

ESF Science Meeting, Bristol, England, 7-8 September 2012

General Practice Respiratory Infections Network Meeting 2012

Scientific report

1) Summary

GRIN (General practice Respiratory Infections Network) is a European network of researchers studying respiratory tract and other infections in primary care. The organisation consists of experts in the field from nearly all European countries. Members have contributed to national and international guidelines and are part of international collaborations in targeting antimicrobial resistance due to inappropriate management of respiratory tract and other infections.

The key issues of GRIN are exchanging ideas and keeping each other informed about current research; comparing guidelines on respiratory tract infections; trying to find consensus on the state of the art on different subjects and formulate European guidelines; to set up international studies.

The network is interested in acute respiratory infections regardless of causative organism; concentrates on questions that have clear relevance to primary care and an added value from international setting; facilitates contacts and collaboration between researchers in different countries for example by arranging workshops and seminars, planning and carrying out joint study projects, disseminating information to support evidence-based practice, using a multiprofessional approach.

The first official GRIN Meeting was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands in 1999; Bristol, England now hosts the 14th GRIN Meeting. TRACE (www.esf.org/trace) aims to consolidate the expertise within several European research programmes, in particular GRACE (Genomics to combat Resistance against Antibiotics in Community-acquired LRTI in Europe; www.grace-lrti.org), and to disseminate their results. GRACE is to be considered the result of GRIN.

Scientists affiliated with institutions funding TRACE presented results from GRACE and projects related the primary care research and management of acute respiratory infections. Chairs fostered productive discussion on the presentations, focusing on the implications for RTI management in primary care as well as for primary care research. This conference provided great opportunity to exchange ideas and keep each other informed about current research, as well as to set up international primary care research on this topic.

Description of the scientific content of and discussions at the event

The first keynote speaker, Rona Campbell, presented findings from a cluster randomised controlled trial to test the effectiveness of an educational intervention to promote hand washing in reducing absenteeism in primary schools. Theo Verheij, the second keynote speaker presented the learning curve of a group, the GRIN group in particular.

The first session included five presentations on clinician and patients views. The discussion revealed a knowledge gap concerning views of patients who do not consult (that often). In addition, it was noted that none of the patients spontaneously mentioned the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD). Clinician however were very positive about the EAAD endorsement of the GRACE INTRO intervention. The diagnosis of urinary tract infection in young children was also discussed as were privacy issues related to setting up a nationwide pragmatic randomised controlled trial involving peer benchmarking.

The second session was on diagnostics. The discussion focused on the added value of the point-of-care tests (POCT) over and above the clinical diagnosis based on signs and symptoms. The POCT involved streptococcal rapid antigen detection test for acute sore throat, tympanometry, and C-Reactive Protein for pneumonia in children.

The third session dealt with antibiotic prescribing and antibiotic associated diarrhoea in care homes, validity of outcome measure to assess trends, prescription patterns, converting antibiotic prescribing habits for respiratory tract infections, and the symptom trajectories of respiratory tract infections in children. Especially, information such as the latter will inform national and international guidelines and provide parents and clinicians with evidence-based estimates regarding the duration of common respiratory infections.

The fourth and final sessions on interventions included four presentations, one of which was linked to that of the first keynote speaker and showing that the intervention did not alter pupil absence rates. Carl Llor presented on the effectiveness of anti-inflammatory treatment versus antibiotic therapy and placebo for patients with uncomplicated acute bronchitis with mucopurulent sputum. His abstract was awarded with the prize for the best abstract.

GRIN Meetings also always leave room for networking. This resulted in the discussion of the involvement of TRACE (partners) in three project proposals, meanwhile submitted, for the 7th Framework Programme Call Innovative health research 2013 of the European Commission. One in response to HEALTH.2013.2.3.1-2. Stratified approaches to antibacterial and/or antifungal treatment. FP7-HEALTH-2013-INNOVATION-1, which was submitted as TAILORED. One in response to HEALTH.2013.2.3.3-1. Clinical management of patients in severe epidemics. FP7-HEALTH-2013-INNOVATION-1, which was submitted as PREPARE. And one in response to HEALTH.2013.3.1-1. Comparative effectiveness research (CER) in health systems and health services interventions. FP7-HEALTH-2013-INNOVATION-1, which was submitted as ICARES.

Assessment of the results and impact of the event on the future directions of the field

Most importantly, it is clear that events like this, supported by the European Science Foundation through TRACE, have the potential to impact substantially on the development of new translational research on antimicrobial resistance and community acquired infections in Europe and beyond. Similar events in the future will allow us to present more results of GRACE and TRACE related research, and therefore were strongly recommended by both the scientists affiliated with institutions funding TRACE and the other participants.

Secondly, the event provided the substance to select material for future dissemination and training activities linked to future (regional) WONCA conferences, future EGPRN meetings, and other scientific meetings.

Finally, several participants were eager to either start engaging in TRACE by returning a signed commitment form to ESF or plan visits to team up with the researchers of the Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute of University of Antwerp (managing TRACE).

Annexes: programme of the meeting and full list of speakers and participants.

Annex I

Meeting programme

**European General Practice Respiratory Infections Network Meeting 2012, Bristol, England,
7-8 September 2012**

Chair Alastair Hay

Friday 7th September

11.00: Registration (11.00 to 18.00)

12.00: Lunch (Ground floor, Palm court, Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel)

13.30: Welcome 13.30 Welcome address - Alastair Hay and Chris Salisbury

14.00: Keynote speaker - Rona Campbell (Chair: Jeremy Horwood)

Session 1: Clinician and patients views/decision making Chair: Prof Attila Altiner*

14.45: O1: Jeremy Horwood, University of Bristol

"Recognising The Sick Child In Amongst The Just Unwell": Health Practitioner Prescribing Decisions In Consultations For Acute RTI In Children.

15.00: O2: Christie Cabral, University of Bristol

Parent Understanding And Management Of RTIs In Children: Implications For Health Practitioner Communication

15.15: O3: Sibyl Anthierens, University of Antwerp*

Exploring GPs' Views Across Six Countries Of A Near Patient Test And/Or Communication Skills Training As Techniques To Decrease Inappropriate Antibiotic Prescribing For Acute Cough.

15.30: O4: Sarah Tonkin-Crine, University of Southampton*

Exploring Patients' Views Across Six Countries Of GP Consultations Using A Near Patient Test And/Or Patient Booklet When Presenting With Acute Cough.

15.45: O5: Fiona Wood, Cardiff University*

Primary Care Clinicians' Perceptions Of Antibiotic Resistance: A Multi-Country European Qualitative Interview Study.

16.00: Coffee

Session 2: Diagnostics Chair: Prof. Morten Lindbæk

16.30: O6: Paul Little, University of Southampton*

The Prism Randomised Controlled Trial Of A Clinical Score And Streptococcal Rapid Antigen Detection Test For Acute Sore Throat.

16.45: 07: Jørgen Lous, University of Southern Denmark

Tympanometry In General Practice: Use, Problems And Solutions.

17.00: 08: Cherry-Ann Waldron, Cardiff University

The Diagnosis Of Urinary Tract Infection In Young Children (DUTY) Study: Derivation And Validation Of A Clinical Rule To Improve The Recognition Of Urinary Tract Infection In Pre-School Children.

17.15: 09: Lidewij Broekhuizen, University Medical Center Utrecht*

Diagnostic Properties Of C-Reactive Protein For Pneumonia In Children.

17.30: 010: Heiner Bucher, Basel Institute for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Routine Peer Benchmarking To Lower Antibiotic Prescription In Primary Care - A Nationwide Pragmatic Randomised Controlled Trial.

17.45: Close

20.00: Dinner (Palm room)

Saturday 8th September

9.00 Keynote speaker - Theo Verheij (Chair: Ceire Costello)

Session 3: Antibiotics prescribing Chair: Dr Fiona Wood*

9.30: 011: David Gillespie, Cardiff University*

Antibiotic Prescribing And Antibiotic Associated Diarrhoea In Care Homes.

9.45: 012: Samuel Coenen, University of Antwerp*

Validity Of Outcome Measures To Assess Trends Of Outpatient Antibiotic Use.

10.00: 013: Christin Löffler, Universitäts-medizin Rostock*

Converting Habits Of Antibiotic Prescribing For Respiratory Tract Infections In German Primary Care (Change-2) - Study Protocol.

10.15: 014: Matthew Thompson, University of Oxford*

“How Long Will It Last?” A Systematic Review Of The Symptom Trajectories Of Respiratory Tract Infections In Children.

10.30: 015: Guro Fossum, University of Oslo

Are Children Carrying The Burden Of Broad Spectrum Antibiotics In General Practice?

Prescription Pattern For Children With Respiratory Tract Infections In Norwegian General Practice In 2004/2005.

10.45: Coffee

Session 4: Interventions Chair: Dr Jochen Cals

11.30: O16: Ceire Costelloe, University of Bristol

Multi-level analysis in a cluster randomised controlled trial to test the effectiveness of an educational intervention to promote hand washing in reducing absenteeism in primary schools

11.45: O17: Kay Wang, University of Oxford*

A Double-Blind Randomised Placebo Controlled Trial Of Montelukast For The Treatment Of Acute Persistent Cough In Young People And Adults: Preliminary Data.

12.00: O18: Carl Llor, University Rovira i Virgili

Effectiveness Of Anti-Inflammatory Treatment Versus Antibiotic Therapy And Placebo For Patients With Uncomplicated Acute Bronchitis With Mucopurulent Sputum.

12.15: O19: Niels Adriaenssens, University of Antwerp*

Feasibility And Outcome Of Applying Disease-Specific Antibiotic Prescribing Quality Indicators
Feasibility And Outcome Of Applying Disease-Specific Antibiotic Prescribing Quality Indicators.

12.30 Closing remarks

12.45 Lunch and depart

* scientists affiliated with institutions funding TRACE

Annex II

List of speakers and participants*

Title	Full name	Gender	Affiliation, comprising full professional address Email address
Prof	Samuel Coenen	Male	University of Antwerp, Centre for General Practice and Laboratory of Medical Microbiology, Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (VAXINFECTIO), Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Antwerp, Belgium
Prof	Theo JM Verheij	Male	Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, UMC Utrecht, PO Box 85500, 3508 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands
Prof	Chris C Butler	Male	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom
Prof	Maciek Godycki-Cwirko	Male	Department of Family and Community Medicine, Medical University of Lodz, ul. Kopcinskiego 20, 90-153 Lodz, Poland
Dr	Niels Adriaenssens	Male	University of Antwerp, Laboratory of Medical Microbiology, Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (VAXINFECTIO), Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Antwerp, Belgium
Dr	Sibyl Adriaenssens	Female	University of Antwerp, Laboratory of Medical Microbiology, Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (VAXINFECTIO), Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Antwerp, Belgium
Dr	Barbara Michiels	Female	University of Antwerp, Centre for General Practice, Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (VAXINFECTIO), Universiteitsplein 1, 2610 Antwerp, Belgium
Prof	Attila Altiner	Male	Institut für Allgemeinmedizin, Universität Rostock, Rostock, Germany
Dr	Annette Diener	Female	Institut für Allgemeinmedizin, Universität Rostock, Rostock, Germany
Dr	Chrisin Löffler	Female	Institut für Allgemeinmedizin, Universität Rostock, Rostock, Germany
Dr	Lidewij Broekhuizen	Female	Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, UMC Utrecht, PO Box 85500, 3508 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands
Dr	Madieke Koster	Female	Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, UMC Utrecht, PO Box 85500, 3508 GA Utrecht, The Netherlands
	David Gillespie	Male	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom

Dr	Nick Francis	Male	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom
Dr	Tim Pickles	Male	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom
	Fiona Wood	Female	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom
	Cherry-Ann Waldron	Female	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom
	Rebecca John	Female	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom
	Claire O'Neill	Female	Cardiff University, Institute of Primary Care and Public Health, 5th Floor, Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park, Cardiff CF14 4XN, United Kingdom
Prof	Paul Little	Male	Faculty of Medicine, Health and Biological Sciences, Primary Medical Care, University of Southampton, United Kingdom
	Mike Thomas	Male	Faculty of Medicine, Health and Biological Sciences, Primary Medical Care, University of Southampton, United Kingdom
	Sarah Tonkin-Crine	Female	Faculty of Medicine, Health and Biological Sciences, Primary Medical Care, University of Southampton, United Kingdom
Prof	Matthew Thompson	Male	University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
Dr	Kay Wang	Female	University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
Prof	Slawomir Chlabicz	Male	Medical University of Bialystok, Bialystok, Poland
Prof	An De Sutter	Female	University of Ghent
Dr	Pia Touboul Lundgren	Female	Department of Public Health, Nice University Hospital, Nice, France