

Report to SHIP Scientific Management Group
July 2011

[C1: PROVISIONING DATASETS FOR RESEARCH](#) (Prof Andrew Morris, Dr Hester Ward)

The national indexing service is now in place. Activity in C1 is currently concentrated in two areas: plans for the pilot project to link health and social care data for the Scottish Government, and development of the technical specification for the national linkage agent. Discussions are also taking place around the responsibilities of SHIP research coordinators and methods for disclosure control.

[C2: GOVERNANCE](#) (Prof Graeme Laurie, Dr Claudia Pagliari, Prof Sarah Cunningham-Burley)

GTL and NS have continued to give talks on our governance model to groups around the country (Dundee, Glasgow and Sheffield) and are working on writing up the article on principles-based regulation. By the time SMG meets we will also have appointed a junior researcher to develop the online training module, the design of which has also been progressed significantly since our last report. A joint paper with the public engagement team is also under production.

[C3: ENGAGING RESEARCHERS](#) (Dr Colin McCowan)

The Engaging Researchers workstream have held a workshop and training course since the last report. The workshop featured talks from Anthea Springbett, Steve Kendrick & Graham Laurie and was fully booked with 30 delegates. Delegates came from across Scotland and also from a range of disciplines. Last week saw the completion of a training course on Missing Data Analysis run by Dr Jonathan Bartlett of London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. This attracted 15 delegates from Universities across Scotland, the UK and overseas visitors from Ireland, Belgium, Finland & South Africa. The workshop was very well received by delegates and will hopefully help them in their work. Approximately half of the delegates at the workshop and training course had no previous links to SHIP.

[C4: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT](#) (Dr Claudia Pagliari, Prof Sarah Cunningham-Burley, Prof Graeme Laurie, Prof Ian Ford)

The SHIP Public Engagement team are currently writing up their findings in a paper which links this empirical work with the governance models being developed by the SHIP Governance team. We aim to submit this for publication by the end of August.

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[RP1: EPR SUPPORT OF CLINICAL TRIALS](#) (Prof Ian Ford, Dr Allan Gaw, Prof John Norrie, Prof Frank Sullivan)

- Preparing draft of paper on WOSCOPS endpoint validation.
- Expanding WOSCOPS follow-up to 20 years.
- Work on the validation of PROSPER endpoints is ongoing.
- Writing paper on the long-term follow-up of PROSPER.
- Expanding PROSPER follow-up
- Writing paper on the economic analysis of WOSCOPS based on costing data from ISD. This will result in a publication.
- Ongoing work on developing approaches to standardising clinical trial and other datasets into C-DISC format, to facilitate development of generic software to support confidential data access.
- Seeking permission to link WISCOPS and PROSPER to SCI DC

[RP3: PHARMACOVIGILANCE](#) (Prof Helen Colhoun, Prof Paul McKeigue, Dr Ewan Pearson, Prof Frank Sullivan)

1. We are embarking a on a meta-analysis of pioglitazone and bladder cancer
2. The SDRN programmers have made substantial progress in creating an improved database for holding drug exposure from the SCI-DC database.

[RP4: DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA LINKAGE](#) (Dr Chris Dibben)

For the main project on “linking family history data back in time to 1855” using Digital Imaging of the Genealogical Records of Scotland's people (DIGROS), we are following an alternative strategy of using 3 sample names (rather than Generation Scotland (GS) data). For 2 of the 3 sample names/trees found by searching using DIGROS we have assessed the quality. We are in the process of writing this up and will feedback findings to our contact at GS.

The 2 new projects “understanding impact of fertility history on health outcomes in later life” and “a scoping study investigating low birth weight and its impact on child development, linking maternity, child surveillance and education data” are now with PAC.

Work on the “time space exposures to pollutants and health” strand of RP4 is continuing with a current analytical focus on birth weight outcomes. Preliminary findings are expected in time for the SHIP conference in September. Additional work is also being carried out to estimate an income variable in the census based Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS). This will be achieved through the analysis of income information contained within the labour force survey which will be used to produce a model based on standard occupational classification 90 and 2000 categories. The resulting estimates in the SLS will be made available to users of the data.