



GPIAG/IPCRG News

GPIAG News

GPIAG National Conference Report

'Respiratory Care – the Future is Now'

Over 200 doctors and nurses with a respiratory interest attended the 19th GPIAG Annual Conference at Warwick University on the 29th–30th of September for a rich mixture of challenging plenary sessions and practical interactive workshops, with the added benefit of plenty of valuable networking and informal sharing of ideas. David Price outlined at the start of the conference the continuing challenge of inequalities and inadequacies in respiratory care. COPD has the lowest overall QOF score and the highest variation of QOF scores for any disease area, and the summer's news of the plans for a National Service Framework for COPD was welcomed. The process by which that NSF will be developed was outlined later by Professor Sue Hill from the Department of Health; the GPIAG is recognised as a key player and is represented by Rupert Jones and Noel O' Kelly on the Expert Reference Group. Other great talks included Douglas Fleming on pandemic flu – recollecting the time he and his partner met on Boxing Day 1969 to share out 40 home visits during the influenza epidemic of that year – and Samantha Walker giving a masterly summary of what to do about anaphylaxis ('get on and give the adrenaline': it seems that even some doctors at the Brompton wanted to fuff around with hydrocortisone first!). John O Reilly from Liverpool reminded us what a big problem sleep apnoea is, particularly if you – or your partner – has it. Mike Pringle gave us his vision of how Connecting for Health would drive better patient care.

Breakout sessions included a meeting of practitioners with a special interest in respiratory disease, as well as practical sessions on respiratory

diagnosis, oxygen therapy, and asthma in children. In a lively debate against David Price, Hilary Pinnock succeeded in persuading a significant minority of the audience to doubt the value of inhaled corticosteroids in COPD. A wide range of valuable new research in respiratory care was presented – an example being Patrick White's demonstration that the interpretation of spirometry in primary care may be sub-optimal, and that more work is needed to assure its quality. We saw an excellent new resource for COPD patients – a DVD called 'Move on Up' encouraging home exercise as a key part of disability limitation – but Rupert Jones emphasised that this is a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the pulmonary rehabilitation programs that need to become much more widely available.

A recurring theme was the valuable synergy of inter-professional co-operation in respiratory care. A presentation of the brave new world of further NHS reorganisation by Dr Rebecca Rosen from the Kings Fund was followed by a debate on the way these changes might affect respiratory care – a debate which illustrated some of the potential threats to co-operation contained in these changes.

This was a great meeting and an excellent showcase for the many strands of valuable work being done across the country to improve the care of patients with respiratory disease in the community. Everyone at this conference will have gone home buzzing with new ideas and enthusiasm. Thanks are due to Hilary Pinnock and the Conference Management Team, and to the sponsors.

Report by Duncan Keeley

GPIAG Membership Fees 2006

2007 will mark the second year of GPIAG membership subscriptions. After listening to our members, the charity will, in 2007, introduce two new membership packages aimed at those with an

interest in primary care medicine who are working in secondary care and are already members of the BTS or ARNS. Additionally, we have introduced a special discounted rate for those primary care professionals whose annual income falls below £20,000. Rates are as follows;

Member type

Primary care healthcare professionals (Full member):

Direct Debit Fee - £50; Cheque Payment Fee - £55

Primary care healthcare professionals whose annual salary is less than £20,000 (Full member):

Direct Debit Fee - £25; Cheque Payment Fee - £27.50

Those working outside of primary care (Supporter member):

Direct Debit Fee - £120; Cheque Payment Fee - £132

Full members of the British Thoracic Society (BTS) or Association of Respiratory Nurse Specialists (ARNS) – Supporter member:

Direct Debit Fee - £50; Cheque Payment Fee - £55

International membership (Supporter member):

Europe: £72.50; Japan £90.00; Australasia £90.00; Rest of World £85.00

2007 heralds a very special year for the GPIAG – the twentieth anniversary year of the organisation – and there will be plenty of programmes and projects to celebrate our achievements. There has never been a better time to join the GPIAG.

For more information or to obtain a copy of our direct debit form please contact info@gpiag.org.

One year's free membership if you can recruit two new members

As a special incentive to full members of our paid subscription scheme, if you can recruit two new members to the GPIAG paid subscription scheme we will offer you one year's free subscription. Full details of the benefits of membership are available at; <http://www.gpiag.org/about/join.php>.

For more details on this incentive and how to participate please contact the GPIAG on 01461 600639 or email info@gpiag.org.

IPCRG news

IPCRG expansion continues on all fronts.

Membership development:

IPCRG Sri Lanka has held its first meeting. Congratulations to Sarath Paranavithana and Seneth Samaranayake. They also organised the pre-

congress symposium for their College of General Practitioners in October. Dermot Ryan attended the Ukrainian PCRG meeting in Kharkov in October, with over 700 delegates. Good luck to Oleksii Korzh and Sergiy Krasnokutskiy. We are speaking at the CardioPneumo AIMEF in Bari, Italy in January, on a growing area of interest – the development of GPs with a special interest. Best wishes to Antonio Infantino.

Research:

At the time of writing we await the outcome of our bid to the EU for a major project on the review of care of children with asthma – E-SPACE. We have a protocol for an international survey on GPs with a special interest, led by Hilary Pinnock.

Publications:

We have published on our website (www.theipcrj.org) position statements offering practical guidance to managing aspects of asthma in primary care not sufficiently covered by current guidelines.

Education:

For details of the IPCRG Academy meeting on COPD in Aberdeen in January, see <http://theipcrj.org>. The Scientific Committee and panel are currently finalising the programme for our 4th biennial conference, 28–31 May Seville 2008. Put the dates in your diary. Themes: cross-cultural and cross-professional work, and variability in practice. We need ambassadors in each country to promote the meeting – please volunteer!

External affairs:

We held a successful summit on asthma at the European Parliament in October, hosted by Liz Lynne, MEP. We are strengthening our role with the Global Alliance Against Respiratory Disease (GARD), represented by Niels Chavannes.

For more information please contact Sam Louw on sam.knowles@abdn.ac.uk or 00 44 1224 552427 or see our website www.theipcrj.org.

Siân Williams
Executive Officer

Education for Health News

Spirometry

We are recruiting now for our Level 2 Spirometry module developed in conjunction with The Association for Respiratory Technology & Physiology, and endorsed by the British Thoracic Society, for those practitioners who want to take forward their skills in recording and interpreting

spirometry in primary care. The focus of the module is dynamic lung volume measurement in clinical practice. Courses run regularly in Warwick or can be delivered locally. The next available Warwick course starts on 17 January 2007. Also available is a short one-day course on spirometry for healthcare professionals, and our new short course on spirometry recording for Healthcare Assistants. For further information please contact Glynis Nicol, Education Co-ordinator, Tel: 01926 838969 or email g.nicol@educationforhealth.org.uk.

Respiratory Therapeutics CD rom

We are delighted to announce that a revised and fully updated version of our Respiratory Therapeutics CD rom is now available. This multimedia practical learning tool for healthcare professionals includes sections on how drugs work, management guidelines, devices and video clips with tips on how to use devices. This CD is a great aid to improving consultations and providing enhanced patient care. For further information please see our website www.educationforhealth.org.uk, or fax 01926 493224, or call 01926 493313.

New free E-mail Bulletin

We are launching a new free and interactive e-mail bulletin service packed full of information, announcements and news as well as inspiring success stories, looking at pioneering ways that our students, trainers and education commissioners are applying their knowledge to champion better care for patients. This will cover matters related to education, communication and leadership for truly effective organisation and delivery of care. There will be items of interest to health professionals and managers with responsibilities or interests in respiratory disease, allergic disease and research. If you would like to receive this e-bulletin please email Vicki Golding at v.golding@educationforhealth.org.uk.

MSc in Respiratory Care

Education for Health has been running a part-time Masters Programme since 2005. Our MSc in Respiratory Care fulfils the GPwSI and specialist practitioner competencies and provides a valuable opportunity to experience multi-disciplinary learning. Its practical approach focuses on enabling health professionals to influence developments in respiratory care services. Enrolments are now being taken for the January/February 2007 cohort. Further details available from Rosie Stone. Tel: 01926 838968. Email: r.stone@educationforhealth.org.uk.

Training Opportunities – Become a trainer tomorrow!

We are looking for experienced health professionals who are passionate about respiratory care and enthusiastic about educating others, to facilitate teaching sessions, supervise and mark student assessments at degree, diploma and masters levels. Please contact Sue Rivers, Director of Education. Tel: 01926 838967. Email: s.rivers@educationforhealth.org.uk.

Allergy

Following the success of the joint Education for Health/British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI) Primary Care Day which took place in July in Loughborough as part of the BSACI's annual scientific meeting, we are delighted to be working with the Society again on a similar event next year. The event will take place on 4th July 2007, so put the date in your diary now! Details will be available on the Education for Health and the BSACI websites over the next few months, but for more information contact Jan Chantrell, Allergy Module Leader; Tel: 01926 836845. Email: j.chantrell@educationforhealth.org.uk.

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