



THIN Research Day

Welcome to the second issue of EPIC LINK. In this issue we will be looking at the THIN Research day held by EPIC on 29th March 2004 at the Medical Society of London.

Alison Bourke (Managing Director) proudly opened the day with a warm welcome to the many academic and commercial researchers attending from all over the world.

The opening speech by Hassy Dattani (pictured, right) introduced the Health Improvement Network (THIN) as a collaboration between InPractice Systems (INPS) and EPIC. INPS is the supplier of the Vision practice management software used to collect the THIN data. There are over 1800 GP Practices within the UK using the Vision system; 230 of these are already contributing to THIN.

“...building a quality database”

THIN has two main objectives: The first is to promote the effective use of the Vision software to improve quality and completeness of primary care data recording in General Practice. The second is to provide

an anonymised data source for research purposes.

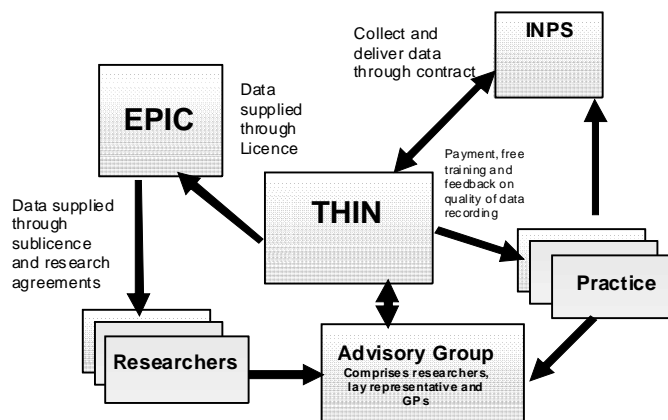
Hassy and her team described how the database is being developed into a globally accepted, medical research resource. The emphasis was on assessing the data contributions for quality and completeness.

The afternoon session, chaired by Professor David Strachan St Georges's Hospital Medical School, proved extremely interesting with researchers describing their use of THIN data.

The full program for the day is listed on the right.



Hassy Dattani - Operations Director



This diagram shows the players involved in THIN

The Research Day Program

- Introduction to THIN data
Alison Bourke,
Hassy Dattani,
Louise Pinder,
Fiona Pinder, EPIC
- Obtaining more data
Anne Costello, CCS
- Vision Demo
Dr Mike Robinson, INPS
- Benefits for GPs and the results of the quality feedback reports
Michelle Page, THIN
- Recent changes to the NHS and implications
Dr Kesten Challan, GP
- Studying the safety of Nicotine Replacement therapy
Dr Richard Hubbard,
Nottingham City Hospital
- Determining the safety of Trazodone/Nezafodone during pregnancy: A comparison of data collection methods
Adrienne Einarsen,
Motherisk, Toronto,
Canada
- GRIDHealth: A comprehensive interagency data and knowledge system to support population-based monitoring and research in chronic disease
Bev Ellis,
Lancaster School of Health and Postgraduate Medicine

Other News & Updates

- THIN was featured at the Royal Society of Medicine's upcoming meeting in London on 7 June. The presentation can be found on:
www.rsm.ac.uk/academ/ppt/abourke.ppt

THIN Launch Party



THIN Launch party followed the Research Day. Researchers were invited to enjoy a glass of bubbly to celebrate the successful launch of the THIN database.

The Future

Researchers are already delving into the rich data in the THIN database. It already contains over 3 million patients. Prac-

tices are being actively recruited and it is hoped that the database will contain 5 million patients by the end of 2005.

The number of active patients registered in THIN is almost 3% of the population of England and Wales.