

Institute of Human Genetics

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Medical Director and Head of Institute
Professor John Burn

4th August 2009

Dear Colleague

A snapshot of research activity

I have asked Ruth to email this message to all BSHG members with two bits of important news and a small request. There has been a major reorganisation of the NHS research funding. A new organisation, the National Institute of Health Research, now has a budget bigger than the Medical Research Council. It is focussed on translational research of clinical relevance. All NHS organisations are expected to support research and funding will follow this activity. I now chair the Genetics Committee of NIHR. Our job is to ensure we know what's happening and work to ensure effective recruitment to studies.

Request 1

If you are running a genetics study or if you are recruiting to a research study either locally or as part of a national project please email details to my NHS address: john.burn@nuth.nhs.uk

The Department of Health are concerned that our genetics research activity is not as high as it could and should be. They have provided funding for a research co-ordinator who will be based in Newcastle but available to help anyone in the UK who is planning a multi-centre study but is deterred by the bureaucracy. We will be looking to appoint someone in this important role in the next couple of months. The successful applicant will be a self sufficient, well organised person who is able to support clinical geneticists, genetic counsellors and laboratory geneticists who want to set up a new research study.

Request 2

If you are interested in the job drop me an email on: john.burn@newcastle.ac.uk

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



JOHN BURN MD FRCP (Lond.& Edin.) FRCPCH FRCOG FMedSci
NIHR Genetics Committee Chair & Director of Collaborative Group on Genetics in Healthcare