



GPIAG/IPCRG News

GPIAG News

New GPIAG Membership Scheme

Changes to the GPIAG Membership scheme incorporating new membership subscriptions come into force from January 2006. All members of the organisation have been mailed with full details of the new scheme. If you have not received your copy or you have any questions about the scheme please contact the secretariat for more information on 01461 600639 or email info@gpiag.org

GPIAG Website (<http://www.gpiag.org>)

As part of the new membership scheme we plan to develop some new special areas of the website dedicated specifically to members only. If you are a member of the organisation and wish to make any suggestions on how we can improve the website please let us know by contacting the secretariat or emailing info@gpiag.org

GPwSI/PwSI Resources

The GPIAG is continuing to develop its programme of activities for those who are, or wish to become, GPs or Practitioners with a Special Interest (GPwSIs or PwSIs) in respiratory disease. Our website has recently been revised, and there is now a section of the website specifically for GPwSIs and PwSIs <http://www.gpiag.org/gpwwsi/index.php> which includes details of our range of support services and educational activities together with details of resources which may be of use.

IPCRG Update

Website

We are constantly updating our website and any new news item is flagged up on our welcome page. Please visit our site to learn more about

the activities of the organisation, <http://www.theipcrg.org/>

Research register

We have a searchable database which registers current primary care respiratory research, in order to aid colleagues in developing new proposals. This can be accessed at <http://www.theipcrg.org/researchreg/index.php>. We also invite authors to inform us of recent relevant publications that can be added to our recent publications database via the same website address.

Contact Update

As you may know Sam Louw is currently on maternity leave until 12th May 2006. Our business manager contact during Sam's leave will be Tricia Bryant. Tricia can be contacted on +44 (0)1461 600639 or by email at tricia@redhotirons.com.

NRTC News

Education for Health: a dynamic new force in professional health training

Education for Health is a merger of two of the UK's leading education institutions for health professionals: the National Respiratory Training Centre (NRTC) and Heartsave. It aims to provide a consistent, comprehensive and innovative approach to professional health training across the fields of respiratory health and cardiovascular disease (CVD), with the ultimate objective of transforming lives worldwide.

Monica Fletcher, Chief Executive of the NRTC, explains the rationale behind the merger: "There is a natural fit between the NRTC and Heartsave. We both have a strong track record of providing quality professional training for healthcare

professionals in the different but related areas of respiratory and cardiovascular disease and we share a common approach in terms of our ethos and core values. Being part of this dynamic partnership will add a new dimension to the way in which we operate.”

Both partners in Education for Health have each earned a reputation for excellence in their respective areas of expertise. Each will continue to provide its own current range of professional education services, but increasingly they will collaborate to provide a comprehensive service encompassing both respiratory health and CVD. The two organisations now share administrative offices in Warwick, and have established a new training centre, Westgate House Conference and Training Venue, allowing students from both organisations to benefit from excellent facilities and a superb learning environment. Joint collaboration has already proved to be highly successful: in 2004, NRTC and Heartsave worked closely together alongside Warwick Diabetes Care as the ‘Education Alliance’ to launch the popular new ‘Diploma in Chronic Disease Management’ programme.

Sue Weston, Chief Executive of Heartsave, looks to the future with relish: “We have ambitious plans for Education for Health and we believe that the organisation will make a significant impact. By pooling our resources and sharing best practice, we will be able to improve further the quality and breadth of our services.

Professor Martyn Partridge, Chair of the NRTC and Professor of Respiratory Medicine at Imperial College, London, comments: “The NRTC has consistently provided professional education of the highest possible quality in the field of respiratory health. This merger with Heartsave will help to make this tried and tested approach available to a wider audience and has the potential to contribute to better standards of care and improved outcomes for patients across two key disease areas.”

The NRTC is an independent education and research institution for health professionals, and since 1987 it has trained more than 32,000 health professionals. It currently offers 16 Open University validated modules and five respiratory programmes including diploma, degree, postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma courses and an MSc in Respiratory Care, as well as a range of one-day short courses.

Heartsave is an independent charity established in 1998 to improve the care and health of patients with Cardiovascular Disease by supporting professional development through provision of high quality evidence-based training. More than 5,000 health professionals from a range of disciplines have participated in the National CVD Training Programme, which includes short courses and validated modules.

Education for Health is located at: The Athenaeum, 10 Church Street, Warwick CV34 4AB

E-mail: enquiries@educationforhealth.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1926 493313

Web: www.educationforhealth.org.uk



Home Oxygen Service

The Department of Health has signed contracts with four companies for the delivery of an integrated home oxygen service in ten home oxygen service regions in England from 1 February 2006. The four companies are Air Products, Linde, BOC and Allied Oxycare/Medigas. The Department will be issuing contact details for the companies as soon as possible so that PCTs can begin to work with them to manage service changes.

Readers are referred to the editorial on this subject by Pearce (doi:10.1016/j.pcrj.2005.06.011) in this issue of the journal.

A briefing pack and other guidance will also be available over the next few months.

For more information contact Peter Williams at prwill@onetel.com



ERS Presidential Award for Greta Barnes

We are delighted to bring to readers’ attention the news that Greta Barnes, the founder of the UK NRTC and one of the most important figures in the education and training of healthcare professionals in respiratory disease over the last 25 years, was awarded a Presidential Award at this year’s ERS meeting in Copenhagen. Greta’s leadership and dynamism is legendary, and her influence has been immense, particularly in UK primary care but also worldwide. This award is thoroughly deserved, and we send our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Greta.



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