The TARN Web Based System

progress so far……

It has certainly been an industrious 2 years for the working party involved in the development of the new web based system.

The working party, (consisting of TARN staff, IT Managers, Clinical and Audit representatives), since 2002 have spent a great deal of time devising the functionality of the proposed system. In 2003, they completed the Functional Specification outlining, in detail, all the requirements for an effective and robust tool for data collection and analysis.

As next stage of the project was to find a suitable company who could then take on and develop the system, an ‘Invitation to Tender’ for the web based system was advertised in the new year. After a series of consultations and interviews with companies tendering for the contract, in June it was agreed that Tribal Data Solutions should be appointed as providers of the Web Based System.

Since then, TARN and Tribal have had a number of successful meetings and last month TARN were able to involve a small group of experienced coordinators (including regional coordinators) to test the usability of the data collection screens as well as the design of the site.

The project is currently on track and aims to complete the system, in-house testing during January and February certainly seem achievable. Once the system is completed, a selected group of hospitals will be asked to participate in a pilot study to ensure that it runs effectively. It is intended that the system will be introduced to hospitals from June 2005. To ensure a smooth transition, the implementation will be staggered across the country.

As the system will require Internet access and operating system compliance, IT Managers at participating hospitals have been informed of the new system and are working with TARN to ensure that there will be accessibility within each Trust to guarantee that system requirements are met.

TARN will be contacting all hospitals in the new year with further details of the implementation plan and a training schedule which will occur throughout 2005.

Trauma Conferences

Over the past month, TARN have been busy attending a number of conferences across the UK with the aim of reaching a wider audience and highlighting the aims and objectives of the Trauma Network.

TARN were kindly invited to exhibit at the British Trauma Society Conference held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds (13-15th October) and the APEM (Association of Paediatric Emergency Medicine) Autumn Meeting which was held at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, Liverpool on 2nd-3rd November. Both conferences were very successful and TARN would like to thank the organisers for their support (Professor Peter Giannoudis, President of the BTS) and Dr Eileen Byrne (Consultant Paediatrician, Alder Hey). TARN also exhibited at the FAEM held in Leeds during November.

Conference Presentations

‘Testing the applicability of the ATLS shock description’ was presented by Dr Fiona Lecky at both the BTS and the FAEM and Henry Guly (Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Demford Hospital) provided a poster presentation on ‘Testing the applicability of the ATLS description of spinal shock’ during the FAEM.

Maralyn Woodford was invited to present upon ‘TARN, TARNlet and an improved approach to outcome predictions’ at the APEM Meeting along side Professor David Lloyd (Chair, Royal College of Surgeons Trauma Committee).

The BTS website can be found at http://www.trauma.org/bts

The next APEM meeting is to be held upon April 2005 in York. If you would like to know more about the work of the APEM or receive further details about the next meeting, please contact Dr Eileen Byrne on 0151 252 5261 or email eileen.byrne@rlch-tr.nwest.nhs.uk

Further information is available from Laura White, National Training and Support Officer on: 44 (0) 161 206 5909 or email: laura.white@tarn.ac.uk

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hull Royal Infirmary</td>
<td>7th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hope Hospital</td>
<td>11th February</td>
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<td>Hope Hospital</td>
<td>25th May 2005</td>
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Trauma Conferences

TARN would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year
Since the completion of the EuroTARN dataset, it has been agreed by all EuroTARN participants to make an initial comparison of trauma care in Europe. The data collection phase of past cases between 2000-2003 looking at injury type, mortality rate, gender interaction as well as head injuries and burns.

The objective is to provide the group the ability with a paper assessing current European trauma care systems which in turn will strengthen the group's ability to obtain future funding.

To allow simple data collection, a new EuroTARN website has been designed by the Trauma Network, and will allow for online data submission. There is a secured ‘Members Area’ which is password protected (only issued to those who have submitted data).

The general website provides an overview of the project, the project progress to date will keep everyone informed with news of future meetings and new achievements.

The data collection phase has now begun and it is expected that complete dissemination of results will proceed in the next year with further plans in the year to create a EuroTARN research paper for publication spring/summer 2005. The new web based system will accommodate future euroTARN data collection, but the long term aim of the study is to achieve major European membership.

Over the past 2 years, the project has obtained the participation of representatives from 14 countries and support from Turkey, the Czech Republic, the Baltic States including Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as the International Neurotrauma Research Organisation based in Belgium.

A 3rd EuroTARN Meeting is provisionally planned for April 2005 in Leeds. The venue has once again been kindly offered by the EuroTARN group by the organisers of the Polytrauma Management Course (Professor Peter Giannoudis, St James Leeds, and Professor Hans-Christoph Pape, Hanover Medical School and the German Trauma Registry).

Would you like to know more about EuroTARN? The new website can be accessed at: www.tarn.ac.uk/eurotarn/ eurotarn2/intro.htm

Please feel free to take a look at the site!