

Renal Association Clinical Trials Sub-committee

Update for ERB – April 2006

- Membership – currently this is co-ordinators of trials and representatives of BAPN, SPR club, DGH nephrologists and BTS. 2 elected members of RA executive will be invited to join
- Current trials – 6 multi-centre investigator led trials are being conducted by subcommittee members: SHARP (lipid lowering), ASTRAL (renovascular disease), MERIT (myeloma), membranous nephropathy, IMPROVE and RITUXVAS (vasculitis)
- 4 Clinical trial proposals have been discussed from academic and industry sources in the last year but there has been a slowdown in new academic trial activity with the new EU legal framework
- A joint meeting was held with the BTS in October 2005 to address regulatory hurdles in clinical trials. The major obstacle to multi-centre trials is the variable behaviour of NHS trust R&D departments. Ethics (COREC) and clinical trial authorisations (MHRA) were going ahead smoothly
- Possible merger with the BTS clinical trials committee has been discussed but should await trials of mutual interest
- The contribution of clinical trials to a UK renal research network has been discussed with NHS R&D and further work is to be done on this issue. There may be interest from NHS in supporting renal trials
- A regular slot in the annual RA meeting for clinical trials will be used to discuss a recently published trial and provide updates on UK trials. For the Harrogate meeting, Jo Adu has agreed to discuss the recent mycophenolate mofetil/SLE trial published by Ginzler et al.

David Jayne, Cambridge, April 2006