

NEWS

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PCRS-UK News

PCRS-UK National Primary Care Conference – Optimal Respiratory Health: Leading the way

10th-11th September 2010 – Telford International Centre

- Are you worried about how the new change in government will affect services to your patients?
- What will happen to the COPD National Strategy?
- Who will be commissioning healthcare services and how?

With a new coalition government and the inevitable cuts in healthcare budgets to follow, there has never been a better time to ensure that you can learn about how all these changes will affect you in delivering respiratory healthcare services to your patients. The Primary Care Respiratory Society (PCRS-UK) National Conference will provide you with topical information and advice on how to deliver respiratory services and how to drive improvements in the quality of respiratory management in primary care within the confines placed on us by the new government.

The PCRS-UK 2010 conference programme is designed to equip you as a primary care health professional to meet the challenges and opportunities for driving high quality respiratory care. Whether you are working at practice level or in the community, as a respiratory lead at locality level driving service improvements, or as a primary care respiratory researcher – this outstanding conference has something for you.

The conference provides essential clinical updates, highlights the leadership and communications skills needed at every level of respiratory care, and offers the latest in research and innovation. The programme is structured around main plenary sessions offering essential clinical updates on asthma and COPD, as well as expert insights into the impact of lung disease on our patients and guidance on how to spot those rarer but serious respiratory conditions.

In addition, three simultaneous parallel streams address:

- more complex clinical and service delivery issues, in conjunction with IMPRESS
- the latest respiratory research, and original audit/research presentations, in conjunction with the *PCRJ*
- practical "how to" workshops

To find out more about the conference visit our website at <http://www.pcrs-uk.org/conferences/index.php> or contact a member of the conference team on +44(0)121 351 4455.

Respiratory Leaders Programme

The PCRS-UK recognises the importance of having a primary care respiratory leader in every locality who can drive improvements in respiratory care beyond practice level and/or educate other primary care health professionals. To help achieve this ambition the PCRS-UK has developed an exciting programme of events and resources to help and support respiratory leaders in primary care.

In addition to our expanding range of policy updates, teaching resources and links to useful sources, we provide tailor-made informative, interactive workshops aimed at providing practical, structured support to help you develop your clinical and leadership skills and knowledge. In addition to the National Conference, there are two further events planned for 2010 which may be of specific interest to respiratory leaders, designed and facilitated by experienced respiratory leaders and leadership/management experts:

1. Leading Change in COPD Care – Using the National Strategy for COPD to make a difference

A one-day workshop on 6th July 2010, London. The meeting will educate and equip you, as a primary care respiratory leader, to lead change in your area, implementing the COPD National Strategy to improve COPD care. For more information and details on how to register visit http://www.pcrs-uk.org/e-files/top100_meeting.pdf.

2. Respiratory Leaders Interactive Workshop

A two-day practical workshop - 12/13 November 2010, Milton Keynes. FREE to PCRS-UK Members. The meeting will offer a series of practical, iterative and interactive sessions, and delegates will learn how to build and lead an effective respiratory team. If you are interested in attending please contact our secretariat for more information at info@pcrs-uk.org

The PCRS-UK wishes to acknowledge the generous support of Allen & Hanburys in the provision of an educational grant to support the PCRS-UK Respiratory Leaders programme.

Resources

The PCRS-UK is continuing its ambitious programme of educational tools and resources. New this month is a Patient Group Direction (PGD) on the emergency immediate administration of prednisolone in uncontrolled asthma. Members of PCRS-UK can access this resource from http://www.pcrs-uk.org/resources/nurse_tools_m.php. We have also recently updated our Nurse Skills document – a report which aims to support nurses assess their own skill level in respiratory medicine and enable them to identify training needs: to view the revised

document please visit http://www.pcrs-uk.org/nurses/skillsleveldoc_rev2010.pdf. Our other nurse resources are also in the process of being reviewed and updated.

We are also in the process of updating all of our COPD opinion sheets (see <http://www.pcrs-uk.org/pubs/opinionsheets.php>) to ensure they comply with new guidance. Watch out too for new opinion sheets on the following subjects which will be available shortly:

- Screening and case finding of COPD
- Presentation and initial assessment of COPD Status
- Supporting self-care for patients with COPD Status
- Admission avoidance and early/supported discharge schemes for COPD Status

Want to be more involved?

If you are interested in getting more involved in the activities of the PCRS-UK there are many ways in which you could help – from assisting with the preparation of materials and tools, piloting work, helping with developing policy statements, or getting involved in our nurse and/or respiratory leaders programme. Please contact us at 0121 351 4455 for an informal discussion.

IPCRG News

5th IPCRG World Conference

June 2-5, 2010

The Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Canada

By the time you read this the Toronto conference will be over. We are extremely grateful to the organising team led by Alan Kaplan, the Scientific Committee led by Rob Hauptman, our logistics and accreditation team from the University of Toronto, and all our sponsors. The vast majority of the abstracts were of sufficient quality to be published in the *PCRJ* and are available online as an extension to this issue [doi:10.4104/pcrj.2010.00025].

Amsterdam 2-3 June 2011 – Primary care at the leading edge

We are now planning for the next “no frills” scientific meeting which is an opportunity for new and experienced researchers to test out ideas and present findings in an unthreatening setting amongst peers. Look at www.theipcrj.org for more information.

Edinburgh 25-28 April 2012 – Breathing New Life

Planning is also underway for our 6th biennial conference in Scotland, to be hosted by our UK group, the Primary Care Respiratory Society UK. Go to www.ipcrj-pcrs2012.com for more information.

Research

The IPCRG Research Needs Statement is now published as a supplement to the *PCRJ* [doi:10.4104/pcrj.2010.00021]. It describes what we believe are the key questions that need answering if primary care is to optimise its support for patients with, or at risk of, common respiratory diseases and tobacco dependency. We hope the statement will be used by clinicians and patients campaigning for answers to relevant questions, to support researchers seeking funding to provide answers to these questions, and to inform funding bodies prioritising research agendas. We have circulated it widely to policy makers and partner organisations.

U-BIOPRED

U-BIOPRED is a study funded by a grant from the European Union Innovative Medicines Initiative and is taking place in approximately 18 centres throughout Europe. U-BIOPRED plans cross-sectional and longitudinal studies to characterise cohorts of patients with asthma, pre-school wheeze, COPD and healthy controls in terms of clinical features, physiological measurements and non-invasive measurement of biomarkers, and to use the measurements to develop phenotype handprints for adults with severe asthma. The IPCRG is one of the consortium partners which comprise academic institutions (20), biopharma industry (9), patients/care organisations (6), Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) (4) and multinational industry (1).

Available online at <http://www.theipcrj.org>