
Paediatric Intensive Care Audit Network

'The times they are a-changing'

After another successful year, PICANet has to continue to move with the times. Along with our new look newsletter, we are experiencing other changes, all of which are positive responses to the demands of developing IT, the 'flexible' NHS infrastructure and movement of staff. We plan for 'business as usual' from the perspective of the units but should any hitches occur, please bear with us! A new server in Leeds will provide a more secure site and greater flexibility for data processing. One of the most exciting developments in PICANet over the last year has been the rapidly increasing volume and variety of the uses of the data and we anticipate this will continue. As PICANet faces new challenges, we thank everyone for their support and look forward to the year ahead.

Tricia McKinney and Liz Draper

PICANet Team News

There have been several changes to the staffing of PICANet in recent weeks (see below). Until now, PICANet has been co-ordinated by the Universities of Leicester, Leeds and Sheffield. The departure, in February 2006, of Sheffield's principal investigator, Gareth Parry, has brought to an end the involvement of Sheffield University in PICANet.

PICANet is now run by staff based in Leicester and Leeds, along with the Pan Thames Coordinator, Krish Thiru.

The PICANet email address has changed to picanet@leeds.ac.uk and this should be used to communicate with PICANet staff. Please see page 4 for individual PICANet staff contact details.

Angie Willshaw in Leeds has taken over the clerical tasks associated with the project. Please contact Angie for routine matters, such as ordering data collection forms or patient information leaflets (a.willshaw@leeds.ac.uk; ☎ 0113 343 8125)

Congratulations

This month sees the departure of Sam Jones, who has been with PICANet in Sheffield from its inception. Sam has obtained a post with the NHS, working as Research Coordinator within the Clinical Research Facility at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. We all wish Sam well in her new job and thank her for all the hard work and commitment she has contributed over the past few years.

Memories of PICANet

I have worked on PICANet for over four years and on UK PICOS for two years prior to that. So, what are my favourite memories....? Well, it's tough to choose between filling in MREC application forms, sending out validation reports and hounding units for data (sorry, I mean gently encouraging units to submit data...)! Truthfully though, my favourite memories will be overwhelmingly of all (well most!) of the people I worked with. I have particularly enjoyed training days (the evening meals and wine), unit visits (in particular to cities with good beaches or shops) and the annual meetings. All these things involved face to face contact with unit staff, and this has definitely been one of my favourite aspects of the job.

Unfortunately, I am leaving PICANet at a time of growth. PICANet is going from strength to strength, and I think the future will see the resource increasingly utilized, with some exciting pieces of work being produced.

My new job is still in Sheffield; I will keep in touch with the PICANet team, and look forward to hearing about the successful progression of PICANet.

Sam Jones

PICANet IT News

The PICANet server is moving

In August, we are moving the PICANet central server to Leeds, where it will be hosted by the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The server hardware is being upgraded and there will be some minor changes to the way in which data is transmitted via NHSnet. We will send you a letter confirming what needs to be done on your unit before the changes are effected.

While the server is being moved and upgraded **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEND DATA VIA NHSnet**. Please use the option to export the data to a folder and send the encrypted files via email to Roger Parslow (r.c.parslow@leeds.ac.uk) AND Angie Willshaw (a.willshaw@leeds.ac.uk). We will let you know when you can start using the export via NHSnet option again. If you have any queries, please contact Roger or Krish Thiru (thiruk1@gosh.nhs.uk).

This move will provide an enhanced environment for the server and security will be assured by the Trust. Please note that no Trust personnel (other than server maintenance operatives) will have access to the PICANet server or its data.

Email addresses for data

As Sam Jones is leaving on the 16th of August, all of you who currently email data to Sam should send your data to Roger Parslow AND Angie Willshaw. We ask you to send it to both of us to ensure that we can let you know it has been received.

Validation reports

The distribution of validation reports will also be interrupted during the summer due to server downtime. We will get these out to you as soon as we can.

PH₂G: Pan Thames Informatics Group

The Pan Thames Paediatric Intensive Care Health Informatics Group (*PHiG*) met for the first time in June this year to agree on its Terms of Reference.

Health informatics is the name given to the systematic application of information technology (IT) to health care practices, research, learning and planning. Central to this is the organisation and management of data, information and knowledge.

The *PHiG* group consists of clinical, managerial and research staff interested in developing paediatric health informatics initiatives.

The aim of *PHiG* is to develop and evaluate initiatives that facilitate the collation and interpretation of clinical and management data, concerning PICU and retrieval services.

The group works closely with the Paediatric Intensive Care Society to ensure that regional and national needs are addressed.

One of the first tasks of *PHiG* will be a national survey of the current use of clinical information systems within PICU.

All staff (clinical, managerial, administrative, academic and IT) with an interest in health informatics are invited to join this group. As a member, you will receive information on ongoing work, meetings, conferences and publications of relevance. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact:

- ▶ **Dr K Thiru** thiruk1@gosh.nhs.uk
pan Thames PICANet co-ordinator
- ▶ **Dr P Ramnarayan** RamnaP@gosh.nhs.uk
Paediatric Intensivist
- ▶ **Stuart Rowe** Stuart.Rowe@hf-pct.nhs.uk
Lead Commissioner for the pan Thames PICU Consortium

Review of 2006 Annual Meeting

Many thanks to all the speakers and attendees who contributed to a lively debate at the 2006 PICANet National meeting in June, held at the Perinatal Institute in Birmingham on 29th June. The feedback from the meeting has been very positive and indicates that attendees generally found it an interesting and informative day.

You can read all of the comments on the meeting at our website (www.picanet.org.uk). Please rest assured that next year, coffee will be available straight after lunch! The presentations delivered at the meeting are also available to view on the website. Please contact Angie for username and password information, if you do not have this.

Please remember that if you have any burning issues you would like to raise, these can be passed on and presented on your behalf by the CAG/SG representatives (see below for next meeting dates).

Publications

2006 National Report

The 2006 National Report has been distributed in hard copy and via email to PICUs, healthcare Commissioners, the Department of Health and other interested parties. We still have a limited supply of the hard copy reports. Please contact Angie if you would like an additional report, if you wish a copy to be sent to a third party or if you would like to receive a copy of the National Report in electronic format

Planning has already started for the next National Report - if you have any comments about the structure or content, please contact the PICANet team at picanet@leeds.ac.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Meeting of the Clinical Advisory Group:
13th September 2006 (Leeds)

Meeting of the Steering Group:
26th September 2006 (Leicester)

If you would like anything to be raised at either forum, please contact one of the group representatives or a PICANet team member.

Documentation

PICANet is in the process of producing new versions of the Unit posters and patient leaflets, in line with Patient Information Advisory Group (PIAG) requirements. It is our responsibility to ensure that the existence and purpose of PICANet are in the public domain, and that parents of children treated in PICUs are in possession of up-to-date contact information, in the event that they wish to have any patient identifiable data removed or anonymised.

The new posters and leaflets, which aim to provide this information, will be distributed to your units, as soon as they have been completed and produced. We would be grateful if you could put these items on display when they arrive and dispose of the old copies. Thank you.

Information / Data Requests

If there is any information or data that you feel PICANet could supply, to help you with your research, please download and submit the Research Request Forms from the website or contact Angie Willshaw (0113 343 8125; a.willshaw@leeds.ac.uk). You can find an up-to-date list of such research requests on the PICANet website. For advice on the nature of your request, please contact Roger Parslow (0113 343 4856).

As mentioned above, however, with server downtime, requests for data/information that include recent months will be delayed. We are still able to provide data and information for 2003-2005 inclusive.

PICANet Contact Details

Website: www.picanet.org.uk

Email: picanet@leeds.ac.uk



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