We are delighted that Xavier Griffin is now based at the Kadoorie Centre. Xavier is an Associate Professor of Trauma Surgery at the University of Oxford, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology & Musculoskeletal Sciences and Honorary Consultant Trauma Surgeon at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

His research focusses on the clinical and cost effectiveness of musculoskeletal Trauma interventions and he is a currently chief investigator for TrAFFix (below) & WHiTE4 (two different types of surgical fixation for hip fracture).

Xavier is pictured celebrating the 200th recruit to WHIST our wound dressing trial.

Contact: Xavier Griffin

Fractures of the distal femur (breaks near the knee in the thigh bone) are increasingly common injuries that have a major impact on a patient’s quality of life.

How to best manage these fractures remains controversial, and a recent Cochrane review suggested that a well-designed randomised controlled trial comparing modern treatments is needed.

TrAFFix (Trial of Acute Femoral Fracture Fixation) is a feasibility study that is aiming to work out how best to run a trial comparing fixation of distal femoral fractures with either an intramedullary nail or a distal locking plate.

Patients ≥50 years old with a fracture of the distal femur may be eligible for the study. Recruited patients will be randomised to receive treatment with either a distal locking plate or intramedullary nail.

The study is measuring how many participants it is possible to recruit and how best to collect outcome information from patients and their carers.

As part of the study we are also performing a process evaluation, Dr Emma Phelps will be interviewing staff and patients, to help understand any barriers to the delivery of a larger definitive trial.

The John Radcliffe Hospital (Principal Investigator: Mr David Noyes) was the first of seven hospitals to open, and since beginning recruitment in October 2016 has remained the top recruiter nationwide, and received an award from the Oxford Trauma research group for best data completion.

TrAFFix is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (Health Technology Assessment programme, project number 15/59/22). For more information visit: https://traffix.octru.ox.ac.uk/ or email traffix@ndorms.ox.ac.uk

Contact: Robin Lerner

Xavier Griffin

Emma Phelps and Robin Lerner
Carers’ Experiences


This paper collates carers’ experiences of looking after older people with hip fracture from 21 research studies. The findings suggest that carers provide a vast array of support driven by a concern for the other person and a wish to maintain a relationship with them. However the process of helping had a strong emotional impact as they struggled to juggle activities within their daily lives. They learnt how to care through experience often feeling ‘in the dark’ as they did not feel they knew what was happening or how to find information.

The studies were largely from the USA and Canada with different care systems from the UK. However it would seem carers require care that includes them within the umbrella of care, experiences that help them learn how to care, timely information and emotional support.

Contact: Liz Tutton

UKSTAR

The UKSTAR study is aiming to ascertain the best management for patients with Achilles tendon ruptures treated non-operatively. Eligible patients are randomised to receive either a plaster cast or a walking boot for eight weeks.

The primary outcome measure is the patient reported Achilles tendon rupture score at 9 months. Although slow to start the study has gained momentum and now has 27 sites open to recruitment and another 9 in set up.

Recruitment has slowly been gaining pace – 47 patients were in the study by the end of February.

The optimal management of Achilles tendon ruptures is controversial and varies considerably across the UK. This trial aims to help inform practice so that patients across the NHS can access the most appropriate treatment based on high quality evidence. UKSTAR is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (Health Technology Assessment programme project number 13/115/62). For more information visit: https://ukstar.octru.ox.ac.uk/

Contact: Anna Liew

What is important to you?

We would like to invite patients, families and staff to take part in a survey to find out what is important to you in the care of older people with broken bones of the lower limb. It will take you approximately 10 – 15 minutes to answer. The survey closes on April 14th, 5pm and can be found online at the following web address: www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/broken-bones-in-older-people

This survey is part of a research priority setting exercise undertaken by Oxford Trauma with the James Lind Alliance in the area of broken bones in older people. This first survey focuses on broken bones in the lower limb and pelvis in people over 60 years of age. The work is a collaboration of patients, carers and healthcare professionals who will help to identify the ‘top ten’ research priorities in this important area.

Contact: Laura Arnel
DRAFFT 2

DRAFFT2 is a study that aims to find out which treatment works best for a fracture of the distal radius (wrist bone). A previous study DRAFFT has shown that Kirschner (K) wires were less expensive and easier to put in than an alternative treatment using locking plates. This study now aims to find out if surgical fixation is needed. The two interventions are fixation with K wires or a moulded cast, both of which keep the bones in alignment. Both groups will require an anaesthetic to re align the bone fragments but will not have any incisions in the skin.

The study is now in the pilot phase, is open at 8 sites and has recruited 15 patients. DRAFFT2 is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (Health Technology Assessment Programme project number 15/27/0). For more information visit: https://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/clinical-trials/current-trials-and-studies/drafft-2

Contact: Katy Mironov

NIHR Musculoskeletal Trauma Trials

The 5th NIHR Musculoskeletal Trauma Trials Annual Meeting was a great success. Presentations included findings, new trials in progress and updates of ongoing research. Good discussion was held in relation to patient and public involvement in research, rehabilitation and experiences of care. Pictured opposite is Andrew McAndrew Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and Trauma Lead from the Royal Berkshire Hospital presenting a prize to Kathryn Lewis (Left) and Doreen Muller on behalf of the Oxford team for their success in recruiting to Trauma studies.

Study updates

Ankle Injury Management (AIM) follow up has now been completed and the study is being analysed.

Contact: Scott Parsons

SPRAINED is also completed and is in the process of being written up.

Contact: Jacqueline Thompson

PATH-2 has opened two new sites in Sheffield and Aintree and we are delighted they have both had their first patient. Overall recruitment is on course to meet the planned target.

Contact: Susan Wagland

WHIST recruited their 400th recruit on the 26th March and are now open to recruitment at 16 sites.

Contact: Louise Spoors

WHITE continues to do well and Oxford have recruited 521 participants overall.

Contact: Stephanie Wallis

WHITE 4 has also recruited exceptionally well with 114 recruits so far in Oxford.

Contact: Stephanie Wallis

WOLLF follow up study is going well and in addition we have undertaken 25 interviews to help explore outcomes that are important to patients.

Contact: Liz Tutton

Forthcoming Meetings

Injuries and Emergencies Speciality Group (IESG) Thames Valley and South Midlands Clinical Research Network (TVCRN) Chair: Andrew McAndrew.

Next meeting: Friday 26th May, 13.30-15.00 Oxford Ambulance Station, 26th September 2017, at Stoke.

Trauma Orthopaedic Research Collaboration (TORC) National multidisciplinary meeting, Chair: Tim Chesser. Next Meeting: 9th June 2017 11.00-14.30 in Bristol.

Lead Research Nurse Forum

Next meeting: 19th July, 14.00-15.00, North Meeting Room, OCDEM.

PATH-2 collaborators meeting

28th April, Birmingham.

Contact: Kathryn Lewis
Selected References


