

NEWS

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PCRS-UK News

Mark Levy's last *PCRJ* issue as Editor-in-Chief

This is a sad but important occasion in the history of the *PCRJ*, since this is the last issue published under Mark Levy's tenure as Editor-in-Chief. Mark's contribution to the field of primary care respiratory medicine, in particular his role as a Founding member of the UK GPs in Asthma Group (subsequently to become the UK General Practice Airways Group and now the Primary Care Respiratory Society UK) and as Editor-in-Chief of the *PCRJ* for the last 15 years, is absolutely outstanding and constitutes a great legacy. All of us who work in this field owe him an enormous debt. Those fortunate enough to attend the most recent PCRS-UK Conference will have heard a fantastic tribute to Mark during the Conference Dinner given by Dermot Ryan, a past Chairman of the PCRS-UK, who appointed Mark as Editor-in-Chief in 1996. An excellent *PCRJ* Editorial Board Dinner was also held during the recent ERS Conference in Barcelona in September, when those present were all able to give their own tributes and express their appreciation of Mark's phenomenal achievements. Mark gives his own perspective on the last 15 years as *PCRJ* Editor-in-Chief in his editorial on pg 299 of this issue.

Mark's successors as Joint Editors-in-Chief, Aziz Sheikh and Paul Stephenson, will provide their own tribute to Mark in their first editorial of 2011 – in the full knowledge that Mark will be a supremely hard act to follow...

Thanks from the *PCRJ* editors

As 2010 draws to a close we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the *PCRJ* this year, including the authors who have submitted such excellent research papers, reviews and letters, the referees who have given so freely of their time and expertise in reviewing manuscripts (see the last page of this issue for the full list of 2010 *PCRJ* reviewers), the International Editorial Board, the advertisers who help support the journal, and the Trustees, Executive Chairman, and Chief Executive of the PCRS-UK. It is thanks to all these individuals that the *PCRJ* continues to go from strength to strength.

PCRS-UK National Primary Care Conference, 10th and 11th September 2010

More than 250 delegates attended this year's PCRS-UK conference at Telford International Centre in September. With a central theme focusing on the provision of quality care, the excellent programme

offered a range of topics and sessions to support those of us working at the 'coalface' of primary care. Whilst focusing the main plenary sessions on asthma and COPD, the programme also included a number of parallel sessions on other common respiratory conditions and their management and also guidance on how to deal with those less common respiratory conditions including how to avoid diagnostic and management "banana skins". There were also specific sessions dedicated to research presentations and leadership and management skills. A series of practical workshops – on topics ranging from chest examination to spirometry – offered delegates the opportunity to brush up on their skills.

Iain Small, Chair of the PCRS-UK Executive, was able to report on the activities of the PCRS-UK and update the delegates on a number of new initiatives designed to support and help primary care healthcare professionals to develop their skills and improve quality care for patients with respiratory disease. He also announced exciting plans for a new Practice Quality Award... More details to follow in the next issue.

The PCRS-UK also used the event to highlight its range of publications and online tools, including a series of simple easy-to-complete audits which allow practices to compare their own results against a national average of participants and to print-off charts and data to support the practice in developing plans for improving care locally. For details on the range of programmes and tools available please visit the PCRS-UK website at www.pcrs-uk.org.

As ever, the conference had an exciting and enthusiastic buzz. The challenge, of course, is to be able to harness that enthusiasm when working back at the 'coalface' throughout the year, particularly in these times of change and austerity. Almost invariably, the feedback from delegates was that they found the conference a rewarding and valuable event, with a superb mix of events and the wonderful opportunity to socialise and network with colleagues and friends.

Essential Allergy Update, 9th September 2010

The day before the PCRS-UK conference, the 'Essential Allergy Update' one day joint course co-hosted by the PCRS-UK, BSACI and RCGP was a great success. A total of 91 people attended the conference, with 11 speakers/chairs, 64 delegates, and 16 individual exhibitors from Allen & Hanburys, Allergy Therapeutics, Nutricia, Lincoln Medical, MSD and Phadia.

Forty-eight evaluation forms were received. The overall feedback from the conference was unanimously positive. All presentations were rated as excellent, and the comments received were enthusiastic. There was certainly a "buzz" regarding the day – this became very clear during the following two days of the

PCRS-UK conference – and an almost unanimous feeling that linking an Allergy study day with the PCRS-UK conference should be repeated very soon...

PCRS-UK 2011 Conference dates

The PCRS-UK is already busy planning the 2011 conference and the conference organising committee have developed an exciting and eclectic programme. The conference will take place on the **7th and 8th October 2011 at Telford International Centre**. Reserve the date in your diary NOW – this is one event not to be missed!

Want to be more involved?

If you are interested in getting more involved in the activities of the PCRS-UK there are many ways in which you could help – from assisting with the preparation of materials and tools, piloting work, helping with developing policy statements, or getting involved in our nurse and/or respiratory leaders programme. Please contact us at 0121 351 4455 for an informal discussion.

IPCRG News

Need help assessing how COPD is affecting your patients' quality of life?

The IPCRG has launched the first of its publications on COPD assessment tools to provide practical guidance to primary care practitioners on which tools to use in practice. This can be found on the IPCRG's website. It contains useful information about translations and permissions as well as what criteria might be useful to consider when selecting a tool, and how our IPCRG experts judged each tool when assessed against these criteria: http://www.theipcr.org/resources/copd_assessment_tool_guides.php

Research news

At the IPCRG's Research Network meeting in September, the group began the process of setting up multinational research groups to take forward the disease-specific recommendations in the IPCRG's Research Needs Statement (Pinnock *et al.* The International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) Research Needs Statement 2010. *Prim Care Resp J* 2010;**19**(Suppl 1): S1-S20. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4104/pcrj.2010.00021>)

This will complement the efforts of the regional groups as they set out to stimulate primary care respiratory research and networking in geographical regions. For more information about how to join the groups please contact Sam Louw, IPCRG Business Manager, at BusinessManager@theipcr.org

Respiratory Abstracts Review

The IPCRG is also pleased to introduce the Respiratory Abstracts Review, a new free independent abstract service providing summaries of six new respiratory articles on a single page, which we will send by e-alert every two months. To register go to <http://www.theipcr.org/mail/index.php>

Inhaler devices

Building on our Research Needs Statement, there are a number of publications on inhaler devices in the pipeline. The first to be published is by Haughney *et al.* Choosing Inhaler Devices For People With Asthma: Current Knowledge And Outstanding Research Needs. *Resp Med*, published online September 2010 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rmed.2010.04.012>. Even with training, not all patients can use their inhalers correctly and maintain inhaler technique – patients may be unable to handle the inhaler, have strong negative preferences, or natural breathing patterns that do not match their prescribed inhaler. The authors identify several research questions: Is the level of drug deposition in the lungs a key determinant of clinical short- and long-term outcomes? What should be measured by a clinical tool designed to check inhaler technique and therefore help with device selection? If we have a tool to help in individualising inhaler choice, will we achieve better asthma outcomes? Do we have to refine inhaler device choice for each individual, or will we get better outcomes if we select our current best option in light of current knowledge and apply this on a population level?

Amsterdam 26–27 May 2011 – Primary Care at the leading edge; the “no-frills” IPCRG Scientific Meeting

Is the date in your diary?! On-line registration and abstract submission will go live on 1st December 2010. We will have three categories: Clinical Research (includes both qualitative and quantitative research); Implementation Science/Service Development; and Research Ideas. We hope that you will submit an abstract and actively encourage your colleagues to submit one too. You may want to notify three or four national institutes asking them to highlight the meeting to researchers and service implementation colleagues; go to www.theipcr.org for more information. We can send you electronic flyers on request to BusinessManager@theipcr.org

Edinburgh 25-28 April 2012 – Breathing New Life

Planning continues for our 6th biennial conference in Scotland to be hosted by our UK group, the PCRS-UK. Go to www.ipcr-pcrs2012.com for more information.

Membership policy

We have agreed a new membership policy for country organisations. For details email BusinessManager@theipcr.org

Website

We are currently reviewing our website to increase its value to members. If you have some favourite websites that we could learn from, why not email us with your top five, at BusinessManager@theipcr.org

Siân Williams
Executive Officer