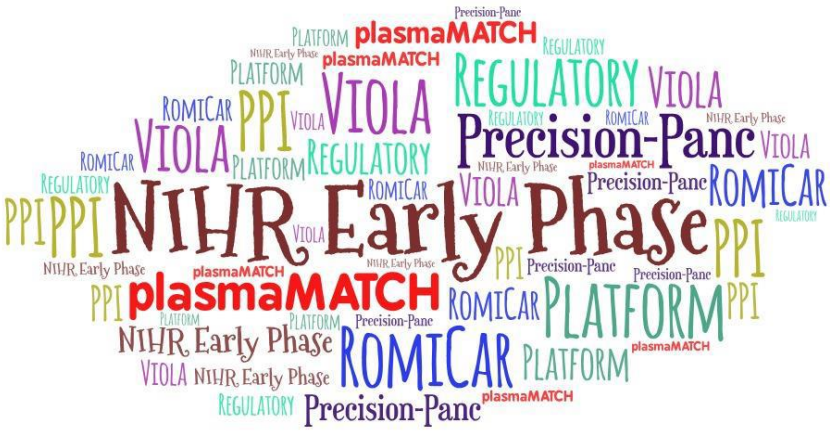
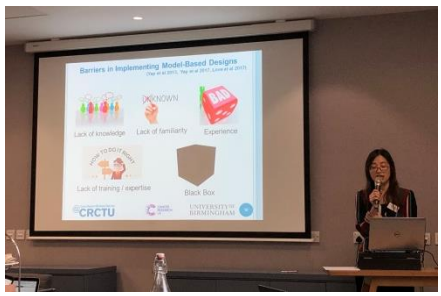
Summary Newsletter
NIHR Statistics Group – Early Phase Clinical Trials Meeting
Birmingham, 28th February 2019



Session 1: Implementation of Phase I Model-Based Adaptive Designs



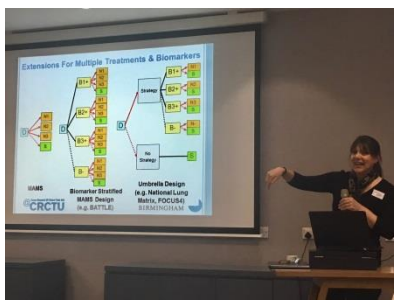
Dr Christina Yap recounted the challenges, lessons learnt and joys she experienced when designing and implementing her first CRM trial, VIOLA, as well as providing some useful background information on these designs. This session was well-received by participants:

"Great presentation that shows how statistical models can be interpreted in a more straightforward way to clinicians. I especially like the idea of visualising the decision making using diagrams."

Dr Graham Collins provided an engaging talk on CRMs from a clinician's perspective, using the RomiCar trial as an example of useful these models can be for both statisticians and clinicians.

"Graham's talk was very encouraging. He also presented a great example of effective communication with statisticians from the perspective of a clinician / trialist."

Session 2: Early Phase Multi-Arm (Platform) Designs in Action



Prof Lucinda Billingham gave a clear and concise introduction to basket, umbrella and platform designs. Feedback suggest the introduction was well received with great appreciation for the easy to understand terminology and for how it set up the following talks.

"Cindy introduced different concepts and terminologies using very easy-to-understand words. Great introduction."

Dr David Chang provided an interesting discussion the Precision-Panc trial - a therapeutic development platform trial for pancreatic cancer. He discussed how the trial strives to bring in the continuous forward and backward learning of "discovery", "preclinical" and "clinical" development. The talk was praised for its discussion on biology and biomarkers.

Ms Claire Snowdon gave an engaging talk around the logistical challenges of delivering a single protocol platform trial from the perspective of a trial manager. She discussed the lack of funding mechanisms and the complexity of dealing with multiple funding partners, budgets and contracts. Her talk was described as an *"Eye opener"* by participants.

The session was rounded off with all three speakers answering questions from the audience.

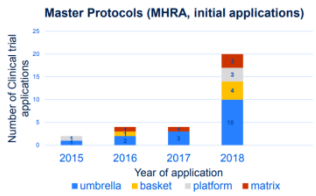
Session 3: Regulatory Perspectives

Dr Khadija Rantell, Statistical Assessor from the Medicines and Health Care Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) gave a regulator perspective of early phase I/II designs, including basket, umbrella and platform designs. Highlights include:

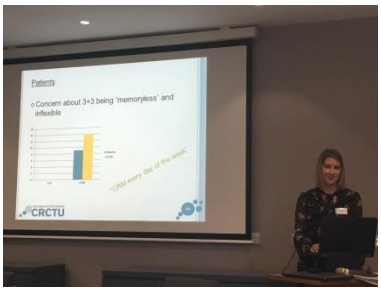
- MHRA supports innovative trial designs (adaptive trials, basket, umbrella, and platform designs) by engaging with sponsors to assist with innovative protocol designs and facilitating efficient approval and amendment to such trials.
- Discussion on key challenges with master protocols (e.g. lack of common terminology) and the statistical considerations with such trials, e.g. independence of sub-studies, shared control groups, and pooling of data across sub-studies.
- Huge increase in trials using master protocols in 2018 compared to previous years
- Encourage researchers to seek their advice in the *early* stage of designing their trials.

"Informative + useful"

MHRA experience



Interactive Session

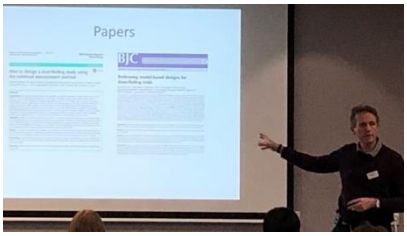


Aimee Jackson gave an insightful talk about engaging with the research team and patient involvement. During this session, delegates were encouraged to respond to questions previously conducted to research nurses and patients, before finding out the patient's perspectives. The presentation highlighted differences in the delegates' views compared to that of the patients, and that areas such as the schedule of events and car parking issues were often more important to the patient than the type or complexity of the trial design.

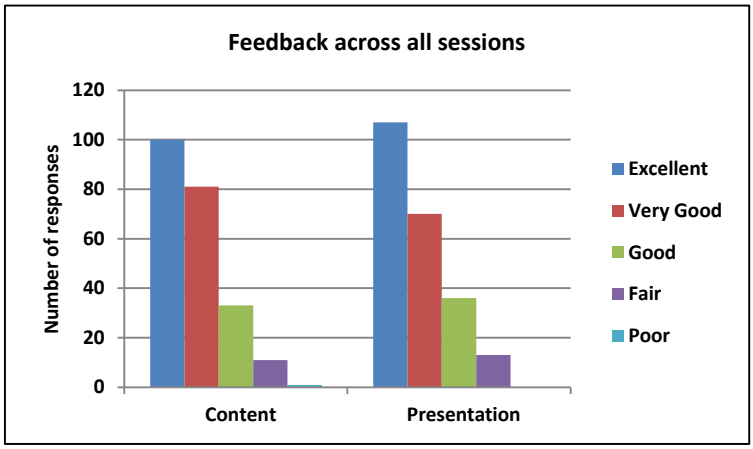
"Very interesting talk with a focus on patients' perspectives in participating a trial. The session was also very engaging and fun!"

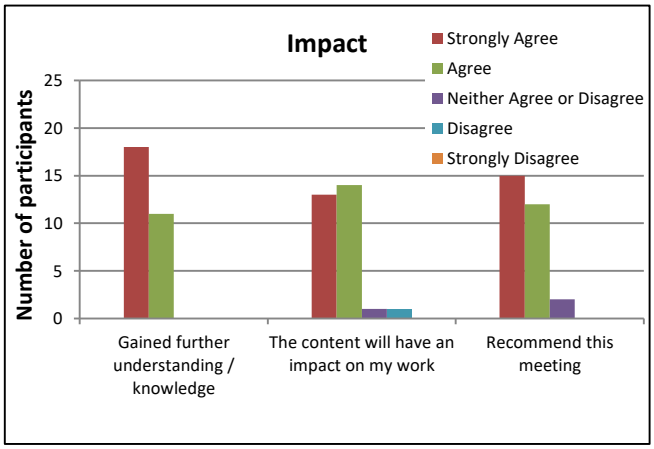
Dr Simon Bond discussed the outputs that were previously generated, and inspired dialogue on recommended topics for future meetings. Key suggestions included: more information on resourcing for complex early phase trials (impact on costing & SOPs), additional non-cancer trial examples and Bayesian versus Frequentist designs. A key comment was how useful it was to have a diverse range of participants (e.g. statisticians, clinicians, funders, trial management and regulators).

"Simon inspired discussions on efforts that we can make to improve quality of future trials … Nice to have a session like this to close the event"



Feedback – *excellent feedback on content, presentation and impact*





Thank you to all the speakers, chairpersons and participants for an engaging meeting of trialists from a diverse range of backgrounds. We look forward to the next meeting!

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This newsletter is produced by Christina Yap, Aimee Jackson, Rebecca Boucher and Elizabeth Ryan on behalf of the NIHR Statistics Group – Early Phase Trials