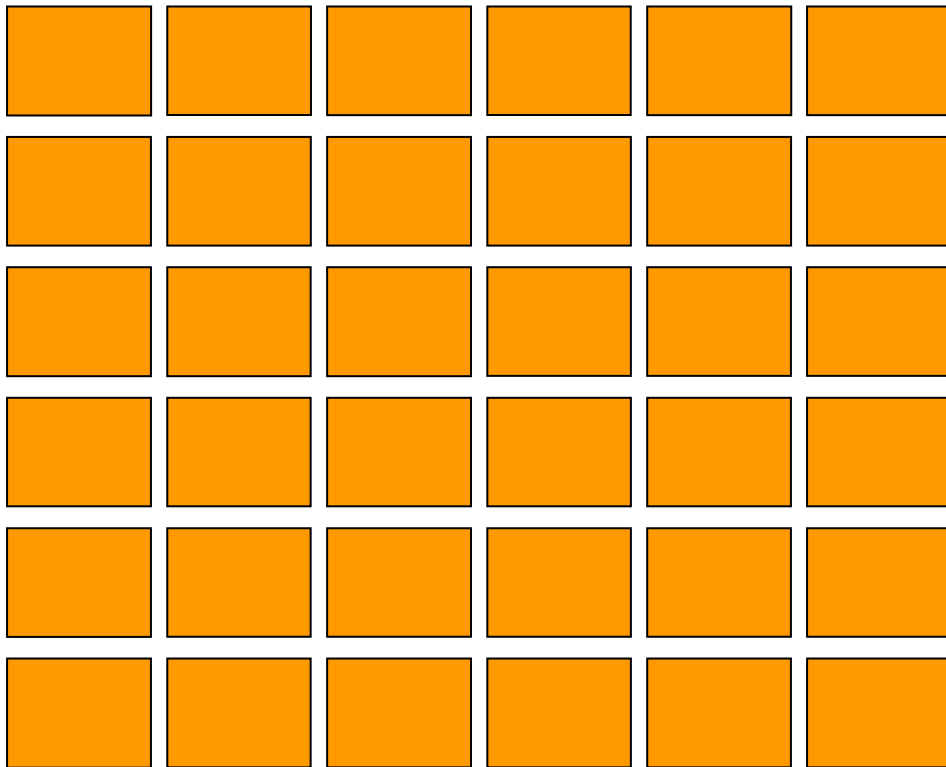




# Health Protection Agency North West Research & Development Education Day Evaluation Report

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2005  
Haydock Park Racecourse



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Programme	1
Workshops	2
Posters	2
Outcomes	3
Attendance	3
Feedback for the day	4
Contacts	6

### **Acknowledgements:**

With thanks to all presenters and workshop facilitators for ensuring the Research & Development Day was a successful learning experience for staff across the North West.

A special thanks to the organiser of the day, Dr Will Sopwith and thanks to Lynn Sutcliffe for assisting.

Thank you to Ms Debbie Anderson and Ms Elaine Mooney for their much valued assistance on the day.

Health Protection Agency North West

**Research & Development Education Day**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2005**  
**Haydock Park Racecourse**

**Programme**

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 Setting the Scene **Qutub Syed, HPA NW**
- 9.35 The Developing National R&D Agenda and an Introduction to the HPA R&D office **Paul Boseley, Corporate Services**
- 10.00 The Role of LaRS in R&D **Jeremy Hawker, LaRS**
- 10.15 Regional approach to R&D in the Health Protection Agency **Will Sopwith, HPA NW**
- 10.35 Health protection through Programme working: the role of R&D **Martyn Regan, GI lead**
- 10.50 Coffee
- 11.10 R&D in the laboratory: The Vaccine Evaluation Group **Ray Borrow, HPA laboratory**
- 11.30 Local R&D in practice: ideas to projects **Nick Phin, Cheshire & Mersey HPU**
- 11.45 **Group work – ‘Getting it Off the Ground’**
- 12.35 Feedback on group work
- 12.50 Lunch and poster session
- 14.15 Opportunities with NHS R&D NoW **Deborah Hornby, R&D NoW**
- 14.30 Considering User Involvement in Research **Sara Morris, R&D NoW**
- 14.45 **Workshops – see below**
- 15.45 Tea
- 16.00 Final Discussion and way forward
- 16.20 Close

## Workshop session

- i) **Researching ethically** (*Lorraine Lighton*) – practical introduction to seeking ethical approval, including what to consider in developing project ideas, process of seeking approval, timescales involved, etc. Presentation and Q&A session.
- ii) **Getting funded and getting published** (*Chloe Sellwood, Kent Lee*) – exploring successful strategies to get a project funded and eventually published, including overview of the main health protection funding bodies and journals/conferences, illustrated examples of good practice and support available within the Health Protection Agency. Presentation, discussion and Q&A session.
- iii) **What about qualitative methods?** (*Tim Twelvetree*) – an introduction to the potential applications of qualitative methods to areas of health protection research, such as public risk perception, the effectiveness of risk communication and working with communities in the context of chronic environmental incidents. Presentation, discussion and Q&A.

## Poster session

Balmer P, Falconer M, McDonald P, Fuller E, Riley C, Kaczmarek E, Borrow R. **Immune response to meningococcal serogroup C conjugate vaccination in asplenic individuals.**

Findlow H, Mabey L, Balmer P, Heyderman R, Auckland C, Southern J, Miller E, Morris R, Papa T, Borrow R. **Antibody responses to a meningococcal quadrivalent (A, C, Y and W-135) conjugate vaccine in healthy adults.**

Longworth E, Balmer P, Findlow J, Borrow R. **Serogroup C-specific IgG1:IgG2 ratios in sera collected following disease or polysaccharide or conjugate vaccination. In Abstracts of the Fourteenth Pathogenic Neisseria Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. 2004. Page 171.**

Borrow R, Aaberge IS, Santos G, Oster P, Glennie A, Findlow J, Hoiby EA, Rosenqvist E, Balmer P, McCallum L, Martin D. **Interlaboratory comparison of serum bactericidal titres against 44/76-SL before and after vaccination with the Norwegian MenBvac OMV vaccine.**

Lal G, Balmer P, Joseph H, Dawson M, Borrow R. **Development and evaluation of a tetraplex flow cytometric assay for quantitation of serum antibodies to *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroups A, C, Y and W-135. In Abstracts of the Fourteenth Pathogenic Neisseria Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. 2004. Page 170.**

EL Best, AJ Fox, JA Frost, FJ Bolton. **Real Time Public Health Microbiology for the Enteric Pathogen *Campylobacter jejuni***

LS Newbold, EB Kaczmarek, SJ Gray, VE Edwards-Jones, AJ Fox. **Detection of Strain specific Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) for Real-Time Non-Culture Strain Characterisation of *Neisseria meningitidis***

SJ Gray, AJ Fox, AD Carr, SA Handford, LS Newbold, RH Mallard **Phenotypic and Genotypic Trends Observed Amongst Serogroup B Meningococcal Isolates (1987-2003) in England and Wales**

M Guiver, C Jackson, K Howarth, D Denning, K Mutton, J Hauser, J Bille. **Development and Evaluation of a real-Time TaqMan PCR Assay for the Detection of *Pneumocystis carinii***

# Outcomes

## **General Aims of the Quarterly Health Protection Education & Training Events:**

- **To offer regular systematic educational opportunities for all relevant Health Protection Agency staff in North West; (and invited others from public health networks).**
- **To offer regular opportunities for informal health protection networking across the region and to foster team identity.**
- **To offer essential and topical updates to all relevant personnel.**
- **To offer opportunities for sharing experience and for feedback of health protection audit and research in the region.**

## **Specific Aims:**

This will be an opportunity to update HPA staff on current strategies and priorities and discuss future opportunities for research and development work. The day will aim to:

- present national strategy for R&D centrally, within Local and Regional Services and the GI programme area
- present the role of and resources available from the national R&D office, the Regional R&D Group and R&D North West
- report and discuss the findings of the NW R&D questionnaire
- inform and demonstrate to colleagues the necessary steps in planning and executing an R&D project
- promote the potential of user involvement in health protection R&D
- provide training in specific areas of R&D work such as:
  - seeking ethical approval
  - seeking funding and getting published
  - using qualitative methods

The programme will include presentations, seminars and discussion and participatory group work.

## **Attendance:**

63 members of staff, which included colleagues external to Health Protection Agency North West, attended this event, representing:

- Health Protection Agency North West Regional Office
- Greater Manchester Health Protection Unit
- Cheshire & Merseyside Health Protection Unit
- Cumbria & Lancashire Health Protection Unit
- North West Regional Health Protection Agency Laboratory
- Health Protection Agency Colindale
- North East Health Protection Agency Laboratory
- East Midlands Health Protection Agency
- Health Protection Agency, Corporate Services
- Health Protection Agency, LARS
- Central Liverpool PCT
- Manchester Royal Infirmary
- Whiston Hospital
- Liverpool John Moores University
- R&D NoW

## **Feedback for the day** (38 evaluation forms were received)

### **How do you rate the relevance of this meeting?** (38 responded)

- 7 (18%) said it was fairly relevant
- 18 (47%) said it was mostly relevant
- 13 (34%) said it was highly relevant

### **How do you rate the overall quality of the education offered?** (38 responded)

- 1 (3%) said it was mediocre
- 7 (18%) said it was satisfactory
- 23 (61%) said it was good
- 7 (18%) said it was excellent

### **How do you rate the effectiveness of the meeting for CPD purposes?** (33 responded)

- 4 (12%) said it was partly effective
- 8 (24%) said it was quite effective
- 14 (42%) said it was definitely effective
- 7 (21%) said it was very effective

### **How well did the meeting achieve the following outcomes?**

1. Update HPA staff on current strategies and priorities and discuss future opportunities for research and development work (34 responded)
  - 12 (35%) said it was quite effective
  - 17 (50%) said it was definitely effective
  - 5 (15%) said it was very effective
2. Present national strategy for R&D centrally, within Local and Regional Services and the GI programme area (35 responded)
  - 8 (23%) said it was quite effective
  - 22 (63%) said it was definitely effective
  - 5 (14%) said it was very effective
3. Present the role of and resources available from the national R&D office, the Regional R&D Group and R&D North West (35 responded)
  - 8 (23%) said it was quite effective
  - 21 (60%) said it was definitely effective
  - 6 (17%) said it was very effective
4. Report and discuss the findings of the NW R&D questionnaire (32 responded)
  - 1 (3%) said it was ineffective
  - 2 (6%) said it was partly effective
  - 14 (43%) said it was quite effective
  - 12 (39%) said it was definitely effective
  - 3 (10%) said it was very effective
5. Inform and demonstrate to colleagues the necessary steps in planning and executing an R&D project (36 responded)
  - 4 (11%) said it was partly effective
  - 8 (22%) said it was quite effective
  - 19 (52%) said it was definitely effective
  - 5 (14%) said it was very effective
6. Promote the potential of user involvement in health protection R&D (36 responded)
  - 5 (14%) said it was partly effective

- 8 (22%) said it was quite effective
  - 21 (58%) said it was definitely effective
  - 2 (6%) said it was very effective
7. Provide training in specific areas of R&D (36 responded)
- 1 (3%) said it was ineffective
  - 4 (11%) said it was partly effective
  - 11 (31%) said it was quite effective
  - 15 (42%) said it was definitely effective
  - 5 (14%) said it was very effective

### How useful did you find the following presentations?

Setting the Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 (20%) said it was not useful</li> <li>• 18 (60%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 6 (20%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Developing the National R&D Agenda & an introduction to the HPA R&D Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 (67%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 12 (33%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
The Role of LaRS in R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 (3%) said it was not useful</li> <li>• 21 (60%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 13 (37%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Regional Approach to R&D in the HPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 (51%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 17 (49%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Health Protection through Programme Working: the role of R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 (48%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 17 (52%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
R&D in the Laboratory: The Vaccine Evaluation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 (3%) said it was not useful</li> <li>• 22 (61%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 13 (36%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Local R&D in practice: ideas to projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 (44%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 19 (56%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Feedback on groupwork	Did not take place
Opportunities with NHS R&D NoW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 (6%) said it was not useful</li> <li>• 20 (59%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 12 (35%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Considering User Involvement in Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 (9%) said it was not useful</li> <li>• 23 (68%) said it was useful</li> <li>• 8 (24%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Final Discussion & Way Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (%) said it was not useful</li> <li>• (7%) said it was useful</li> <li>• (2%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>

### How useful did you find the group work?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Group work – ‘Getting it off the ground’ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 (10%) said it was not useful</li> <li>• 10 (53%) said it was useful</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 (37%) said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Researching ethically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 said it was very useful</li> </ul>
Getting funded and getting published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 said it was useful</li> <li>• 2 said it was very useful</li> </ul>
What about qualitative methods?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 said it was useful</li> <li>• 13 said it was very useful</li> </ul>

### **Feedback and evaluation – additional comments** (9 responded)

**General Comments** – General comments reported that the event was very useful and that it was a very good day. All presentations were reported to be useful, with small numbers reporting that some of the presentations were not useful. The networking opportunities were very good and it was reported that these sessions could be longer.

The group work sessions were reported to be very useful and it was noted that longer sessions would have been more beneficial.

It was reported that the programme for the day was very crowded.

**Specific Comments** – ‘Nice balance between national/policy and local initiatives.’

‘Thank you for a good day.’

‘Further CPD event on telling the story of various environmental situations to cross fertilise and stimulate. Not just focused on lessons learned.’

‘Very motivational.’

**Venue** – The venue and the catering was reported to be very good and of a high standard. It was noted that the Duty Manager was not available throughout the day and this affected the run of the day. The use of a Lapel Microphone is needed and technical problems should not happen during the day. This matter has been taken up with the venue and resolved. Comments were received that the venue is not easily accessible via public transport however; full details were supplied before the event.

### **Contacts:**

**Will Sopwith was the lead organiser for the day**  
[Will.sopwith@hpa.org.uk](mailto:Will.sopwith@hpa.org.uk)

**Lynn Sutcliffe was the administrative support for the day**  
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**John Reid is the Regional Education & Training Lead**  
[John.Reid@centralliverpoolpct.nhs.uk](mailto:John.Reid@centralliverpoolpct.nhs.uk)

Any further comments on the education day would be gratefully received.