

Clinical research concerns everyone: the ECRAN project increases knowledge and awareness on independent clinical research

The ECRAN project aims to inform citizens and patients - but also healthcare professionals, researchers, and journalists - about the importance of public knowledge about clinical trials, the need for independent clinical trials driven by healthcare issues, the need for transparency, optimal use of data and, last but not least, the need for multinational cooperation taking advantage of Europe's population size and diversity.

Communication event in Luxembourg



In May 2014 a multi stakeholders group of people participated in a three-day clinical trial event in Luxembourg: the ECRIN (European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network) Meeting, the International Clinical Trials' Day, and the ECRAN Meeting. Clinicians and researchers, citizens and patients representatives (more than 50 different associations represented) together with journalists and methodologists discussed the importance of clinical research. Clinical trials are a milestone of clinical research but still several aspects need to be discussed and shared among the different stakeholders. Among these aspects are the bias in conducting trials and analyses of results, the transparency of results obtained, the need of good research for good

reviews and meta-analyses, the need to increase the knowledge on clinical research among the general population, and a complete and easy-to-read well-informed consent.

At the end of the meetings all stakeholders agreed on the importance of having a multidisciplinary discussion about these topics aiming at the increase of the quality of clinical research, the dissemination of results, and the participation of patients. Conflict of interest, transparency, and information are key issues in clinical research corresponding to the need of patients and society, and are crucial to gain sensible results to really change the clinical course of illness. In the past years, the development of research networks at the European level - such as the ECRIN group, the increasing attention to clinical research - such as the annual appointment with International Clinical Trials' Day, as well as the availability of information material such as developed by the ECRAN project are modifying the approach to clinical trials. It is important to bring together the different points of view and continue the investment in these aspects. *Report by Paola Mosconi, Project Coordinator*



Download presentations from the Clinical Trials Day and the ECRAN communication event:

<http://www.ecranproject.eu/en/content/communicate-clinical-research-speeches>

Testing Treatments interactive

Promote better research for better healthcare.

<http://www.testingtreatments.org/>

This website contains the full text of the 2nd edition of the book Testing Treatments. It also contains links to additional resources, identified by the authors, which help to explain and illustrate the principles and messages contained in the book.

- learn more about why it is important to test treatments carefully
- recognise reliable research
- understand what you can do to help make sure that research is more likely to be relevant to you and others

The [website](#) is freely available in:

- English
- French
- German
- Arabic
- Croatian
- Spanish
- Chinese
- Italian
- Norwegian
- Turkish

Make clinical trials count



It's time that all clinical trial results are reported.

<http://www.alltrials.net/get-involved/new-alltrials-video-make-clinical-trials-count/>

Results from around half of all clinical trials have never been published. Information on what was done and what was found in these trials could be lost forever to doctors and researchers, leading to wrong treatment decisions, missed opportunities for good medicine, and trials being repeated. The contributions of the millions of patients who took part in those trials remain unused and unusable.

75,000 people and more than 450 organisations have joined the campaign for all trials past and present to be registered, and the full methods and the results reported. Public pressure is already changing regulations and getting past trials published in some countries. [You and everyone you know can join it at alltrials.net and by sharing this video.](#)

BMJ ARTICLE on new transparency policy

The European drug agency (EMA) backtracks on plan to give researchers access to clinical trial reports.

After two years of explicit commitment to more transparency and access to clinical trial data, there has been a U-turn by EMA which has led to a fierce controversy, especially between the ombudsman (woman) of the EU parliament and EMA.

<http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g3710>

LANCET SERIES on poor quality in medical research

Open access series of five papers by The Lancet about reducing waste in clinical and epidemiological research.

These papers set out some of the most pressing issues, recommend how to increase value and reduce waste in biomedical research, and propose metrics for stakeholders to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

<http://www.thelancet.com/series/research>

EDUCATIONAL GAMES LAB & MAZE

Now available: [Play our educational games ECRAN Lab and ECRAN Maze](#), a challenging way designed for tablet users to make clinical trials even more comprehensible and entertaining!

<http://ecranproject.eu/en/content/game-seriously>



Europe open letter education

It's time for school children to learn about clinical research



The petition is addressed to all European Ministers of Education, European Heads of Schools, European Teachers and Parents. The aim is to [introduce clinical research as part of school education for all European pupils around the ages of 14, 15, and 16 for three consecutive years](#). Please sign our petition:

<http://ecranproject.eu/en/node/319>

Future perspective on ECRAN

Several ideas have been discussed in order to continue the dissemination activity through targeted projects. In addition to the need of maintaining and updating the ECRAN website, three different lines of activities have been identified:

- **Informed Consent:** it is crucial to [promote the harmonisation of the contents of informed consent forms](#) in the EU and the ECRAN Consortium explores a future project aimed at creating a European-based template to be used as a reference.
- **Citizens and patient organisations** are key stakeholders to promote clinical research. It is important to [foster the collaboration](#) with those two groups in order to increase the awareness about clinical research in the general population, and to involve patients in all the phases of the research.
- **Providing education on clinical research to young people** will have a significant impact on the level of knowledge and participation in the general population. The ECRAN partners discussed some initiatives aimed at improving the knowledge of young people on clinical research, such as workshops in schools, and dissemination and testing of new methods of information (i.e. serious games).

Watch and promote our 5-minute [animated film on clinical trials](#), dubbed in all 23 official European languages:

<http://www.ecranproject.eu/en/content/sail-along-james-lind>