ProtecT study: Publication and authorship policy

August 2016

The purpose of this document is to clarify publication and authorship arrangements for findings from the ProtecT study. The Principal Investigators (PIs) - Freddie Hamdy, Jenny Donovan, David Neal – recognise the importance of publishing findings from the study and wish to encourage collaborations and publications. Proposals for access to data or biological samples in or linked to the ProtecT study must be completed on the approved study form which will be considered by the PIs and the ProtecT study co-ordinator. Agreement with the ProtecT publication and authorship policy is mandatory for all publications using data or samples* from ProtecT participants, regardless of the type of publication.

The policy is as follows:

1. Writing period and submission

A draft of any manuscript must be sent to all three PIs at least one month** before intended submission to a journal for their comment and approval. If any of the PIs request changes to the draft at any point, the lead author must have the approval of the PI before proceeding. All manuscripts must be approved by all three PIs before they are submitted. Abstracts for scientific meetings must also be sent to the PIs for approval at least one week before submission.

2. Authorship

All publications using ProtecT study data or samples must include the names of the three PIs (in the format: Freddie C. Hamdy, Jenny L. Donovan, David E. Neal) and the study co-ordinator (in the format J. Athene Lane), as well the researchers who have generated the publication and produced the manuscript. All papers should add the following to the named authors: 'and the ProtecT Study Group'.

3. Acknowledgements

Specific acknowledgement of the funders must be included in each publication. For ProtecT, it must state that:

Funding/publication acknowledgement: This project was funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme, HTA 96/20/99; ISRCTN20141297 and will be published in full in the [insert journal title, volume and issue number, if known]. Further information available at: [insert project page web address]

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There is a separate disclaimer for where quotes from interviews are used:

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CCF, NETSCC, the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme or the Department of Health.

If ProMPT data or samples are used, a separate acknowledgement must be included (to be obtained from the PIs). A footnote must also be included in all publications listing names of the local investigators and other appropriate research staff within the ProtecT study (details to be provided by Dr Lane).

* All biological samples collected in the ProtecT study fall under the ethics and governance procedures for the ProMPT study (Trent MREC). Access to ProMPT clinical samples – contact freddie.hamdy@nds.ox.ac.uk, den22@medschl.cam.ac.uk, Rajeev.Kumar@nds.ox.ac.uk

** A period shorter than one month may be considered for papers where the field is extremely competitive and there is a risk of the paper being scooped. Personal contact with the PIs in advance to faciliate a shorter turn-around is strongly advised.