

## **RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **RA EXECUTIVE SEPTEMBER 2009**

The Committee last met at the Liverpool RA meeting in April 2009. There are 3 main strands of ongoing work.

#### **Co-ordination of UK renal genetics research.**

A stakeholder meeting was held at King's College London in January 2009. The spectrum of current UK renal genetics research was explored and ideas for future co-ordination were aired. Following this a leadership group for renal monogenic research has been established co-ordinated by **Robert Kleta**. Links between research and clinical genetic services will be improved and a UK network for future work will be established. This group will meet for the first time in the Autumn of 2009.

In the area of polygenic diseases there are a number of strong UK-based projects with European and international collaborations. A number of ideas for future co-ordination are being explored as well as ideas about the scope of future DNA collection on renal patients. These discussions continue.

#### **Commercialisation and Clinical Application of basic Renal Research**

A successful session on Commercialisation and Biotechnology was organised at the Liverpool RA/BTS meeting in April 2009. Strategies to help UK renal researchers bring their ideas to the clinic were explored. There are clearly enormous barriers to the movement of lab-based research ideas to the clinic; not least of these being the problem of obtaining seed-corn funding. The next step will be to organise a showcase event in 2010 where renal research ideas are presented to highlight their commercial potential to experts in the process of funding and development.

#### **A national database of Renal Research**

The Committee plan to arrange a database of UK renal research activity on the RA website using the information gathered by the surveys performed by Tim Johnson and Alice Smith. This project has proved to be more difficult than expected. To take this forward a bid has been made by Tim Johnson for the work to form an MSc project in the computer sciences course at Sheffield University. Tim Johnson, Alice Smith and Mark Dockrell are working to achieve the objective of a searchable web-based facility which showcases UK renal research. Discussions are ongoing with Saeed Ahmed the RA webmaster on practical solutions.

In addition to the above areas, the Committee has continued to work with other groups to help co-ordinate and share information on renal research in the UK. These include the UK Kidney Research Consortium and the Rare Diseases Initiative.

Bruce Hendry, August 2009