

## NEWS

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doi:10.3132/pcrj.2008.00062

### GPIAG News

#### Coming Soon: GPIAG Online Asthma Quick Reference Guide

The GPIAG is delighted to announce the launch of a new online quick reference guide for Primary Care Organisations and those working in primary care - available this Autumn.

The guide will feature relevant key points from the 2008 BTS/SIGN Guideline on the Management of Asthma and also the recently published NICE guidance on inhaled steroids. The guide will be designed for primary care health professionals to use in the consultation, and will be supported by a number of other resources to assist practitioners in ensuring that they adopt best practice measures in the diagnosis and management of asthma in primary care. These other resources include training materials, opinion sheets and questionnaires. Visit our website for more details <http://www.gpiag.org>

#### Update Meeting for Respiratory Leaders and Practitioners with a Specialist Interest (PwSIs) 7th-8th November 2008, Milton Keynes

This workshop will provide a clear picture of changes in the NHS and how to work within the new NHS environment to influence the commissioning and provision of new services. It will offer experienced clinicians who are keen to commission or provide community-based services a forum in which to share experience and address problems drawing on national expertise and experience.

If you would like to register to attend, or you require further information, please contact the GPIAG Secretariat on telephone number 01461 600 639 or visit the website [www.gpiag.org](http://www.gpiag.org). Hurry, places are available on a first-come, first-served basis...

#### New GPIAG Opinion Sheets – available free to all

The GPIAG offers a range of concise, easy-to-follow opinion sheet publications, aimed at providing practical guidance to those working in primary care respiratory medicine. **New this Autumn**; COPD Reviews, Asthma Reviews, Inhaler Devices, Rhinosinusitis, The role of Long-Acting Bronchodilators and Inhaled Corticosteroids in Asthma, The role of Long-Acting Bronchodilators and Inhaled Corticosteroids in COPD.

The opinion sheet on Asthma Action Plans has also been updated.

Watch out for further new opinion sheets on the diagnosis and management of asthma incorporating guidance from the new BTS/SIGN guideline for the management of asthma, available soon. To access the full list of opinion sheets available, please visit: [www.gpiag.org/pubs/opinion\\_sheets.php](http://www.gpiag.org/pubs/opinion_sheets.php)

#### New Website Upgrade Announced – [www.gpiag.org](http://www.gpiag.org)

Watch out for our newly-designed website which will be available soon. Taking into account the comments of members who completed our online survey, the new website will feature a simpler log-in process, be easier to navigate, and will also feature a new livery which we hope you will enjoy. The upgraded system will be available later in the Autumn. Your feedback is vital to us and any comments on the new website will be welcomed.

#### Get the latest *PCRJ* online articles

You can now receive the titles of the latest *Primary Care Respiratory Journal* articles published online delivered to your desktop by subscribing to the PCRJ's RSS feeds. For more information, please visit: [www.gpiag.org/journ/index.php](http://www.gpiag.org/journ/index.php).

#### GPIAG Email Alert Scheme

The GPIAG provides a free regular email alert scheme to provide rapid updates on its activities, new information on the website and on respiratory matters of interest to primary care health professionals. To register, please visit: [www.gpiag.org/mail/index.php](http://www.gpiag.org/mail/index.php).

#### Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of the GPIAG, please do contact us. Benefits of membership include free hard copy issues of the *Primary Care Respiratory Journal (PCRJ)* bringing you the latest in primary care respiratory research and news, discounts at GPIAG conferences and events, access to the members-only section of the website providing access to a wide range of information and services, as well as full voting rights and the opportunity to influence and be involved in the direction of the charity.

Our contact details are: Email: [info@gpiag.org](mailto:info@gpiag.org), telephone: 01461 600 639, facsimile: 01361 331811

## IPCRG News

### IPCRG Conference 28-31 May 2008, Seville, Spain

Nine hundred and thirty-two delegates from over 40 countries participated - double the size of previous meetings! We had a great conference with the now-typical mix of high quality real-life research, challenging debate and wit. Summaries of many of the sessions will be online soon at [www.theipcr.org](http://www.theipcr.org). There is a tremendous sense of camaraderie and global interest developing amongst the IPCRG community. This was enhanced in Seville by the attendance of delegates from many low and middle income countries and by excellent simultaneous translation that enabled our Hispanic-speaking colleagues to participate equally. We hope that Miguel Roman, the Chair of the Conference Organising Committee and his team can now relax a little. Alan Kaplan and his team have now accepted the IPCRG conference torch that they will carry to Toronto in May 2010.

### Research

The Research Sub-committee in Seville heard several excellent presentations from countries wishing to pilot our e-faculty initiative to support a research-aspiring country to develop its capability. We have selected Vietnam as the pilot site and have already begun work with Ass Prof Lan and her team in Hochiminh. Alan Crockett will make the first visit in September, and Niels Chavannes will be working on setting up a pilot scheme on smoke and smoking reduction in November. A smoking prevalence of over 56% in men is a clear indication that there is work to do. We also hope to start work with our colleagues in Romania in 2009.

Niels will also represent the IPCRG at an important World

Health Organisation meeting to develop the WHO's non-communicable disease research strategy.

A revised set of research needs assessment statements will be online shortly following debate during the Seville meeting.

### Education

We are in the process of exploring partnerships to deliver educational materials to meet our members' needs. The results of our recent survey are now complete and we will be talking to partners over the next few months about how best to share all our existing resources and make them widely available. Our Academy programmes for 2008 are fully booked, but see <http://www.theipcr.org/educprog/index.php> for waiting list information.

### Allergic rhinitis: diagnosis and treatment

Two guidelines for primary care on the diagnosis and treatment of allergic rhinitis are published in the August issue of the *Allergy* journal. Dermot Ryan, representing the IPCRG, was the lead author for the GA2LEN team - the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network. See Ryan *et al.* Primary care: the cornerstone of diagnosis of allergic rhinitis. *Allergy* 2008; **63**(8):981-9. Jim Reid represented the IPCRG in the development of the Allergic rhinitis management pocket reference 2008 - Bousquet *et al.* *Allergy* 2008; **63**(8):990-6.

Sian Williams  
Executive Officer

IPCRG Contact Details: Business Manager (maternity cover)  
Carmen Morris-Coulson  
[carmen@planmylife.co.uk](mailto:carmen@planmylife.co.uk)  
+44 (0)20 8341 1800  
[www.theipcr.org](http://www.theipcr.org)

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