

NEWS

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GPIAG News

The Twentieth Anniversary Conference of the GPIAG, Keele University, 22-23 June, 2007

The conference was a tremendous success. Over 200 delegates attended a superbly-organised event, very much in the traditional manner of GPIAG conferences of old. Our thanks to Tricia Bryant and Gail Ryan, the conference team, and the GPIAG 20th Anniversary Conference Organising Committee chaired by Iain Small – well done all.

An excellent mix of plenary sessions and lectures, 'hands-on' workshops, research presentations, interactive sessions (chaired with aplomb by Vinty McGovern...), debates, and keynote presentations, made an enlightening and fascinating couple of days. The highlight was the 20th anniversary Commemorative Dinner in Keele Hall, after which Steve Holmes, the current Chairman of the GPIAG Committee, presented awards to the founder members of the GPIAG as well as those who have given exceptional service to the GPIAG over the years. This was followed by an excellent presentation (which included much photographic evidence...) by Mark Levy on the history of the GPIAG over the last 20 years. Many of us were waiting with bated breath to see if we were going to appear in less-than-flattering photos – many of them years old and depicting raucous events of GPIAG conferences from days gone by. Most of us escaped unscathed. We were delighted to be joined at the Conference by many members of Education for Health (formerly the NRTC) which is also celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. There was a late-night party at one stage of the Conference, but your commentator is far too diplomatic to divulge the names of those involved! A great time was had by all. Plans for Liverpool 2008 are already in hand. Long may these excellent GPIAG conferences continue. [Commentator; Paul Stephenson]

GPIAG Annual General Meeting 22 June 2007

The seventh Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the General Practice Airways Group ("the Company") was held at Keele University on 22nd June 2007. Copies of the minutes of the AGM can be found on our website at http://www.gpiag.org/legal/agm_minutes_2007_final.pdf.

GPIAG GPwSI/PwSI Programme

Following a support network meeting for interested members, plans are now afoot to develop further programmes of education for those who are, or wish to become, a GPwSI/PwSI with an interest in respiratory medicine. Plans include a meeting focusing on topical clinical interests such as the provision of oxygen therapy in primary care, the IMPRESS project (Integrating and Improving Respiratory Services - see <http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/IMPRESS>) and nurse accreditation. For more details on our GPwSI/PwSI programmes please visit <http://www.gpiag.org/gpws/index.php>

GPIAG – Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

The GPIAG is continuing to make progress on the new range of materials being developed specifically to support the needs of nurses working in primary care respiratory medicine. Our document on skill levels for delivering high quality respiratory care by nurses in primary care is available for GPIAG members to download at <http://www.gpiag.org/nurses/index.php> along with the first in our series of protocols on spirometry in COPD. Further protocols, and a series of practice group directives (PGDs) on key issues, will also be launched later this summer.

GPIAG Opinion Sheets

In addition to the *Primary Care Respiratory Journal*, the GPIAG produces a range of educational materials for members which includes a series of opinion sheets. These are concise, easy-to-follow documents on common respiratory topics aimed at providing practical guidance to those working in primary care respiratory medicine. New additions to the series include opinion sheets on asthma action plans and COPD action plans. Opinion sheets are available free of charge to members of the GPIAG and can be downloaded from our website – see <http://www.gpiag.org>. For non-members, full details of the benefits of membership are available at <http://www.gpiag.org/about/join.php>

Become more involved with GPIAG

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the GPIAG please contact us for an informal discussion as to how you can help. You may be interested in standing for election to one of our committees – the research committee,

education committee, practice nurse working group, or general committee – or alternatively you might be interested in joining our policy network to help shape the documents and submissions that we prepare when making representation to bodies such as NICE, the Department of Health and the Healthcare Commission. For more information about how you can be more involved, please contact us at info@gpiag.org.

British Lung Foundation News

The British Lung Foundation wants GPs to offer lung tests

During a very successful campaign for World COPD Day last year, the British Lung Foundation (BLF) highlighted the “missing millions” – more than two million people in the UK who could be affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and who are not diagnosed.

COPD kills more people every year than colon or prostate cancer, and more women than breast cancer; but a recent survey commissioned by the charity revealed alarming levels of ignorance about the disease. Although it is one of the UK's biggest killers, most people had never heard of COPD. They didn't know what the symptoms were, or that its main diagnostic tool is a spirometry test. The charity continues the Missing Millions theme on World COPD Day this year – November 14, 2007. As part of a nationwide campaign, the BLF will ask that anyone who has concerns about a persistent cough, breathing problems, a wheezy chest, recurrent chest infections or any other possible signs of COPD, visits their GP and asks for a lung test.

As part of its Charter for better diagnosis, treatment and care for people affected by lung disease, the charity is calling for the introduction of routine lung function tests every three years in primary care for all people aged over 35 with a smoking history, for those with recurrent chest infections and for others at risk of COPD. The BLF particularly wants to get the message about COPD across to women. The disease now kills more women in the UK than breast cancer and the rate of COPD has been increasing nearly three times faster amongst women than amongst men.

Julia Shipston,
British Lung Foundation,
73-75 Goswell Road,
London EC1V 7ER.
www.lunguk.org
Tel: +44 (0)20 7688 5564
E-mail: Julia.shipston@blf-uk.org

IPCRG News

IPCRG Conference 28-31 May 2008, Seville, Spain

The conference website is now up and running in English and Spanish – put the date in your diaries and organise your time away from your practice now! <http://ipcr-seville2008.unicongress.com/>

IPCRG at the ERS

We strongly encourage you to attend the Primary Care Day, Saturday 15 September in Stockholm <http://dev.ersnet.org/357-primary-care.htm>

This has been set up by the ERS primary care group (1.6) with support from our Swedish group as well as the IPCRG. The IPCRG AGM will be held at the end of this Day.

Other IPCRG sub-committees will be meeting during the ERS. If you have not heard of the schedule and will be attending Stockholm, please contact Sam Louw.

External affairs

- Niels Chavannes represented the IPCRG and the primary care perspective at the June Annual General Meeting of the Global Alliance Against Respiratory Disease in Seoul. See <http://www.who.int/gard/en/>
- The IPCRG has been working closely with GA2LEN to support its campaign ‘Does rhinitis lead to asthma?’ - see <http://www.ga2len.net/index.cfm?action=viewPublicPage&pageID=1990>. As part of this we are working with Wonca to produce diagnosis information for family physicians.
- The Brussels Declaration on Asthma, to which we made a significant contribution, is now launched: <http://www.summitforchange.eu/>
http://www.theipcr.org/resources/resources_asthma.php

Education

We are delighted to announce that we have published our smoking cessation desktop helper authored by Svein Henrichsen, Norway, and reviewed by Nick Zwar, Australia, two highly experienced family physicians in the field of smoking cessation, on <http://www.theipcr.org/resources/index.php>. It is also in laminated hard copy thanks to a grant from Pfizer Europe. Our smoking cessation guidelines will be available shortly.

We hope to run a series of national meetings to support the implementation of the guidelines, based on local need and approaches to smoking cessation. If you are interested in becoming involved please contact the Secretariat.

Research

We are actively pursuing the possibilities of bidding for European Framework Programme FP7 funding in collaboration with our members and associate members.

Siân Williams, Executive Officer

Contact Details:

Sam Louw E-mail: sam.knowles@abdn.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1224 552427

www.theipcrj.org

Asthma Australia

The Asthma Foundation of Western Australia "Community Outcomes in Asthma" Web Directory

Between 2002 and 2005, the Asthma Foundation of WA coordinated the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing National Asthma Community Grants Scheme. The Grants Scheme involved small grants of \$500 to \$12,000 being offered to health services and community organisations across Australia. Funding was provided to projects which aimed to improve the health of people with asthma, to provide information which promoted better asthma management, and to promote awareness of better asthma management among individuals and health practitioners.

The Asthma Foundation of WA has received additional funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to develop an electronic directory for the Asthma Australia website that will provide detailed information on the (nearly) 700 projects. It is envisaged that the Community Outcomes in Asthma directory will publicise the excellent work carried out by the various health services, community groups and individuals who participated in the Grants Scheme, encouraging collaboration and discussion amongst professionals with an interest in the area of asthma and health promotion.

Health professionals and community groups will be able to search the directory by year, topic, state, target audience and keyword. A number of showcase grants have been chosen for each state and their success stories and experiences and the various approaches they used to overcome the barriers they encountered will be discussed in more detail. Electronic copies of any resources that were produced by the showcase grants will also be available for download.

The projects cover topics across a broad range of asthma-related issues. For example;

- the Bendigo Community Health Service promoted the asthma health status of players, parents and associated volunteers of the Golden Square Football Netball Club through their Golden Healthy Asthma Sports Project.
- Yorke Peninsula Division of General Practice developed a Desktop Asthma Management Tool for doctors and allied health professionals to access when dealing with clients with asthma. The tool provides a consistent educational evidence-based approach to asthma management and encourages health professionals to work in partnership with their asthma patients to improve asthma management.
- Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service conducted an "Indigenous Asthma Awareness Program" and disseminated asthma management information amongst members of the local Aboriginal community. Training was provided to Aboriginal Health Workers and nurses within the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service, health promotion activities were conducted, an asthma educator was employed and a culturally appropriate TV commercial was developed for broadcast.

To view these and many other projects, visit the Asthma Australia website (www.asthmaaustralia.org.au). For more information, please contact Vanessa Seebeck at the Asthma Foundation of WA on Tel: +61 9289 3602.

Education for Health

Anniversary News

We are delighted to have worked with our publishers Sherborne Gibbs to produce a supplement celebrating our 20th anniversary – distributed with the June edition of the *British Journal of Primary Care Nursing – Respiratory Diseases and Allergy*. Contributing to the supplement has enabled us to reflect back on, and to look forward to, the next 20 years and the challenges this will bring us all in primary care. In writing our story we were able to celebrate the amazing work that practice nurses – working alongside their GP colleagues – have achieved in raising the standards of respiratory and cardiovascular disease provision in primary care over the last two decades. Learn more about our journey and read extracts from the supplement at www.educationforhealth.org.uk/pages/anniversary.asp

Conference News

The last couple of months have been a busy time for conferences, taking members of the charity around the country and the globe! The American Thoracic Society is a high profile scientific meeting for us, and a team of six attended the meeting this year in San Francisco. Sam Walker,

Jane Upton and Jon Miles presented a seminar with our US nursing colleagues on getting evidence into practice – an increasingly important issue for all nurses around the world. I had the unenviable task of Chairing this group! I then went to Michigan University to participate in making a training CD-Rom on improving nurse consultation skills in asthma care as part of a research project funded by the US Government – which mirrors our latest course in the UK on Partners in Care: Five Steps to Better Consultations. There were also trips to present papers at other conferences including the Congress of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) in Göteborg, Sweden. Of course, one of the most important events was the GPIAG Twentieth Anniversary National Primary Care Conference in Keele, in which we were delighted to participate. Attending conferences is important to us as an international organisation; not only do we get an opportunity to educate nurses throughout the world, but we also learn so much in the process of doing so.

New developments – Improving care for cardiorespiratory patients

Cardiorespiratory symptoms (including breathlessness, chest pain and cough) are the presenting symptoms of many disorders. The symptoms can have a cardiac, respiratory, metabolic or psychological origin. We are delighted to announce the launch of two new exciting modules which are designed to enable you to manage these symptoms;

Cardiorespiratory symptoms; assessment and diagnosis offers frontline health professionals the opportunity to develop the skills needed to be able to assess systematically a

patient presenting with acute cardiorespiratory symptoms. This module is particularly suitable for any health professional who has responsibility for providing the first point-of-contact for patients with acute symptoms. It is equally relevant for primary or secondary care practitioners. This module will be launched in late Autumn 2007.

Cardiorespiratory symptoms; long-term management and palliative care explores the cause and impact of long-term cardiorespiratory disease. The module focuses on the role of the health professional in symptom management to improve the patient's quality of life. It is particularly suitable for health professionals working in primary care and community settings as well as those with an interest in palliative care in either primary or secondary care. This module will start in September 2007.

Further information available from: k.whitehead@educationforhealth.org.uk

Symposia

The last of our series of symposia providing an overview of recent developments and the latest evidence will take place in Warwick in September 2007 (Cardiovascular on 18 September and Respiratory on 25 September). For further information please contact symposia@educationforhealth.org.uk

Monica Fletcher, Chief Executive

Tel: +44 (0)1926 836841

E-mail: m.fletcher@educationforhealth.org.uk

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