



Invest in ME
**A UK RITUXIMAB
CLINICAL TRIAL**
Energising Biomedical Research into ME -
Mainstreaming ME Research
Clinical Trials for ME

www.ukrituximabtrial.org

Quick Overview of the IiME/UCL Trial

September 2013

- Invest in ME have initiated a UK rituximab Trial
- Our advisor is Professor Jonathan Edwards, Emeritus Professor of Connective Tissue Medicine at University College London (UCL)
- The clinical trial will be performed at University College London
- The UCL service was set up when they started treating rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and a range of other conditions and has the most extensive experience.
- There is laboratory expertise in B cell immunology under Dr Jo Cambridge.
- UCL also has a new Clinical Trials Research Facility with staff appointed to manage trials of this sort.
- The trial is being set up in collaboration with clinicians with expertise in ME from around London, and in particular Dr Amolak Bansal.
- The UCL proposal will be rigorously evaluated by UCL in their customary comprehensive and very professional manner.
- External peer reviewing will be arranged by UCL and Invest in ME.
- Invest in ME have arranged for Professor Edwards to visit Dr Fluge and Professor Mella in Bergen, Norway to discuss the clinical trial in detail - thus enhancing cooperation and research.
- Invest in ME have agreed to fully fund the preliminary study by UCL which is a pre-requisite to the full clinical trial. This will begin shortly.
- The preliminary study will be a small study which will confirm the earlier work of Dr Amolak Bansal [1] on B-cells but using a different cohort of ME patients. Professor Edwards believes this is a useful study in its own right and a pre-requisite for the clinical trial.
- Meanwhile work is continuing on the design of a protocol which will be finalised after the trip to Bergen that IiME and Professor Edwards have arranged.
- The fundraising for this trial is being organised and coordinated by IiME so please contact IiME directly if you or your organisation would like to contribute. Our unique [MATRIX](#) crowdfunding scheme will allow multiple funders to easily contribute to the IiME/UCL trial funding.

To summarise further:

- We have the facilities available.

- We have the researchers available.
- We have the best expertise possible available.
- We have the means of fundraising for this trial available (see The MATRIX – See <http://www.ukrituximabtrial.org/IIMEUKRT%20Matrix.htm>)
- We have already contacted others to invite them to support our fundraising efforts and we welcome pledges for funding, even delayed until the peer review process has been achieved.

References:

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| 1 | Bradley, A. S., Ford, B. and Bansal, A. S. (2013), Altered functional B cell subset populations in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome compared to healthy controls. <i>Clinical & Experimental Immunology</i>, 172: 73–80. doi: 10.1111/cei.12043

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cei.12043/abstract |
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