

Dear All,

The persistent efforts and hard work of everyone involved in the SMART trial is evident in the recent jump in participant numbers. Congratulations to those teams who have recently achieved ethical approval for the trial!! We are all delighted to have additional sites up and running.

Now is an ideal time to start identifying local funding opportunities to support participation in a full scale, phase III RCT. It is great to see Australian collaborators, led by Professor Amanda Thrift leading the way with a recent grant application to the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council. A similar application is planned to be submitted by the New Zealand team in 2015.

Finally, all the very best wishes to those of you who are heading to the Stroke Society of Australasia Conference. Rohit Bhattacharjee will be presenting a SMART Methodology poster on behalf of the team—well done Rohit! Regards, Kelly Jones

200

150

100

57

Participant  
Recruitment

## SMART Site Profile: Ludhiana, India

The team at the Christian Medical College, located in Ludhiana, India, shared with us their enthusiasm for the potential of the SMART study to bring about “an actual difference in the course of the management of the stroke patients”. Drs Panadian and Arora are impressed with the encouragement that patients receive when viewing the DVD. Despite some challenges due to a small number of English-speaking patients, participants have been recruited at the site. Overall, the trial protocol and assessments have been practicable.



Dr Panadian & Dr Arora, Ludhiana, India

# Recent SMART Achievements

## National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grant—Australia

The rebuttals process has now been completed. Congratulations to Professor Amanda Thrift for leading this application and pulling together comments and suggestions from the international team. This was a true team effort!! We eagerly await the final outcome in late September 2014.

## SMART Methodology Paper—Revise and resubmit

Our methodology paper submitted to Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases has now been through peer review, with resubmission welcomed following minor amendments. Well done to those who have directly contributed to the development of this manuscript. We will keep you all posted on progress and expect to re-submit this paper in the coming week.

Site	Planning	Ethical Approval	Recruiting (N)	Data sample provided
<b>USA</b>				
Emory University			✓ (N=9)	
<b>Canada</b>				
Dalhousie University			✓ (N=17)	✓
<b>UK</b>				
University of Glasgow	✓			
<b>Nigeria</b>				
University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital			✓	
Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital	✓			
<b>India</b>				
Christian Medical College, Ludhiana			✓ (N=8)	
<b>Australia</b>				
Griffith University			✓ (N=4)	✓
Monash University		✓		
<b>New Zealand</b>				
Waitakere Hospital			✓ (N=6)	✓
Waikato (Community recruitment)			✓ (N=3)	✓
North Shore Hospital			✓ (N=1)	✓
Palmerston North Hospital			✓ (N=9)	✓

- Please remember that data checking samples are to be sent to the Co-ordinating centre for review (email data entry samples to Kelly at [kejones@aut.ac.nz](mailto:kejones@aut.ac.nz)).**



## Celebrating Success!

Prof. Valery Feign was recently awarded a prestigious World Stroke Organization (WSO) President's Award for Contributions to Clinical Stroke Research. In the WSO Award notification Valery was acknowledged as a world leading stroke neuroepidemiologist who has made pivotal contributions in his research on regional and global burdens of stroke and many aspects of stroke epidemiology. His work underscores the challenge facing the World with the escalating burden of stroke in low and middle income countries.



Dr Maree O'Connor joined the SMART team in May. She is based in the Hamilton office of the National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences (NISAN) of AUT University. Maree makes regular weekly phone calls to participants, and also administers the one and three month follow up assessments. She describes the work as 'challenging and rewarding. 'Experiences so far have highlighted for me some of the difficulties stroke survivors face, particularly those living alone. It has also demonstrated the value of the DVD, in terms of education and support for stroke survivors and those around them.' Welcome on board Maree!

### AUT Stroke Riskometer

- Comprehensive, evidence-based app
- Estimates 5-year & 10-year risk of stroke

Users can calculate their risk of stroke and compare their risk against those of same gender and age who have no risk factors. It is available on the App Store and Google Play, and has been downloaded over 6700 times in over 70 countries

**Stroke Riskometer Lite** is free to download and endorsed by the WSO and International Association of Neurology and Epidemiology. An updated version of the app will be translated into 11 languages (available December 2014).



## STROKE RISKOMETER & STROKE RISKOMETER PRO

APP FOR SMARTPHONE AND TABLET DEVICES



### Upcoming conference:

2014

NZANC

New Zealand Applied Neurosciences Conference  
September 18 -20 | AUT North Shore Campus | Auckland, New Zealand

This year's conference features prominent invited speakers from USA, Australia and New Zealand

Main topics: Basic Neuroscience  
Clinical Neuroscience and Neurorehabilitation Research  
Population and Health Economic Research of Neurological Disorders

Submit your abstract/workshop proposals and register today! [www.NZANC.aut.ac.nz](http://www.NZANC.aut.ac.nz)

Updated programme now available!



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR  
**STROKE AND APPLIED NEUROSCIENCES**  
AN INSTITUTE OF AUT UNIVERSITY