



ELSEVIER

GPIAG/IPCRG News

GPIAG News

GPIAG National Conference 29/30 September

By the time you read this, the GPIAG Conference will be over and we will be planning our Conference for 2007. In the meantime, the GPIAG will continue to provide educational materials and programmes to our members.

GPwSI/PwSI Support session

On November 23rd 2006 the GPIAG will be hosting a GPwSI/PwSI support session for members of our GPwSI Support Network. This short half-day meeting will outline GPIAG initiatives for GPwSIs/PwSIs, will provide an opportunity for a soapbox session for participants, and will also feature a presentation by Chris Town, Project Director for CPLNHS Cambridgeshire, Greater Peterborough Primary Care Partnership, on the latest NHS reforms and how these will impinge upon practitioners involved in intermediate care. If you are interested in attending this support session please contact info@gpiag.org for more information.

GPIAG Website

Our enhancements to the website will continue to be rolled out over the last quarter of the year. In recent months you will have seen the new members' only discussion forum [<http://www.gpiag.org/forums/>]. In addition to providing categorised material which makes searching easier, the discussion forum is now a members-only section of the website which has eradicated our previous problems with Spam.

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

IPCRG position statements for asthma management

The IPCRG has published a set of position statements on its website to guide primary care professionals on various aspects of asthma management that it believes are not addressed in existing guidelines:

- trends in asthma prevalence and presentation
- asthma with rhinitis
- young children with wheeze
- asthma management - the patient's perspective.

For further information see <http://www.theipcr.org/index.php>

These papers highlight some of the challenges for primary care practitioners in selecting the appropriate guideline recommendations to use for individual patients, recognising, for example, that treatment guidelines based on randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are derived from findings that may not apply to the "real-life" setting of primary care. The IPCRG emphasises that the guidelines most relevant to primary care are based on initial signs and symptoms rather than diagnoses.

The paper on trends in prevalence and presentation explores the various explanations for an increase in prevalence and argues in favour of improved detection as well as a real increase in asthma symptoms. Despite this improved detection, it claims that significant respiratory symptoms remain undetected and describes ways for primary care to address this.

The next paper recognises the link between asthma and rhinitis and provides guidance on how to assess and manage this potential co-existence.

Wheeze is a very common symptom or sign in young pre-school children and yet there is a lack of guidance for primary care practitioners on how to manage this. The IPCRG's position paper describes a way forward for managing these children.

The final paper is written from the patient's perspective, and concludes that primary care has a role in addressing both the needs of individual patients and their expectations of treatment, thereby improving asthma control.

For more information see <http://www.theipcr.org>



British Lung Foundation

This year's World COPD Day on November 15th 2006 will see the British Lung Foundation launch a nationwide campaign to find an estimated two million people who are thought to have undiagnosed Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), one of the UK's major killers. The campaign is part of the British Lung Foundation's longstanding mission to raise awareness of COPD, a range of chest conditions including chronic bronchitis, emphysema and small airways disease caused by repeated damage to the lungs. Although there are around 3 million people with COPD in the UK, only 900,000 are correctly diagnosed and many people with the disease don't seek medical help until their disease is advanced. The British Lung Foundation wants all those who might be at risk – anyone aged over 35 with a smoking history, to have their lung function tested. Although COPD is progressive and irreversible, early diagnosis can prevent further damage to the lungs and the right treatment can help control symptoms of the disease.

To find the "missing millions" of people who may have COPD, the charity will be holding high profile lung function testing and awareness-raising events in major shopping centres in London, Glasgow, Sheffield and Newcastle in early- to mid-November, as well as local activities organised by its Breathe Easy support groups around the UK. The events will inform people about the signs and symptoms of COPD and encourage them to have a spirometry test. Anyone thought to be at risk will be encouraged to visit their GP.

To help raise awareness, the charity will be offering people the opportunity to enter a prize-winning word-search competition based on the symptoms of COPD. Keep an eye on the BLF website and your local press for more details.

Posters are also available for GP surgeries – please contact the British Lung Foundation on 0207 688 5555 for more details.

For more information please contact Jill Morrell at the British Lung Foundation on jill.morrell@blf-uk.org



Education for Health News

Report from the Chief Executive

In June we were honoured to hold our first graduation ceremony in Warwick for four of our students. Sue Rivers (Director of Education) and myself had the pleasure of conferring these students on behalf of the Open University. Next year

we hope to have over 40 students graduate, so we are hoping that one of our many historic buildings here in Warwick will host the event.

I attended the launch of the BTS second edition of the Burden of Lung Disease with colleagues from the respiratory community and 12 members of parliament. There were four nurses at the event including: Jane Scullion, Chair of the RCN Forum; Liz Walker, Chair of ARNS; Sam Prigmore, Chair elect of ARNS; and myself. We were fortunate enough to meet with Rosie Winterton, Minister of State for Health Services and had a few moments to express the vital role that nurses fulfil in the care of patients living with respiratory disease. We have invited Ms Winterton to come to the Centre to a meeting with the leading nurses across the UK to discuss what is happening to specialist nursing roles and to emphasise the role they have to play.

Visiting doctors from Syria attended the training centre to undertake the asthma module and spirometry training in June. They are taking their learning back to Syria to set up a centre of excellence. Not only were they impressed by the excellent training they received from all three trainers involved in the training days, but they were overwhelmed by the beauty of our wonderful town.

The US organisation has successfully relocated from North Carolina to Virginia. We would like to thank the US team for making this transformation happen and to welcome Jude Fishwick Taylor to the organisation. It is also with great pleasure that we welcome back to the team Taryn Cuper (nee Tacosa) who left us in 2005 to move to Virginia.

We have had more recruits to the UK team including Daryl Unitt – IT Manager, Suparna Mukherjee – Database Developer, Gurpreet

Randhawa – Business Analyst, Eileen Pearson – Module Leader within the Cardiac Team, and Julia Neal – CVD Team Leader.

Finally, a farewell to Professor Martyn Partridge as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Martyn has been a board member for over a decade and has now decided to stand down. He will still be a great advocate of the Charity. His Chairman's position has been taken up by Professor Bryan Stoten, who was the Chairman of Heartsave. We also welcome two more new Board members; William George as Treasurer and Professor Sally Singh, an academic physiotherapist, bringing wider diversity to the Board.

Monica Fletcher
Education for Health



University News

University of Bradford - Post Graduate Diploma or Certificate in Respiratory Medicine now available

The course is part of a series of non-profit making courses, which are clinical competence-based and which are tailored to train NHS-registered practitioners to an advanced level in collaboration with the local network of care.

The courses offer a university-accredited award and certification for an extended role as a Practitioner with a Special Interest. They are deliberately structured to encourage the development of appropriate pathways of care for all participants in their specific area of work.

For further information please email psi@bradford.nhs.uk or see our website <http://www.bradfordcity-pct.nhs.uk/practitioners+with+special+interest>

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

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