EDITORIAL
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Co-Chief Investigator

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, we seem to have hardly had a proper winter, with unseasonably warm temperatures, not much snow on the Scottish hillsides. The Spring season is now well underway, and along with the flowers, the trial is blossoming, new centres are becoming active and we start to prepare for the Collaborators meeting in Glasgow for May. The focus this month is achieving the 801 target (and the prize to go with it) and a reminder to send a scan transfer form with each and every scan you send us (however you send it). Next month’s newsletter will include reports of the very successful Collaborators meetings in Norway and Sweden.

IST-3 Collaborators Meeting
Wednesday 30th May, 2007, Glasgow, UK

ALL WELCOME. REGISTRATION FREE!!!!

We have already had an excellent response from centres to our planned annual joint IST-3 & CLOTS Collaborators meeting which will be taking place at 18.00 hrs on Wednesday 30th May in Glasgow during the European Stroke Conference. This year we are taking advantage of the waterside location and having the meeting on ‘The Tall Ship’ (see pictures below) where, after the meeting, you will be able to enjoy a drink and a tour around this lovely ship. There are still a few places available so if you are interested in attending this meeting please return your completed attendance slips as soon as possible to avoid ‘missing the boat!’ We would like as many of our centres represented at this meeting as possible. Some financial assistance is available for our active centres and those who are actively working towards obtaining the required approvals to join the trial.

We look forward to seeing you in Glasgow
Thrombolysis at Uppsala University Hospital, Sweden

Uppsala University Hospital has been part of the IST-3-trial since February 1, 2006. The hospital has a catchment area of 300,000 inhabitants, and to date 17 patients have been recruited to IST-3.

Stroke patients are treated at two hospitals in the Uppsala county, Enköpings lasarett and Uppsala University Hospital; together the two hospitals treat approximately 750 stroke patients/year. All patients who are suitable for acute thrombolysis are sent directly to Uppsala.

The logistic chain starts at the Emergency Medical Dispatch Centre (EMD). The personnel at the EMD use a set of standard questions to assess the stroke patient. If all criteria for the “Save the Brain” alarm are fulfilled, an ambulance is dispatched to collect the patient. Ambulance staff carry out investigations on the patient and these results are documented onto a database in the ambulance. This all occurs during the transportation of the patient to the emergency room.

In the emergency room the Acute Medicine Doctor on call examines the patient according to a specific protocol. At this time the Doctor will send the patient for a brain CT. It is then the responsibility of the Neurologist on call to check the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the patient.

“We have a dedicated staff, at all levels, from the pre-hospital, to the in-hospital care”, says Dr Erik Lundström, the local co-ordinator for IST-3 at Uppsala University Hospital, “we also provide recurrent education for the ambulance personnel and the staff at the hospital”, he continues. “We have had a great support from the national co-ordinator, Dr Veronica Murray, in setting up IST-3 in Uppsala”, he adds.

Uppsala University Hospital has treated acute ischemic stroke with thrombolysis since 1999, and over the last two years approximately 20 routine thrombolysis have been performed per year.

Since November 2006 IST-3 thrombolysis has been carried out 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at Uppsala University Hospital.

RECRUITMENT!
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CENTRES WHO HAVE RECRUITED PATIENTS SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER.

THE TOTAL OF PATIENTS RECRUITED TO DATE STANDS AT:-

774

WE NEED 27 PATIENTS TO REACH THE 801 TARGET WHICH WOULD MAKE IST-3 THE LARGEST THROMBOLYSIS STUDY EVER!!!

A CASH PRIZE OF £801 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE CENTRE THAT RECRUITS PATIENT 801.

SO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK & GOOD LUCK!