2017 has been a big year for the TANDEM study. We have seen the success of the pre-pilot study and more recently the start of the pilot study. There were regulatory approvals difficulties which delayed us by 2 months but we are now very happy to say that 3 out of our 4 pilot sites are open to recruitment.

Our pilot sites are based in Leicestershire and Greater London. In May and June we completed site initiation visits at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

All teams have been working hard to identify and approach patients and have helped with our first big milestone; the randomisation of our first patient. Well done to the team at University Hospitals of Leicester for recruiting the first one!

Best of luck to all of our newer sites, we hope this is the first of many to help us reach our patient recruitment target of 45!

Here is a reminder of the flow for patients in the study:

Identification of potentially eligible patients
Patient approach to gauge interest in study
Assessment of patient eligibility
Recruited and randomised
TANDEM intervention group
Control group (usual care + leaflets, DVD)
TANDEM telephone support during PR
Attendance at PR sessions
6 & 12 month follow up
Analysis
6 & 12 month follow up
Analysis

The spring training of respiratory health professionals was a success and we received positive feedback from the trainees. Our facilitators are poised to visit their first patients for intervention delivery.

Welcome to our TANDEM Facilitators!

The spring training of respiratory health professionals was a success and we received positive feedback from the trainees. Our facilitators are poised to visit their first patients for intervention delivery.

Facilitator Recruitment Update

We are now looking ahead to the main trial and have new training dates for Respiratory health professionals who would like the chance to join our team.

London training dates:
19th-20th October and 1st December

Leicestershire/Warwickshire training dates:
23rd, 24th November and 12th January

To find out more take a look at the job profile [http://www.blizard.qmul.ac.uk/images/glenn/RoRHPMAIN.pdf](http://www.blizard.qmul.ac.uk/images/glenn/RoRHPMAIN.pdf) or contact the team:

Ratna (London):
Tel: 0207 882 2492
Email: r.sohanpal@qmul.ac.uk

Amy (Leicester):
Tel: 0116 258 3035
Email: Amy.Barradell@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Meet the TANDEM core team:

**Professor Stephanie Taylor**  
The Chief Investigator

**Professor Hilary Pinnock**  
The Co-Chief Investigator

**Dr Ratna Sohanpal**  
TANDEM Trial Manager

**Amy Barradell**  
TANDEM Researcher for Leicestershire

**Dr Liz Steed**  
TANDEM Intervention Developer and Trainer

**Camille Paulsen**  
TANDEM Administrator

**Dr Sarah Saqi-Waseem**  
TANDEM Trainer & Clinical Supervisor for Facilitators

**Dr Karen Heslop-Marshall**  
TANDEM Intervention Developer and Trainer

The TANDEM team can be contacted at:  
tandemcopd@qmul.ac.uk  
or  
02078822492

Some of our Patient & Carer Advisors

News and updates:

Patient screening and approach at GP practices is to begin shortly. A very warm welcome to the: Lower Clapton Group Practice and Sorsby Medical Practice from NHS City and Hackney CCG; Masharani Practice from NHS East Leicestershire & Rutland CCG. We look forward to working with you.

A big thank you to all of our patient advisors for their invaluable support and contributions to the study. Their insights have helped to shape and refine the psychological intervention, the study documentation and the flow of the study.

Amendment 1 was approved in May 2017 which enables us to use version 2 of the study protocol.

Amendment 2 has recently been submitted. This includes a patient invitation letter as well the ability to approach patients who decline pulmonary rehabilitation. We will let all study sites know as soon as the amendment is approved for implementation.

The TANDEM team will be presenting at the following conferences this year. If you’re planning to attend, come and say hello!

- Society for Academic Primary Care Annual Scientific Meeting
- European Respiratory Society International Congress
- Primary Care Respiratory Society-UK

Reading corner

Pulmonary rehabilitation and severe exacerbations of COPD: solution or white elephant?  
http://openres.ersjournals.com/content/erjor/1/2/00050-2015.full.pdf

Effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy in a community-based pulmonary rehabilitation programme: a controlled clinical trial  
https://www.medicaljournals.se/jrm/content/html/10.2340/16501977-2189

Negotiating excess treatment costs in a clinical research trial: the good, the bad and the innovative  
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4748533/