

NEWS

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GPIAG News

Message from the chairman of the GPIAG Executive

As chairman of the GPIAG Executive it is my pleasure to update you on a number of important and exciting new changes and challenges for GPIAG. As you may know the *PCRJ* is now being published in-house by the GPIAG; we look forward to seeing our flagship journal go from strength to strength as both a peer-reviewed journal and an educational tool for primary care. On behalf of you all, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing enthusiasm and dedication of the editorial and publishing team. We all wish the journal well.

2009 promises to be a year of change in primary care with changes to the UK Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), the introduction of the National Strategy for COPD, and the emergence of new guidelines and amendments to existing guidance. The GPIAG will be playing its part in all of these and more. Specifically, keep your eyes open for a series of high quality meetings and publications to support the dissemination of the National Strategy for COPD.

Perhaps the most important part of our educational activity is our annual conference which this year is on the 25th-26th September 2009 at The Arts Centre, Warwick. The conference will provide you and your colleagues with an opportunity to learn from nationally- and internationally-respected leaders in the respiratory field. See notes below for further information.

The GPIAG was founded on an abiding principle that our patients deserve high quality care, and as chairman I am encouraged to meet so many of you at conference who remain committed to this ideal. Later this year we plan to work with partner organisations and yourselves as members of the GPIAG to promote a long-term respiratory Quality Initiative within practice, describing and demonstrating good clinical practice based on evidence which is generated in primary care.

We hope to help you to develop your own skills through the activity of our various sub-committees and would encourage you to tell us what you need. Contact the GPIAG at info@gpiag.org.

Please take time to visit our website which provides details of all the GPIAG resources available and which can be downloaded by members of the charity - <http://www.gpiag.org>.

Iain Small
Chair, GPIAG Executive

GPIAG Conference

Transforming respiratory care – Your chance to make a difference

25th-26th September 2009, Warwick University

We are proud to announce the 2009 GPIAG Primary Care Conference - the premier conference for primary care healthcare professionals with an interest in the management of respiratory disease.

The theme for this year's conference is 'transforming respiratory care' and how primary care health professionals can 'make a difference' both through their individual clinical care of patients, and how they structure and organise respiratory care within the practice and beyond.

The programme offers main plenary sessions focusing on asthma, COPD, respiratory related-allergy and how to 'get care right', and parallel sessions including the differential diagnosis of respiratory disease, managing infection, oxygen therapy, and key service delivery issues such as sleep apnoea, how to develop a 'managed clinical network', and the training of health professionals in respiratory medicine. Cutting edge clinical research sessions are also available, as well as 'how-to workshops' for those practical issues such as choice of inhaler device, spirometry, or allergy testing.

To download the conference brochure, view the programme and for further information on how to register please visit our website at <http://www.gpiag.org/conferences/index.php>

SPECIAL EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION RATES - BOOK NOW TO SECURE GREAT DISCOUNTS

If you take advantage of the early bird registration rate, and register before 6th March, GPIAG members can register from as little as £210 (including VAT and accommodation on 25th September 2009). Non-members can register from as little as £290, which includes free membership of the GPIAG for the remainder of the calendar year.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NURSE AND GP TO ATTEND FROM THE SAME PRACTICE

The GPIAG are delighted to offer a specially reduced registration package for a nurse and GP to attend from the same practice. Visit our website for more information - <http://www.gpiag.org/conferences/registration.php>

IPCRG News

External Affairs

1. Liz Lynne, Member of European Parliament (MEP) hosted a best practice-sharing seminar at the European Parliament in January, featuring the role of patient information in chronic disease management : The Irish asthma project Helping Asthma in Real Patients (HARP study)– a model for Europe? We are also now looking to extend this study beyond the Irish pilot.

Research

2. As a second activity in IPCRG's e-faculty program, Niels Chavannes paid a 5-day visit to Ho Chi Minh City and Tay Ninh province, Vietnam, in November. It has been agreed to test out the FRESH AIR protocol on smoke reduction here. We are grateful for the supply of "in kind" resources from Vitalograph and the World Health Organisation. Proposed outputs from Phase 1 are: three abstracts for the Toronto 2010 World Conference; questionnaire validation; analysis of the distribution of airway obstruction and airway pollution in the pilot population; and qualitative research into smoke-related beliefs in Vietnam.

3. To keep the momentum of our international meetings and to provide researchers with an annual outlet for their work, the IPCRG will now host additional scientific meetings in the intervening year between the main biennial meetings. The first of these "no embellishments" meetings will be held near Stansted airport, UK, 5th June 2009. In response to feedback this meeting will also include two new concepts in addition to traditional research. Firstly, we want to allow researchers to present research ideas that need further discussion with peers. Secondly, there is much quality improvement or service delivery enhancement work

being undertaken in primary care respiratory disease. The abstract submission system goes live on 1 February 2009 and will allow for three sorts of abstracts. Closing date for submissions is May 1 2009. See http://www.theipcr.org/sci_conf_2009/

4. We are involved in U BIOPRED, a consortium bid led by Prof. Peter Sterk to the European Commission Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI). The proposal, to investigate biomarkers for severe asthma, came first in the initial ranking phase and the full proposal has now been submitted.

Education

5. Our efforts for World COPD Day were acknowledged by GOLD. They are still available – in English, Greek and Turkish: http://www.theipcr.org/campaigns/wcd_2008_intro.php. Our survey showed that a number of respondents had not previously been aware of the IPCRG and that further resources for grass-roots GPs with very limited time per patient would be welcome. Specifically, resources on managing anxiety and depression, patient communication and therapies were requested. The top barrier for primary care physicians in diagnosis and treatment of COPD patients was COPD patients not presenting with symptoms.

6. We have published a slide set and short summaries to support the dissemination of our paper on asthma control in Respiratory Medicine: http://www.theipcr.org/resources/asthma_control.php

7. One aspect of this paper was inhaler choice. This was the subject of a one-day IPCRG meeting in January with representatives from primary and secondary care from 12 countries. This will be written up and disseminated.

Siân Williams, Executive Officer

Register
from as little as £210
(all inclusive)*

National Primary Care Conference of the General Practice Airways Group

Transforming respiratory care: Your chance to make a difference

25th/26th September 2009 • University of Warwick, UK

Developed by leading primary care experts, the theme for this year's exciting conference is **"transforming respiratory care"** and how primary care health professionals can **"make a difference"**

- Main plenary sessions focusing on asthma, COPD and respiratory related allergy and how to "get care right"
- Parallel sessions include the differential diagnosis of respiratory disease, managing infection, oxygen therapy, and key service delivery issues such as sleep apnoea, developing "managed clinical networks" and the training of health professionals
- Cutting edge clinical research sessions
- A series of How to... workshops providing excellent opportunities for learning new skills and brushing up on techniques for managing respiratory disease

For further information please visit our website for the conference programme and to register online
<http://www.gpiag.org/conferences/index.php>

* see registration form for full information and restrictions

