

# **Microvascular and Macrovascular Complications Clinical Studies Group**

**Annual progress report**

**April 2017-April 2018**

## In brief

This Clinical Studies Group (CSG) aims to improve the prevention and management of diabetes-related complications. This includes complications related to small blood vessels (such as retinopathy) and larger blood vessels (such as heart disease).

The group has held three meetings and two teleconferences to date.

The group has reviewed priorities for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes research, according to people living with diabetes, carers and healthcare professionals. They have also reviewed research recommendations related to Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes made by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) and research projects currently taking place across the UK in the CSG's area.

*“Diabetes UK has brought together people with diabetes and leading researchers to focus on how best to tackle the critically important research questions in the field of diabetes complications. Involvement in the group has been had very enjoyable and highly rewarding as several ideas for research funding applications have been developed.”* **Dr Martin Rutter, Manchester**

## Progress so far

### Finding research priorities

CSG6 reviewed existing research priorities for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. The priorities were identified by people with diabetes, carers and healthcare professionals in an exercise known as a Priority Setting Partnership (PSP). More information about these priorities and the organisation that runs them, the James Lind Alliance, at:

[www.diabetes.org.uk/research/our-approach-to-research/have-your-say](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/research/our-approach-to-research/have-your-say)

Five questions from the Type 2 diabetes PSP, one from the Type 1 diabetes PSP and four from the Sight Loss PSP were found to be relevant to CSG6's work. Research recommendations related to complications made by NICE were also assessed.

## Emerging Strategic Priorities

CSG6 plans to develop 'requests for applications' (RFAs) based on the important research areas they identify. RFAs are calls to the research community, encouraging scientists to work on particular topics. Three RFAs are currently being written:

- Preventing complications in those at high risk or in “hard to reach” groups, including those who don't access their diabetes care and those diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes younger than 40 years of age.

- Preventing neuropathy in people with Type 2 diabetes, including more sensitive and effective screening, new technology, earlier treatments and finding those at higher risk.
- Preventing amputations in people with neuropathy and foot ulcers, including addressing the barriers to footcare that can be shown, as a result of research, to achieve the best possible results for patients.

## Draft Roadmap

The discussions and RFAs have been used to generate a draft roadmap to help guide the CSG's work. This is a visual representation of the research areas CSG6 has identified as important and in need of more research, ways the CSG can progress our understanding of these areas and short- and long-term goals for the group.

## Links and collaborations

CSG6 identified another important research area: how to intervene early, to help people with diabetes control their blood glucose levels and prevent complications. This area has been passed to CSG2 (Prevention, Targets and Therapies for Type 1 diabetes).

CSG6 has planned a teleconference with another CSG set up by the UK Kidney Research Consortium. They hope to work together to look at kidney disease and address complications of diabetes involving kidneys.

CSG6 is also supporting researchers with their grant applications where appropriate to make sure they are addressing the right questions and to help them refine their plans.

## Next steps

CSG6 will next meet in September to finalise the first round of RFAs and develop a plan to highlight them to research funders. They will also choose new areas in need of research, to develop more RFAs. In particular, they will look at themes which have emerged across all of the diabetes CSGs that have not been addressed yet.

Finally, CSG6 hope to support researchers in writing grant applications when requested.

## Find out more

To find out more about the work of CSG6, please contact [csgs@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:csgs@diabetes.org.uk) to be put in contact with the group.

## CSG members

Current CSG membership, including affiliations.

Member	Affiliation	Role on group
Prof John Petrie	University of Glasgow	Chair
Dr Martin Rutter	University of Manchester	Deputy Chair
Alison Blackburn	Newcastle	Member

Dr Sudesna Chatterjee	University of Leicester	Member
Prof Helen Colhoun	University of Edinburgh	Member
Dr Lisa Heather	University of Oxford	Member
Prof Robert Hinchcliffe	University of Bristol	Member
Prof Noemi Lois	University of Belfast	Member
Dr Amy Jayne McKnight	University of Belfast	Member
Ann Middleton	Manchester	Member
Prof Naveed Sattar	University of Glasgow	Member
Prof Angela Shore	University of Exeter	Member
Keith Spurr	Stamford	Member
Prof Solomon Tesfaye	University of Sheffield	Member