



GPIAG/IPCRG News

GPIAG News

GPIAG National Conference

29/30 September 2006, University of Warwick

The 2006 national GPIAG conference "Respiratory care: The future is now" will take place on 29th/30th September at the University of Warwick. The conference aims to take a new look at the management of people with respiratory conditions in primary care. We will explore new ideas, new drugs, new technology, and new ways to deliver care for patients. We will discuss new partnerships, both with professional colleagues in both primary and secondary care, but also with patients, as well as new roles for specialist nurses, GPwSIs and PwSIs.

With the ever-increasing changes to the NHS we will also be looking at the impacts of practice-based commissioning, payment by results, the primary-secondary care interface, and how the changes will affect our patients and their care.

Book early to register for the conference as places are limited. Last year we were over-subscribed more than two months before close of registration. Full details on registration and submission of abstracts available at <http://www.gpiag.org>. For other details and additional registration information contact the GPIAG - see contact information below.

GPIAG Opinion Sheets

We have recently been updating our GPIAG series of opinion sheets. Newly available opinion sheets on the website include Management of Asthma in Children, IgE therapy, Oxygen therapy, the Quality Outcomes Framework, and Asthma and Allergy. Please go to <http://www.gpiag.org/opinions/index.php> for more information.

GPwSI/PwSI Support Network

The GPIAG has led the way in collaborative efforts with the RCGP and the Department of

Health (DOH) to develop a respiratory framework for GPwSIs and is continuing to act as vanguard in the development of a core curriculum, appraisal and mentoring, and accreditation policy for respiratory GPwSIs. In addition to our regular training programme for new GPwSIs, the GPIAG is developing a GPwSI/PwSI support network. The network will have its own dedicated section of the website and, subject to funding, we will also be running a regional support network update meeting on October 12th later in the year. If you are interested in attending the GPwSI support network meetings, please contact us to register your interest.

GPwSI/PwSI Training Meeting

Following its successful training meetings in 2005 the GPIAG plans to run another training course for new or prospective GPwSIs/PwSIs; these courses help GPwSIs/PwSIs to address the issues and challenges facing them, and will help them put together an action plan for respiratory management within their PCO. The proposed date of the next course is 13/14 October 2006 at Wychwood Park Conference Centre, near Crewe, Cheshire. If you are interested in attending this course please contact the GPIAG at info@gpiag.org.

GPIAG COPD Templates

The GPIAG has launched a new, user-friendly template designed to improve the management and diagnosis of COPD in line with the 2006 Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF 2006) and current NICE guidelines. The QOF measures a limited range of topics and this template extends this range in line with national advice – thus facilitating an effective and efficient approach to the management of patients at risk of, or currently living with, COPD.

Designed and written for a wide range of computer software programmes, the new GPIAG software is compatible with GPASS, TOREX (iSOFT),

EMIS IV and VAMP VISION ensuring that it can be easily introduced into 'every day' use throughout the UK.

The GPIAG Research COPD template - for primary care - is available free via email to templates@gpiag.org quoting COPD in the message header and inserting your contact information in the message body.

Interested in joining the GPIAG?

You are eligible for company (full) membership of the GPIAG, if you join the paid subscription scheme and are a UK primary care healthcare professional. As a full member you can ultimately help determine the direction of the GPIAG through your rights to vote at General meetings.

Benefits of membership:

- Free bi-monthly copy of the PCRJ
- Discounts at GPIAG conferences and on our publications
- Members-only section of the website (under development), providing access to a wide range of information and services and a means by which the GPIAG can communicate with its members
- Full voting rights (full members only)
- Opportunity to be involved in the work of the charity through its policy network or one of the Committees or working groups (full members only)
- Supporting the work of the GPIAG and its goal of optimal respiratory care available to all

Subscription Fees:

The full annual fee at £120 is designed to cover the costs of an individual member and will be open to anyone with an interest in primary care respiratory medicine. A **discounted annual fee of £50** is available to you if you are a primary care health professional working in the UK. To join the GPIAG simply go online to <http://www.gpiag.org/newmems/index.php> for more details or contact the secretariat. Payment may be made by cheque or direct debit.

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IPCRG News

Thanks to Anders Østrem/welcome to new President

After a hugely busy time organising our Oslo conference and overseeing the substantial growth in the IPCRG's activities and membership over the last two years, Anders stood down as IPCRG President in June. We would like to thank him enormously for his contribution and for his energy, enthusiasm, and clear thinking. His successor is John Haughney, well known to the GPIAG as its previous Chair. We welcome John and look forward to a further phase of growth.

Membership

We would also like to welcome Dermot Ryan as our new Chair of the Membership Sub-Committee taking over from Thys van der Molen who will continue to work with the charity as an ambassador.

We are delighted to welcome the Belgium Primary Care Respiratory Group as a new Ordinary member with full voting rights.

Conferences

Reports and slides (and, as we go to press, we plan for audio-recordings) from our 3rd International conference are available on our website. We are now already looking forward to our 4th International conference being held in Seville, 28-31 May 2008.

The members unanimously voted in Canada as the host of the 2010 conference.

Where next with asthma guidelines?

The IPCRG is preparing statements for web-release in September to guide primary care professionals on various aspects of asthma management that it believes are not being addressed in existing guidelines. The topics are: trends in asthma prevalence and presentation; asthma with rhinitis; young children with 'wheeze'; working with patients to improve asthma control. For more info, contact Sam.Knowles@abdn.ac.uk

Website

We are constantly updating our website and any new news item is flagged on our welcome page. Our webmaster has been working with our Ukrainian members to set up a website for them.

Research—major bid to EU for research on managing children's asthma and research register

After encouragement from the EU we have re-submitted our grant application called ESPACE and await its response.

We have launched a searchable database to register current primary care respiratory

research, to aid colleagues in developing new proposals. This can be accessed at <http://www.theipcr.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 <http://www.theipcr.org/researchreg/index.php>.

External affairs—Europe

As part of the development of the ESPACE bid, we have significantly improved our profile at European policy levels. With EFA we have submitted responses to the consultation on pharmacovigilance and with EFA, ERS, EACCI and others have successfully achieved inclusion of respiratory disease and allergy in the draft framework for research—FP7.

External affairs—Asia Pacific

During the Oslo conference we held our first meeting of primary care practitioners from the Asia Pacific region including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia where we hope to help our colleagues form new primary care respiratory groups.

Annual General Meeting—Minutes

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 8th June 2006. Draft minutes are available to view on our website.

Contact Update

Samantha Louw, our Business Manager is back from maternity leave and contact details are listed on our website.

Asthma UK

Emergency care in asthma—Materials for Health Professionals

By improving the information available to healthcare professionals, Asthma UK is hoping to reduce the number of repeat emergency hospital admissions for people with asthma. Currently one in six people with asthma who have received treatment for an asthma attack need emergency treatment again within two weeks.

Having produced two information booklets for people with asthma last year, *After your Asthma Attack* and *After your Child's Asthma Attack*, the charity is now piloting a tool for healthcare professionals who come into contact with people at the time of an asthma attack. *Improving Emergency Care for People with Asthma: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals* provides information on how to treat emergency cases, and how to standardise asthma care and reduce the number of emergency asthma admissions and attendances.

The guide is being piloted for six months in four NHS sites—Luton, Lewisham and Hereford/Worcester plus Peterhead/Grampian in Scotland. Luton and Lewisham will concentrate on children's emergency asthma services, while the others will focus mainly on adult asthma services.

If you are interested in obtaining a PDF of the guidance pack, or finding out more about this project, please contact Erica Evans, Asthma Care Development Manager on 020 7786 4927 or eevans@asthma.org.uk.

Respiratory Education UK

A New Era

April has been a busy month for the Respiratory Education and Training Centres (RETC) as it heralds the announcement of our new corporate identity. The staff are delighted that Respiratory Education UK was launched on "home ground" at the first of our national Breath of Fresh Air meetings for 2006 at Aintree Racecourse on Merseyside. The change marks a new phase in the development of our charitable organisation and reflects the focus and purpose of our work.

At the same event, the new MSc in Respiratory Disease Management was also unveiled. This multidisciplinary programme starts this month and provides medical and nursing staff, and allied health professionals, the opportunity to study one of three discreet postgraduate awards in a highly specialist area. The programme addresses the core competencies outlined in the "Guidelines for the appointment of General Practitioners with Special Interest 2003" and enables practitioners to negotiate a bespoke pathway through which they can access study that will help them develop and configure primary care services.

In April, our new Chief Executive took up post. This has been an interesting and exciting period for Respiratory Education UK. For more information please contact: Respiratory Education UK, Unit 48, Aintree University Hospitals, Longmoor Lane, Liverpool, L9 7AL, or e-mail Gill Hall at gill.hall@respiratoryeduc.com, or contact her by phone on 0151 529 2598 or fax: 0151 529 3943.

Collaboration between the BTS and GPIAG, Asthma UK and Education for Health

It has been clear for some time that a closer working relationship between the GPIAG and the BTS (British Thoracic Society) could be beneficial

to both organisations and could result in major benefits for patients through setting standards for better respiratory care. There is a need for all to be aware of, and involved in, the rapid changes that are taking place in the NHS. Both organisations need to engage with, and work together to influence and change, the current NHS agenda, in order to provide more effective respiratory services to patients.

Following useful meetings between members of the GPIAG, BTS and also Education for Health (formerly the National Respiratory Training Centre) held during the ERS and BTS Winter meetings in late 2005, discussions on the best way forward resulted in the formation of a joint 'Think Tank'. This was set up in early 2006 and comprises members of the GPIAG, BTS, Asthma UK and Education for Health. It first met in February 2006.

Agreed plan

During discussions at the first Think Tank meeting, it seems that there are three main areas in which the BTS and GPIAG could provide professional leadership relating to the primary care/secondary care interface and how it impacts on the care of people with respiratory disease:

- Developing the QOF
- Developing a commissioning template for respiratory services, and associated standards
- Providing a template for setting up respiratory care networks.

In addition it was agreed that there should be collaboration on the Health Foundation's recent call for proposals for its Engaging with Quality in Primary Care project, since a project which improves the quality of primary care respiratory medicine (especially accuracy of diagnosis) could also help to further the aims stated above.

It was agreed that Education for Health would arrange and host a one-day workshop/brainstorming session in June, with industry funding, for primary and secondary care organisations to discuss these interface issues in more detail. One aim would be the production of a 'toolkit for commissioning'.

The proposal that the Think Tank evolves into a formal Joint Working Party which meets at least twice a year was agreed.

Other items for discussion included:

- Collaboration on (or at least, sharing of information about) responses to consultations issued by NICE, in particular, but also other external bodies. The agreed conduit for information about this will be the Chief Executives of the BTS and GPIAG

- The GPIAG proposed a mutual membership scheme. The BTS indicated that it would be able to reciprocate by offering concessionary membership rates for members of GPIAG including concessionary rates for conferences.
- GPIAG Annual Meeting. A number of senior BTS members have indicated their enthusiasm for attending the GPIAG meeting in September 2006 to increase their understanding of the aims and objectives of the organisation.
- BTS Winter Meeting – the possibility remains of there being a joint BTS/GPIAG session at the Winter Meetings. It was suggested that the BTS Scientific Meetings Committee be approached about a joint BTS/GPIAG session/symposium at the 2007 Winter Meeting.
- Discussions about GPIAG representation on BTS education, scientific meetings and research committees to achieve joint aims would continue.

It is hoped that in this way the organisations involved in this alliance will achieve better care for patients with respiratory disease, and will have a stronger voice in lobbying for change and standard setting.

Harold Hosker
John Macfarlane
Sheila Edwards



Education for Health News

Competencies in Practice

The NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) is one of the key documents that defines and describes the knowledge and skills required of the health service workforce (DOH, 2004). It identifies the knowledge and skills that need to be applied to practice areas and is designed to ensure health care professionals reach their full potential. The KSF offers opportunities for the whole workforce to grow and develop within their capabilities.

Education for Health plays a key role in helping individuals to be competent in the workplace by providing high quality education and training opportunities to further career progression. All our materials are mapped against the key competencies within the KSF so that you can use the information to support your own development needs or that of the wider team in which you work. Education for Health currently provides a portfolio of short courses, modules and programmes for every stage of career development.

For further details please contact Annie Wing, Associate Director of Education, Tel: (0) 1926

436991 or email: a.wing@educationforhealth.org.uk.

Scottish Initiative to Improve Asthma Care in Scotland

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (QIS) is working in partnership with the Scottish Executive Health Department and Asthma UK to improve the health and well being of people with asthma. This is part of a research project which will end in March 2007, and which aims to:

- make personal asthma action plans available for adults and children throughout Scotland;
- develop a learning resource for healthcare professionals aimed at people with asthma and members of the public to support the use of personal action plans;
- provide high quality accredited asthma education.

Personal action plans for adults have been distributed throughout Scotland as part of Asthma UK's portfolio of *Be In Control* materials. A group chaired by Education for Health trainer Dr Iain Small is developing personal action plans for children for use in acute care and primary care. The project will look at developing learning materials to promote and support the use of personal action plans. Alliance Self Care Research (of which Dr Hilary Pinnock is a member) will help with the development of the learning resources.

Education for Health is providing the asthma education for this project. Health professionals who receive training will be invited to become members of a 'Community of Practice', which will promote the use of personal action plans and best practice. This group will also pilot the use of the learning resource(s). Ruth McArthur will lead on the training. She will liaise with module leaders and the academic team to ensure that training resources are appropriate, evidence-based, up-to-date, and of high quality.

Allergy Update

1. DoH allergy review

The Department of Health (DoH) initiative to review the nature and extent of allergy service provision in the UK is due to report in June 2006. This has involved the DoH pulling together a broad range of stakeholders. Sam Walker has represented primary care, nursing, and Education for Health at these discussions, and is in the process of developing a Primary Care Allergy Network (PCAN) with other primary care colleagues (see PCAN@allergyuk.org for more details). PCAN would be very interested

to hear from you if you are currently providing community-based allergy services.

2. Primary care allergy day

Following on from the earlier successful one-day allergy workshops, Education for Health a Primary Care Allergy organised Day jointly with the British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI) as part of the BSACI's Annual Conference on Wednesday 12 July 2006 in Loughborough. The programme included talks by internationally renowned speakers as well as practical workshops. Please visit www.bsaci.org for more details.

3. New allergy module leader

We are delighted to welcome Jan Chantrell to Education for Health's academic team as the new Allergy Module Leader. Jan is a respiratory and allergy nurse specialist at Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, who has recently completed an MSc in Allergy at Southampton University and brings a wealth of experience to the role. Jan has been a key trainer on our allergy modules for some years.

Stop press

The UK Department of Health (DoH) National Allergy Advisory Group report was published on 20th July. Mark Levy represented Harrow Primary Care Trust and general practice on the review panel. The main recommendations from the report are as follows:

- local commissioners are to establish the need for allergy services in their health community.
- Strategic Health Authority workforce planners are to work with Deaneries and providers to explore the potential for creating additional training places for allergists.
- the DoH is to consider options for commissioning the development of NICE guidelines for allergy, and will work with the Royal Colleges on referral guidelines and care pathways.

The GPIAG will be using this opportunity to address respiratory allergy needs throughout the UK and, through organisations such as the Primary Care Allergy Network (PCAN), to address overall allergy needs as well.

The report has been published online at; http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4137365&chk=/Z3Wtj and see <http://www.PCAN-uk.org> for further information on PCAN.