

## **Stats Progress Report**

**Author: Julia Brown**

Regular teleconferences of the group are on-going.

Peer review of submitted manuscripts within the statistics group has been undertaken.

The group is planning a meeting with invited speakers to cover the subject of adjustment for therapist effect in sample size and analysis in individual randomized trials.

## **COMPASS postdoctoral research fellow and statistician progress report**

**Name:** Laura Hodges

**Period covered by report:** January - May (5-months)

**Date report submitted:** 04<sup>th</sup> June 2008

### **Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report):**

- Training: Attend GCP course and local research methods training seminars.
- Continue organising and participating in local meetings, seminars and Masterclasses.
- Systematic Review: data extracted and synthesised, report begun
- GP survey: paper submitted. 'Patient concerns' study: commenced.
- Current practice survey: Protocol finalised and ethics approval obtained.
- Training evaluation: End of training data collection planned and report continued.
- Users: Baseline acceptability interviews of trial procedures conducted.
- Consider sources of funding for distress intervention (Strand 2) and systematic review on training (Strand 3).

### **Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):**

General:

- Training: All completed.
- Edinburgh local seminars running on a regular basis. Two further Masterclasses have been completed. They were well attended and received excellent feedback.
- Users: Regular contact with COMPASS user reps. Acceptability interviews with users taking part in SMaRT Oncology 3 have been conducted and are continuing.

Strand 2:

- Systematic Review: Data extraction, synthesis and first-draft of results completed.
- GP survey: Draft still in progress due to re-analysis of some additional patient data.
- Current practice survey: Researchers in Leeds obtained ethical and R&D approval.
- Intervention development work: Proposals are being written for 2 studies (prospective study of distress and interview study of patient desire/preference for treatment) and these will be conducted without additional funding.

Strand 3:

- Data has been collated on the recruitment process for Edinburgh Treatment Nurses.
- Continued observation of training procedures.
- Health economic costing of training underway.
- End of training interviews completed with the Treatment Nurses and trainers.
- The Strand 3 systematic review is on hold until a new research fellow is in post.

### **Objectives for next reporting period:**

General:

- Training: Complete user-involvement training.
- Continue organising and participating in local meetings, seminars and Masterclasses.
- Users: Attend local user groups to get feedback on current projects.

Strand 2:

- Systematic Review: Draft of systematic review completed.
- GP survey: Submit for publication as a short report.
- Current practice survey: Liaise with new post-doctoral research fellow in Leeds.
- Intervention development work: Ethical approval obtained.

Strand 3:

- Recruitment: Have commenced the written report.
- Observation of ongoing training and supervision.
- Health economics costing completed.
- Training evaluation: 3-months post-training interviews in progress.
- Training systematic review: Draft of proposal prepared, consider if funding needed.

## **COMPASS postdoctoral research fellow and statistician progress report**

**Name: Annet Kleiboer**

**Period covered by report: January 2008- June 2008 (5 months)**

**Date report submitted: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report):**

#### *Training*

- Participate in Edinburgh Good Clinical Practice Course for researchers (1 day).
- Continue organizing and attending Edinburgh Master Classes, and local research seminars.

#### *Collaboration communication*

- Continue working together with S2 collaborators, collaborators in Leeds on the review and IT goals, the Edinburgh Compass group and other post-docs.

#### *Research*

- The S2 thematic review on psychological distress is aimed to be completed before the summer of 2008.
- The work on concerns of patients with MDD will be completed early 2008.
- To meet S1 IT goals, involvement in symptom monitoring system in Edinburgh will continue and a pilot study on the use of IVR for monitoring patients will start in March.
- Pilot work for survey on current practice in oncology settings: ethical approval will be obtained and interviews will start in May.
- Continue links with primary care and user involvement.

### **Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):**

#### *Training*

- All training goals achieved.
- Local research seminars run and two Masterclasses organized,
- Also attended a Palliative care research in the community in Edinburgh; A Compass strand 1 Masterclass on assessment of psychological distress in London; an eHealth seminar in Edinburgh.

#### *Collaboration communication*

- Meetings with S2 collaborators, collaborators in Leeds, the Edinburgh Compass group and other post-docs are ongoing.

#### *Research*

- The thematic review on 'psychological distress will be finished this autumn.
- The IVR pilot is delayed due to leave of absence of one of the key collaborators and is now planned for January 2009. Involvement in the Symptom Monitoring System in Edinburgh is continuing.
- Work on concerns of cancer patients suffering from depression that will inform interventions for psychological distress is finished and will be presented at the Compass Annual Scientific Meeting 2008.
- Ethical and R&D approval for the survey of current practice of clinicians regarding distress
- Intervention development work: Proposals are being written for two studies (prospective study of distress and interview study of patient desire/preference for treatment) and these will be conducted without additional funding.

### **Objectives for next reporting period (6 months):**

#### *Training*

- Continue organizing and attending Edinburgh Master Classes, and local research seminars and receive training in user-involvement

*Collaboration communication*

- Continue working together with S2 collaborators, collaborators in Leeds on the review and IT goals, the Edinburgh Compass group and other post-docs.

*Research*

- Finalize and submit thematic review on 'psychological distress'
- Continue involvement in Edinburgh Symptom Monitoring System (SMS) to meet IT goals
- Analyze existing data (collected in 2005) to evaluate the SMS in Edinburgh.
- Present work on concerns of cancer patients at the Compass Annual Scientific Meeting 2008 and submit for publication.
- Liaise with new Post Doc in Leeds on the current practice survey study
- Obtain ethical and R&D approval and commence the two development studies (prospective study of distress and interview study of patient desire/preference for treatment) that will inform the development of an intervention for psychological distress

## **COMPASS postdoctoral research fellow and statistician progress report**

**Name: Gao Wei**

**Period covered by report: 8 Jan 2008-6 Jun 2008**

**Date report submitted: 6 Jun 2008**

### **Objectives at start of this reporting period (as written in the last progress report):**

- ✓ Pooled Zarit data analysis: to shorten 22-item Zarit Burden Interview and to examine the caregiver burden profiles in various caregiver populations;
- ✓ POS-Zarit data re-analysis: to understand the role of caregiver burden in POS;
- ✓ Shared GHQ data analysis: Psychometric analysis of GHQ data using various statistical approaches;
- ✓ Re-analysis of day care data: to understand how the day care services affect patients using other medical services;
- ✓ Learn the theory of palliative care, familiarize and update relevant statistical methodologies in the areas of palliative care and cancer studies.

### **Description of progress (confine to no more than 250 words):**

- ✓ Pooled Zarit data analysis: one manuscript submitted and another one in the writing-up stage;
- ✓ POS-Zarit data re-analysis: published (Higginson IJ, Gao W. Health Qual Life Outcomes. 2008; 6(1): 42 (Epub ahead of print));
- ✓ Shared GHQ data analysis: developing analysis plan and protocol;
- ✓ Re-analysis of day care data: data analysis is on the way;
- ✓ Through exploring the opportunities of secondary data analysis to develop/establish more wider collaborations with internal and external researchers (Strand I researchers, COMPASS statisticians) through participating regular teleconference, seminar, scientific meetings etc.;
- ✓ Exploring research opportunities with public data;
- ✓ Learning the theory of palliative care, familiarize and update relevant statistical methodologies (eg. missing data and longitudinal data analysis) in the areas of palliative care and cancer studies.

### **Objectives for next reporting period:**

- ✓ Finalize manuscripts (results from pooled Zarit) and submit to relevant scientific journals;
- ✓ To develop analysis plan for GHQ shared data;
- ✓ Finish analysis of day care data and draft manuscripts;
- ✓ To strengthen the collaborations with external researchers;
- ✓ To explore more secondary research opportunities;
- ✓ To explore other potential shared datasets;
- ✓ Develop design and analysis plans for doing research with public data.
- ✓ Skill and knowledge development in:
  - Enhancing programming skills for analysis;
  - Methods of questionnaire reduction, including PCA and Rasch analysis
  - Analysis of trials and quasi-experimental designs.