

FAQs:

The *PTNA Capability Map*: to facilitate research success



What is PTNA?

Paediatric Trials Network Australia brings together paediatric researchers from around the country committed to improving child health through paediatric clinical trials.

Its vision is to be a world leader in facilitating high quality research to strengthen the evidence base for the treatment of all children and adolescents. Its goals are to:

- Increase the quality and quantity of investigator-driven paediatric clinical studies
- Improve the Australian operating environment for paediatric clinical trials sponsored by industry
- Provide a platform for advocacy for collaborative clinical research for paediatrics in Australia
- Deliver a sustainable network for paediatric researchers

PTNA is a not for profit, inclusive network open for membership to paediatric research organisations. Its establishment was largely funded by Therapeutic Innovation Australia through a Commonwealth Department of Education and Training's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) grant and membership fees.

PTNA's members are: The Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service, Telethon Kids Institute, Child and Adolescent Health Services including Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Women's & Children's Hospital Adelaide, Hunter Medical Research Institute and Monash Health.

For more information go to: www.ptna.com.au

Why are we asking you to participate?

The objective of the project is to help facilitate collaboration and high quality clinical research by identifying the experts involved and infrastructure available for clinical research at each PTNA member organisation.

We are asking for your information to ensure that the top paediatric researchers are supported to collaborate on investigator-led research and to provide you with a better operating environment for all paediatric clinical trials across Australia.

Your site is participating because it is a member of PTNA. PTNA will provide your site's experts' information back to your site. This is to avoid duplicating the collection of this data.

What will the information be used for? You can opt out at any time.

For PTNA to support paediatric researchers to collaborate it's important to first identify the experts and capabilities at each member site.

The capabilities database resulting from this project will be used to find and assist individuals and sites to work together on such things as:

- Multi-site grants
- Multi-site investigator driven trial
- Project review
- Commercial trial opportunities
- PTNA annual trial symposia.

The information provided to PTNA will be used to communicate with organisations and individuals. **For this reason it is important that you understand that PTNA may contact you.** Communication will be kept to a minimum.

If you do not wish to collaborate with other network members you are free to opt out at any time by responding to unwanted correspondence or emailing info@ptna.com.au .

The details you provide will be collated and provided back to your organisation to avoid duplication of this important undertaking. The database will be used for PTNA purposes only and will not be sold or shared without your consent.

What's in it for you?

- Increased opportunities to access and network with clinicians across Australia with paediatric interests that are: cross-disciplinary, cross-network, cross-institutional whether based at rural or metro centres.
- Rigorous review of trial concepts and recommendations to improve the probability of success.
- An increased pool of participants for investigator led studies.
- A central contact point for industry sponsors seeking paediatric clinical trial sites.
- An interface to the community through the website and newsletters
- An avenue for engagement with government to inform health policy and practice with respect to the paediatric population.
- Be part of a trusted authority on paediatric research that can advocate with one voice.
- Access PTNA's cost-effective, user friendly clinical trials data management system available at member rates (see info-box below re: WebSpirit)

Future activity:

- Training in the principles and practice of clinical research, such as through short courses, fellowships and scholarships to attend the annual meeting.
- Harmonised procedures and templates that will improve start-up and the conduct of research at network sites.
- A consumer advisory group to participate at various levels of the research process.

Who can you contact if you have further questions?:

If you have any queries about the project or about PTNA please feel free to contact:

Rebecca Lennon, PTNA Executive Officer, rebecca.lennon@mcri.edu.au or 03 9936 6322.

Or your PTNA Steering Committee member:

NSW	Prof Chris Cowell	Kids Research Institute at The Children's Hospital at Westmead
NSW	Prof Jonathan Craig	The Children's Hospital at Westmead, University of Sydney
NSW	Prof Ian Wright	Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, The Wollongong Hospital, University of Wollongong
NSW	Dr Koert de Waal	John Hunter Children's Hospital, Hunter New England kids Health
VIC	Prof Andrew Davidson (Chair)	Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, The Royal Children's Hospital
VIC	Prof John Carlin	Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, University of Melbourne
VIC	A/Prof Jim Buttery	Monash Health; Monash Children's Hospital
SA	Prof Helen Marshall	Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide
QLD	Prof Ross Pinkerton	Children's Health Queensland
QLD	Prof Peter Sly	Children's Health Queensland, The University of Queensland
WA	Prof Peter Richmond	Telethon Kids Institute, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children

WebSpirit:

WebSpirit is an affordable solution to managing clinical research data. It is a custom-built web-based data management system accessible from anywhere in the world where the internet is available.

- It is suitable for **all types** of clinical research projects: trials, non-trials, paediatric and adult.
- Built specifically for the Australian trials environment
- Users can create project specific data entry forms, or modify forms from a library of existing forms
- Developed in a manner to fulfil the requirements of Good Clinical Practice
- Installed on a firewall protected server in Sydney with data backups daily
- Provides access to real-time metrics on project progress such as patient recruitment and visit conduct
- Acts as a central document repository
- Has a dedicated Database Manager to provide support and training
- Developed and licensed by the Paediatric Trials Network Australia
- PTNA member sites receive discounts on fees
- WebSpirit was built using funding from Therapeutic Innovation Australia through National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) funding.