

TIME-A NEWSLETTER No. 1/2011
12 December, 2011

Dear collaborators,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the TIME-A project! You will receive such newsletters whenever there is something new. I hope this will help us all to keep connected and to develop a shared understanding of this truly international project. I also want all of us to develop a shared sense of ownership of this project, therefore I hope that this will not only be a one-way communication channel but an interactive one – so I invite you all to use this newsletter as well, for example by sending me text bits, pictures, etc. to include in the next newsletter.

Today, I have some exciting news for you:

1.) News about funding received and first participant randomised

a) Funding: Some weeks ago we heard that we will receive some funding from the Research Council of Norway (RCN) programme Mental Health. We later heard that it will be NOK 8m, which we were very pleased about; but a little later we found out the amount is almost twice as much – NOK15m! The two RCN programmes where we had applied (Mental Health, Clinical Research) have decided to join forces to support TIME-A. This is really exciting and means basically that the international TIME-A project becomes a reality! It also means that a position for a PhD/postdoc will be advertised, more about that soon.

b) The first participant (a child from Austria) was randomised on 29 November. This is a very important milestone. The experiences collected in Austria will also help to set up the trial smoothly in the other countries.

2.) Kick-off meeting in Bergen: June 2012

a) Save the date: The most likely date for the kick-off meeting is now 4-6 June, 2012. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come. We will do it in Bergen in order to facilitate integration with the local, but very interdisciplinary and cross-institutional team. The date has been chosen closely before the Nordic Music Therapy Congress in Finland because I know some of you are planning to go there, so for those from outside Europe it may be best to combine the trips.

b) Coordinator of this and many other things will be Dr. Karin Mössler. For those who haven't met her: She is a music therapist and music therapy researcher with many different kinds of expertise (of particular relevance here, she has experience with a previous international multicentre trial).

c) Topics for presentation: I want as many of you as possible to give a presentation at the kick-off meeting. Preferably something that combines your previous research and how you envisage your role in TIME-A (this could be chosen freely but just as some examples, John could say something about treatment guides, Grace and Tali could tell about the role of parents, Monika could tell her pilot experiences of setting up the trial, Jinah could talk about joint attention, Jinah and Gustavo could talk about child-led activities; all of the above could have something about country-specific aspects; collaborators from Bergen could talk about their specialty area – diagnosis, epidemiology,



health economic assessment, etc.). Start thinking about it! Karin will be in touch with you soon concerning the kick-off meeting.

3.) Organisational things and scheduling tasks

- a) Ethics: This is one of the first things that need to be done at each site. We want to help each site with getting ethics approval, but you all need to find out which ethics committee is responsible and what the deadlines and procedures are. Please start with that as soon as possible.
- b) Costs: Based on the funding we have received, we will be able to allocate some fixed sum per participant included, which will (my guesstimate) cover approx. half of the costs of assessments and therapy. It is then left to each site which parts that money is used for and which parts are funded from other sources. I will need your help with making a calculation there (more about that in another email).
- c) Funding: Unless you are very lucky and have lots of existing support, you will most likely need to apply for some own local funding to support the project at your place. Also here, we want to help you with drafting applications, but again you need to find out where to apply to and what the next deadlines are. This should also be started as soon as possible.

4.) Possible topics for partial projects within TIME-A

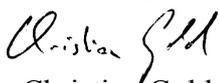
Depending on your situation and interest, some of you may want (or need) to find research topics for individual projects within or connected to TIME-A. This is a possibility (for those who want to pursue their academic career, find opportunities for publication, etc.), by no means a precondition for participating. TIME-A will collect such a “data mountain” that it should be no problem to find enough work to do, but finding your “niche” requires careful thought. Basically, I think of TIME-A as an empty house with many rooms in it. The overall architecture is set, but within this house there are lots of things to do in each room. Talk to us if you’re interested!

5.) Other news about music therapy and autism

Perhaps of related interest for some of you, a new guideline for autism in adults is currently being developed in the UK (<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG/Wave23/1/Consultation/Latest>). Music therapy is mentioned but not very much discussed. Also the more general perspectives on “recognition, referral, diagnosis and management” of autism might be of interest for you. As an associate editor of a Cochrane group I can submit comments, so if you have any comments that you want me to forward, you are welcome to tell me.

That’s all for now – but I am sure we will be in touch more regularly from now and look forward to that!

Season’s greetings,


Christian Gold

