



october

2017

this issue:

Recruitment PRISM clinical study

WP6 meeting outcome

PRISM publications

PRISM article in Horizon Magazine

To the website

Recruitment for the PRISM clinical study has begun!



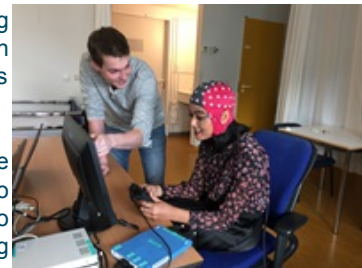
In August 2017, the research team at Utrecht 'broke the ice' and recruited the first participant into the PRISM clinical study. This follows an intensive period of preparation for the study, and marks the beginning of an equally intensive phase of data collection and recruitment. The dedicated hard work and collaboration from all sites has been essential reaching this critical milestone.

Congratulations to the team at UMCU, who have at the time of writing recruited three participants. Congratulations also to the teams at La Princesa and Gregorio Marañón hospital, who have recruited two and three participants, respectively, giving us a total of eight participants in the study; four with probable Alzheimer's Disease, two with schizophrenia, and two healthy controls.

The teams in Amsterdam (VUmc) and Leiden (LMCU) are making final preparations following MRI scanner updates at these sites, and are likely to be recruiting within the coming weeks.

Recruitment for this complex study poses challenges. But regular brainstorming discussions at every level of the research team have been helpful in tackling issues early and devising new recruitment tactics.

The data collected will be critical to the interim analysis, which is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2018. All the best to the research sites in their ongoing recruitment efforts!



Have ideas for recruitment in the PRISM clinical study? Contact [Amy](#) and [Margot](#).

Aligning the preclinical work packages - outcome of the WP6 meeting

On 30 May 2017 a pre-clinical one day meeting has been held in Nijmegen, The Netherlands with the goal of having the preclinical battery in place to back-translate clinical findings.

Good progress has been made in setting up a novel system for tracking multiple animals in a rich environment to characterize the nature of group behaviour and interactions (Shemesh et al., *Elife*, 2013) at BI, and details for cross-site



validation at BI, RUG and RUMC were agreed upon.

Validation will begin with comparing the social behaviour of BTBR and C57/BL6 mice, followed by investigating age, strain, social hierarchy and transgenic effects.

Models that show social withdrawal in the task will be checked for decreased social interaction in more simple social interaction models (e.g. three chamber tasks and social place preferences) that other sites can use.

We also discussed contribution of non-task users: what exactly each site is going to do when, and how it adds value. All sites will check available data in the rodent test battery. These tasks will be further discussed and aligned in a separate meeting.

Announcement of PRISM publications



Over the first months of the PRISM project a huge amount of excellent work was performed reviewing, distilling and planning which of the plethora of protocol options would be deployed.

We therefore plan to capitalise on this effort by pulling together a special issue in a major review journal.

The planning and writing of these papers and commentaries is well advanced and we hope to be able to announce the publication date in the very near future. The Project also now has a publications team tasked with ensuring that PRISM makes the maximum impact through core and peripheral publications.

Published articles

Two articles have already been published, focusing on autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and social functioning in patients with depressive and anxiety disorders.

The first, '[Autism spectrum disorders and autistic traits share genetics and biology](#)', was published in *Molecular Psychiatry* on 16 May 2017. Using PRISM cohorts, the study focused on investigation of such potential overlap based on common genetic variants. Social withdrawal is a common symptom in Autism and in the patient populations studied in the PRISM project.

The second study, '[Social functioning in patients with depressive and anxiety disorders](#)' was published in the August issue of *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica* and focuses on the social functioning in patients with depression and anxiety disorders. The study concluded that behavioural, but especially affective indicators of social functioning are impaired in patients with anxiety or depressive disorders and most in patients with comorbid disorders.

Horizon magazine features PRISM in its article on mental illness



In July 2017, an article was published in Horizon Magazine, one of the leading EU research and innovation magazines on the work PRISM has been doing in the context of social withdrawal in Schizophrenia and Alzheimer's.

The article largely focused on how researchers are now looking into labelling mental health conditions based on biological features rather than symptoms.

PRISM's contribution in this field has been significant as the researchers involved in the project are focused on designing drugs based on a philosophical classification system. The article also highlighted the smartphone app being developed as part of the project that will be able to track the behaviours indicating social withdrawal.

[View the article](#)

Follow us on
Facebook & Twitter



Copyright © PRISM 2017 Powered by ECNP

The project leading to this application has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No 115916. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA. This newsletter reflects only the authors' views neither IMI JU nor EFPIA nor the European Commission are liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Message in junk mail folder? Please add communication@ecnp.eu to your address book
Don't want to receive our mail anymore? Please [click here](#)

if you can't read this mail [click here](#)