MID-Frail Newsletter, December 2012

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Niche Science & Technology

Changes Afoot!

2012 has been a very busy year for the MID-Frail partners and the study consortium has undergone some significant changes. CAIBER has left the consortium and the tasks for which they were responsible are in the process of being assumed by other partners (SERMAS, IDOP and, hopefully from January 2013, NST). All of us involved in MID-Frail owe a debt of gratitude to those at CAIBER, in particular María Sanchiz, for her invaluable contributions to the development of the project.

The changes to the consortium and associated new task distribution have been presented to the EU Commission as an amendment. It is hoped these will be accepted in the next 1–2 months and that the necessary budget transfers are granted speedily, to avoid any significant impact on the project.

Introducing....

Marta Pavía Hernández, joined the MID-Frail team at Fundación para la Investigación Biomédica del Hospital Universitario de Getafe in November 2012 and, as the Clinical Project Manager for the Sponsor, is the go-to person for all project matters. Please feel free to reach out to Marta by email or telephone:
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Please welcome Marta Pavía Hernández to the MID-Frail team. Marta joins Fundación para la Investigación Biomédica del Hospital Universitario de Getafe and will be replacing María Sanchiz as the new Clinical Project Manager.

Marta brings a wealth of clinical operations experience from her previous role at CAIBER and she will be serving as the primary contact for all MID-Frail project activities. Her role will include leading the development of the project plans and ensuring vendor co-ordination and successful management of the relationships between MID-Frail partners, Investigator sites and 7FP contacts. Marta's position on the MID-Frail team will be instrumental in ensuring that the project remains on-track, on-time and on-budget. Therefore she will be in regular contact with everyone to help co-ordinate study activities. Away from the office, Marta enjoys spending time in the countryside and skiing. She has also recently started learning to play golf and is really starting to get into the 'swing' of it!

Please offer her your support as she quickly gets up to speed on the status of all aspects of the project.

Presenting MID-Frail

The MID-Frail project was presented by Sophie Regueme (Ph. D., CHU of Bordeaux, France), during the 7th International Academy on Nutrition and Aging Conference (IANA 2012) on 12th and 13th July 2012, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

More than 150 specialists in nutrition, sarcopenia, and frailty were present at this conference and the prevention of frailty remains a major clinical focus in the community. The abstract of this presentation has already been published in the Journal of Frailty and Aging. 2012 1(2):80-81.

Sub-Study Status

The recent finalisation of four of the sub-study protocols associated with the main MID-Frail study, has been an excellent demonstration of team effort. Approval of the remaining two protocols, (Sartrain and QoL), is now a top priority and the deadline for approval is 26 December 2012.

Spanish Steps

In Spain, 23 trial sites have been selected and the main study protocol was submitted to the local Ethics Committee (EC) of each site in June 2012. So far, the Ethics Committees of 21 of these trial sites have approved the protocol, although a further submission of the six sub-study protocols will be necessary. It is expected that a number of the site contracts will be signed by the end of the year.

Details about the types of questions and clarifications received from the ECs, (as well as responses that SERMAS provided), will be circulated to the National Co-ordinators for information purposes.

Upcoming UK

The MID-Frail study has been making good progress in the UK in both England and Wales. There is continued interest from 17 sites that hope to participate and an Investigators Meeting (IM) is planned early in the New Year. This will provide an early contact opportunity for Investigators to meet Professor Alan Sinclair and learn more about the exercise and nutritional intervention programmes.

Gathering Momentum

A considerable number of trial sites have also been identified in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic and moving into the New Year, the completion of site feasibility assessment will be a priority. National Co-ordinators in each country will also need to work with a Contract Research Organisation (CRO), to agree on the final selection of trial sites and start the ethics submission process. The tasks assigned to the CRO will include all of those that deal with the ethics submission as well as managing contracts with the trial sites. The aim is for site selection to be completed during January 2013 and for all ethics submissions to be made by the end of February 2013.

Best wishes to all our colleagues for a happy and peaceful end to 2012 and for a successful New Year.

Keep up to date on all that is happening in MID-Frail: watch out for the next regular issue of MID-Frail News early in 2013. Website: www.midfrail-study.org Facebook: MID-Frail Clinical Study

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