Dental Practice

### SCOTLAND

Anita Belbin Dental Care  
 Knightswood  
 Dental Plus  
 Dino Loizides  
 Alex Coakeley  
 Nanodent  
 Pramad Subarraman  
 Young Smile

## Many congratulations to Professor Anne Maguire

It gives us great pleasure to inform you that Anne Maguire, Joint Chief Investigator and Clinical Lead for the North East, was appointed as the Professor of Preventive Dentistry at Newcastle University. We are sure you will join us in sending Anne our sincere congratulations, as she moves into this new, and well deserved role.

## Colouring competition winners

At the beginning of the year we asked that any FICTION patients who enjoy colouring in and would like a chance to see their artwork on the FICTION website to hand in their artwork to their dental practice. We were overwhelmed with entries and some are displayed on the FICTION website at <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/fictiontrial/forparentschildren/colouringcompetitionwinners/>. Thank you to all who entered the competition.

Age 4



1st place in Scotland

Age 6



1st place in Wales and overall competition winner

Age 6



1st place in the North East

Congratulations to the winner of this round of the competition. The winning picture can be seen here in the middle and was submitted by a 6 year old patient from the Wales centre. This design is in the process of being turned into stickers to be handed out to all FICTION patients for the coming year until the next round of the drawing competition.

Certificates are being produced for all children who submitted an entry to the competition.

### Recent and Upcoming Events

Collaborator's Meeting - 10 September 2013 in Edinburgh

Contact your local Clinical Lead's Secretary for upcoming FICTION Evening Meetings

Port Talbot—New DF1 intake –24 September 2013

New Practices' Training Dates:-  
 Newcastle - 18 September 2013  
 Teeside - 19 September 2013  
 Dundee - 2/3 October 2013

### FICTION Merchandise

All practices have received a selection of FICTION merchandise to hand out to their FICTION participants as a thank you and incentive to keep the children engaged on the trial.



### Dissemination

**FICTION Personalised Certificates** - each member of staff in each Dental Practice who has received FICTION training will shortly (if not already) be receiving a personalised Certificate as recognition (and a thank you) for participating in the FICTION trial.



## FICTION CONTACTS

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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 the Universities of Cardiff, Dundee, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle and Sheffield. 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.