The current landscape of general paediatric research

Dr Katrina Cathie

Consultant Paediatrician, Southampton Children’s Hospital
Speciality Group Clinical Lead for Paediatrics in Wessex
Chair of the CRN Children’s General Paediatrics Clinical Studies Group
What is research in general paediatrics?

80% clinical activity is general paediatrics

Prevention, management and treatment of common conditions

90% medicines for infants used off label
Why is research in general paediatrics important?

- Improving quality of care
- Generating evidence
- Financial benefits
- It’s in the NHS constitution
- Improved outcomes
Examples

• $O_2$ sats in bronchiolitis (Lancet 2015)
• Intermittent montelukast (Lancet 2014)
• H1N1, 2009
• Magnetic, used MCRN network to deliver
• CAP-IT, PERUKI and GAPRUKI networks
Current challenges

- Lack of true general paediatric studies on the portfolio
- Paucity of work in some DGHs
- Risk of paediatric research nurses being pulled to work on adult studies
- Lack of research training for paediatricians
- Perception of choice between academic and clinical
- Lack of funding/time for consultants to do research
- State of child health nationally (report)
Opportunities

• Relatively untapped and under-recruited patient group
• Significant potential for improvement
• Opportunities for integration
• Financial benefits
• Collaboration
• Child and family involvement