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Research Editor:
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For further information about the General Practitioners In Asthma Group write to:

GPIAG Secretariat, The Medical Marketing Interface, Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road, Bath BA1 7DE.

New GPIAG chair in Primary Care Respiratory Medicine to be hosted at Aberdeen

Primary care has developed into a major clinical discipline. It is an effective and economical way of delivering healthcare. Primary care physicians treat both a wide array of disease and channel more difficult or unusual problems into the hospital setting. All medical schools in the UK now have departments of general practice or primary care.

Since its inception the General Practitioners In Asthma Group (GPIAG) has aimed to revolutionise respiratory care in the UK. A major step in achieving this aim has been realised by securing funding from a consortium of pharmaceutical companies to support a Chair in Primary Care Respiratory Medicine for a period of five years. We are delighted to announce that our interview panel (Dermot Ryan and David Price, for the GPIAG, and Robert McKinley and Douglas Flemming, independent interviewers) awarded this post to the Department of General Practice and Primary Care at Aberdeen University. The professorship will be advertised and an appointment made later this year.

The professorial post will be a resource to develop pertinent, evidence-based solutions, to initiate epidemiological and clinical studies; to further develop the research network; and to explore and develop the interface between primary and secondary care. The post will support the application of evidence-based medicine by those working in primary care. By establishing this new post, the GPIAG is providing an opportunity for primary care-led research and innovation.

Respiratory diseases are major reasons for consultation in primary care.¹ The primary care team manages most patients with these problems exclusively. Guidelines for the management of asthma,^{2,3} COPD⁴ and rhinitis⁵ have been produced, but only a few^{3,4} have had input from primary care. Secondary care solutions are not always appropriate for primary care problems, one of the reasons for this new post.

The GPIAG Research Unit in Dundee continues to be responsible for important respiratory research⁶⁻¹⁴ (full bibliography on web page) and runs the group web page (<http://www.gpiag-asthma.org/asthma/GPIAG/welcome.htm>). Members actively participate in national and international respiratory conferences and many have contributed significantly to the medical literature in the last 20 years.¹⁵ The group has an extensive research network of more than 250 practices. Our journal, *Asthma in General Practice*, publishes work relevant to primary care respiratory disease, including abstracts of work presented at our Annual Scientific Meeting. ■

Dr Dermot Ryan
 Chairman, GPIAG

Dr David Price
 Joint Research Director, GPIAG

Dr Mark Levy
 Editor, *Asthma in General Practice*

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