





<p><b>Julia Cockle – United Kingdom</b></p>  <p><b><u>Supported by SIOPE</u></b></p>		<p><b>University of Leeds</b>  <b>Leeds Institute of Cancer &amp; Pathology</b>  Paediatric Oncology</p> <p>Leeds  United Kingdom</p>
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I felt honoured to receive a place on the Methods in Clinical Cancer Research workshop held in the beautiful town of Flims, Switzerland. As a clinical research fellow in paediatric neuro-oncology, I have focused my PhD on developing oncolytic virotherapy for children with poor prognosis brain tumours, and the course was an invaluable experience in helping me to acquire the essential training to design, write and develop my early phase study. Throughout this one-week intensive course I had excellent individual mentorship from highly experienced clinical experts from Europe and the USA, who not only challenged me to think about different designs for my study, but also provided me with a sound training in protocol development.

In particular, I valued the enthusiasm, mentorship and teaching I received from Dr Birgit Goerger, Chair of the Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer Clinical Trials Committee and I am sure that I will draw upon her advice on how to overcome the challenges of designing trials for children with rare diseases for the rest of my career. The workshop also allowed me the opportunity to receive one to one support from statisticians from research institutes across the globe, which has been invaluable for the development of my own trial protocol and has vastly improved my personal knowledge on the fundamental basis of clinical trial methodologies. Throughout the week I was also able to network with other paediatric oncology trainees from across Europe. This peer support really helped and motivated me to design and write my study and I am excited about the potential future collaborations we discussed while working together in Flims. Overall, the clinical workshop exceeded all expectations; it was an excellent educational experience, meticulously organised, and run by outstanding and enthusiastic clinical experts with a clear passion for teaching and training. With the support of this workshop, I have produced a working trial protocol and I am excited to take this back to the UK and continue the hard work required to open my study. Finally, the workshop has provided me with a sound knowledge base, and I am highly motivated, passionate and dedicated to use this experience in my future career as an academic paediatric oncologist.