

# James Lind Alliance Dermatology Research for Patient Benefit Bid

## NIHR Programme Grant

**TITLE:** Setting priorities and reducing uncertainties in the prevention and treatment of people with skin diseases.

**DURATION:** 60 months

**NHS Organisation submitting application:** Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

### LEAD APPLICANT AND PARTNERS:

Hywel Williams (Director of Centre of Evidence-Based Dermatology CEBD, Honorary Consultant Dermatologist for Nottingham University Hospitals). Other partners include members of the CEBD, Specialists in dermatology, methodology, James Lind Alliance and Vitiligo Society. The multi-disciplinary team has a complimentary range of methodological skills (statistics, health economics, trial design/management, systematic reviews, writing information resources and research prioritisation) and content expertise in the four selected diseases.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The research programme will set priorities and reduce uncertainties in the prevention and treatment of skin disease.

### BACKGROUND

Skin diseases are very common, yet there are large gaps in knowledge about their causes and treatment. We will focus on four diseases with contrasting perspectives: childhood eczema (a big problem for children and parents and increasing in the UK), vitiligo (white skin patches that can be particularly distressing for dark-skinned people), squamous cell skin cancer (a national priority which is common and increasing) and pyoderma gangrenosum (a neglected, painful, ulcerating, skin disease).

### RESEARCH PLAN

A set of sequential research methodologies will address:

1. PREVENTION OF ECZEMA: systematic review; pilot trial of eczema prevention; full trial proposal; web-based information resources for patients and health care workers
2. TREATMENT OF ECZEMA: updated systematic review; trial prioritisation exercise; treatment information resources; and international collection of appraised trials
3. VITILIGO: updated Cochrane review, trial prioritisation exercise; pilot study; trial proposal; treatment and information resources
4. SQUAMOUS CELL SKIN CANCER: new Cochrane review, pilot study; trial proposal; treatment information resources
5. PYODERMA GANGRENOSUM: national randomised controlled trial (RCT) and treatment information resources
6. NHS capacity building in dermatology

### OUTPUTS AND IMPACT OF RESEARCH FOR NHS / PUBLIC

(i) 2 over-arching eczema systematic reviews (ii) a national collection of randomised controlled trials for eczema (iii) a new Cochrane review on treatments for squamous cell skin cancer (iv) an updated Cochrane review on vitiligo treatments (v) a James Lind Alliance exercise to identify trial priorities for vitiligo and eczema (vi) 3 feasibility studies for definitive trials on eczema, vitiligo and squamous cell skin cancer (vii) delivery of a multi-centre RCT on treatments for pyoderma gangrenosum (viii) web-based patient information resources and decision aids to support shared decision making on treatment options for patients on the four topics (ix) increased capacity to support NHS and industry-based clinical trials in dermatology in the UK (3 health services researchers trained to PhD level).

Our programme provides a platform to efficiently deliver high quality trials on a national scale that could not be achieved by local groups. It will also give critical information for local and national NHS commissioners to guide rational purchasing decisions, for health care professionals to develop care pathways, and for healthcare users to make informed choices.