ALSPAC obesity interest group

A large number of investigators are working on the obesity resource. There is no formally constituted obesity group but various groups working on specific projects meet regularly.

The ALSPAC obesity resource

The ALSPAC obesity resource is set up to allow the study of the genetic determinants and the environmental antecedents and consequences of obesity in late childhood. In addition to data already collected in pregnancy and earlier in childhood we are collecting (and calibrating) detailed data on diet, physical activity and body composition through adolescence. We are using diet diaries completed over three days, physical activity diaries competed over four days and uni-axial movement sensors worn for seven days and whole body DXA scans.

A more detailed description of the resource is provided in:


Investigators working on obesity in ALSPAC

A list of investigators leading work in various areas is provided below (in alphabetical order):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Atkinson</td>
<td>Physical activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Blair</td>
<td>Physical activity and sedentary behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Dunger</td>
<td>Early growth and genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline Emmett</td>
<td>Diet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Fox</td>
<td>Visceral adiposity (measured by MRI scan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Jebb</td>
<td>Diet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Johnson</td>
<td>Diet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Lawlor</td>
<td>Early life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Martin</td>
<td>Breast feeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Ness</td>
<td>Early life and physical activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Ong</td>
<td>Early growth and genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russ Pate</td>
<td>Physical activity and sedentary behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Reilly</td>
<td>Early life and energy balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Riddoch</td>
<td>Physical activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Wells</td>
<td>Early life and determinants of lean tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Wright</td>
<td>Early life and use of impedance measures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent papers (2005 onwards)


**Forthcoming publications**

Loos RJF et al Association studies involving over 85,000 samples demonstrate that common variants near to MC4R influence fat mass, weight and risk of obesity. *Nature Genetics*: (in press February 08).

**Current grants (supporting work on obesity)**


**Future plans**

In future analyses researchers working on obesity plan:

- To describe the longitudinal association between objectively measured physical activity (and sedentary behaviour) and obesity
- To explore the lifecourse determinants of obesity in late puberty
- To investigate the lifecourse determinants of visceral fat deposition
- To continue to look at the associations between diet and obesity

Andy Ness
April 2008