

## NEWS

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### PCRS-UK News

#### PCRS-UK National Primary Care Respiratory Conference

##### *Delivering Quality Respiratory Care Today - Raising the Bar*

**7th-8th October 2011, Telford International Centre**

What a fantastic conference! With 250 delegates attending, and a cutting-edge programme of plenary sessions, workshops and practical sessions, there was a real sense of occasion throughout the two days. From the initial excitement of the opening plenary session – with keynote presentations by Iain Small, Robert Winter, Carol Stonham and Mike Thomas – through to the final session in which Karen Pickering MBE spoke about her life as an Olympic swimmer with asthma, this was a superb showcase for UK primary care respiratory medicine and for the PCRS-UK. The venue was excellent, old friendships were renewed, new friendships struck, the exhibition stands were visited, and we all learnt something as well. We were all truly able to go back to our practices and 'raise the bar'...

There was an excellent balance of sessions. The oral research presentations were the best attended research sessions we've had in several years, and almost all delegates reported that the balance between plenary sessions and workshop forums was absolutely right. Two main plenary sessions focused on asthma and its phenotypes, and comorbidities in COPD. The workshop forums were very well attended, with sessions on managing acute asthma, oxygen therapy, telehealth, anxiety and depression in respiratory disease, quality assessment and teamwork, COPD templates, bronchiectasis, flying and diving, vaccines for pneumonia, NIV, and new gadgets for primary care... There were also teaching sessions on how to prepare a poster for an academic meeting, and how to write a research paper and get it published. The speakers were excellent, the topics of great interest, and the dinner on Friday night (and the disco afterwards...) a great success.

One of the features of this year's conference was the presence of Graham Ogilvie, a cartoonist whose cartoons were on display throughout the conference. The Conference Committee have selected nine cartoons to be displayed on the PCRS-UK website and these will be mailed out to PCRS-UK members.

Webcasts have also been made of each of the plenary sessions, and once speakers have approved their webcast they will be included on the website as a resource and again distributed via e-mail to PCRS-UK members.

The overall feedback (as in previous years) was extremely positive, with most sessions being rated as 'excellent' or 'good'. The Grand Round on Saturday morning – with four case histories on interstitial lung disease, lung cancer, food allergy and asthma, and the respiratory complications of illegal drug usage – was the most highly rated session with 75% of delegates rating it as excellent.

It is only appropriate to proffer our congratulations and heartfelt

thanks to Sam Walker who has chaired the PCRS-UK Conference Organising Committee for a number of years. We are enormously grateful to her for her hard work and dedication. We congratulate Sandy Walmsley and Andy Whittamore who are taking over as co-chairs of the Committee, and we wish them every success.

Next year's conference will, of course, be the IPCRG 6th World conference which the PCRS-UK is hosting in Edinburgh from 25th to 28th April 2012. If you haven't registered yet, then do so! This is the key primary care respiratory conference in the world, and it's on your doorstep. We look forward to seeing you there!

*PSS, 12th November 2011*

#### PCRS-UK Research

Respiratory disease carries a high burden of symptoms and mortality. Many people with respiratory disease are undertreated and live constantly with their symptoms and disability. In comparison with other chronic diseases, research into respiratory disease has been, and continues to be, underfunded; research on lung cancer, for example, is grossly underfunded compared to other forms of cancer. Much of current research funding goes to the basic sciences, and health service research (the impact of disease on patients and how existing treatments are used) lags behind. These issues continue to be addressed by UK researchers and funders, primarily through the UK Respiratory Research Collaborative (UKRRC), of which the PCRS-UK is a member.

##### PCRS-UK research strategy & aims

The research strategy of the PCRS-UK is to work with researchers and clinicians to bring together their combined experience and aspirations to:

- Decide what are the important research questions relevant to primary care
- Turn the right research questions into funded projects (collaborative bids)
- Promote recruitment to funded studies
- Support the training and development of researchers
- Dissemination of findings to change practice

PCRS-UK is not a research sponsor, and any research is funded through provision of grants conducted through universities or other institutions.

##### How we intend to achieve our aims

###### 1. Communication and collaboration

The key to better research is communication and collaboration. Through the UKRRC, the PCRS-UK meets with key stakeholders – leading academics, funding bodies such as the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Wellcome Trust and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and charities such as Asthma UK and BLF – to discuss these issues and to facilitate research funding.

In addition, we hold an annual PCRS-UK Research Forum meeting for established research units and independent researchers. We discuss current and future research activity, including research agendas, priorities

and collaborative working. If you are interested in joining this forum please contact [info@pcrs-uk.org](mailto:info@pcrs-uk.org).

Finally, we use the website and e-alerts to link clinicians and researchers within the PCRS-UK membership to promote and foster development of new researchers and encourage research in primary care, including:

- starting projects
  - collaborating with established teams
  - getting help and advice
  - providing news to the membership on research issues.
2. **Dissemination of research findings**
    - *Primary Care Respiratory Journal*
    - Poster and oral presentations at the PCRS-UK national conference
    - PCRS-UK educational activities including opinion sheets and summary publications.
  3. **Conducting new research and audits**
    - Small projects performed by PCRS members endorsed by PCRS-UK – e.g. the Delphi project on coding of COPD funded by the DOH.
  4. **Recruiting sites for research projects**
    - The PCRS-UK membership database can be used to target relevant primary care members to receive invitations to take part in studies.

#### 5. Collaboration with IPCRG

The PCRS-UK collaborates with the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) on research in the following areas:

- Research needs: The PCRS-UK supports the IPCRG Research Needs statement which was published last year as a *PCRJ* supplement (*Prim Care Respir J* 2010;19(Suppl 1):S1-20. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4104/pcrj.2010.00081>)
- UK Respiratory Research Foundation ([www.theipcr.org/ukrrf](http://www.theipcr.org/ukrrf)). This is a charity owned by the IPCRG which provides funding for respiratory research and is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities. UKRRF has formal mechanisms for funding and approving research including a peer review process. PCRS-UK will seek funding for any projects it wishes to support through the UKRRF.

#### PCRS-UK Research Network

Chair: Rupert Jones

Members: Robin Carr, Kevin Gruffydd-Jones, David Price, Hilary Pinnock, Aziz Sheikh, Mike Thomas, Patrick White

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## IPCRG News

### IPCRG working globally and collaboratively

#### IPCRG 6th World Conference held jointly with the PCRS-UK

Edinburgh 25-28 April 2012

Please meet the abstract deadline of 6 January!

<http://www.ipcr-gpcrs2012.com/abstracts/index.php>

We invite abstracts in these three categories:

- Clinical research results
- Implementation Science/Service Development
- Research idea

Selected abstracts will be published in the *Primary Care Respiratory Journal (PCRJ)*.

## Save 50% on your individual PCRS-UK annual membership fee

If you get your practice to register for practice membership of the PCRS-UK, you can save 50% on your individual membership fee next year. For just £24.75 (cost to the end of 2011) your practice can register as many members of the team as they like, giving them instant access to all PCRS-UK resources including our publications, teaching and learning materials, audits and other practice tools. Go for it! Encourage your practice manager to take out practice membership today. Visit <http://www.pcrs-uk.org/practice> for more information on how to join.

## PCRS-UK Resources

PCRS-UK have a series of new resources which have been published recently, including opinion sheets on lung cancer and telehealth in COPD. We have also published a Quick Guide for the management of COPD to complement our very popular COPD booklet based on NICE guidance, and two slide kits on COPD diagnosis and management which are a great practice tool for in-house training.

Visit our website at [www.pcrs-uk.org](http://www.pcrs-uk.org), log-in and take a look at the range of resources available.

New opinion sheets on:

- the role of PDE4 inhibitors in the management of COPD
- optimal asthma control
- asthma and adolescence, and
- tailoring inhaler choice

will be launched soon.

## Are you interested in helping influence and drive the PCRS-UK agenda?

If you are interested in getting more involved in the activities of the PCRS-UK, there are many ways in which you could help: assisting with the preparation of materials and tools; piloting work; helping with the development of policy statements; getting involved in our nurse and/or respiratory leaders programme; and joining a Committee. Please contact us at 0121 629 7741 for an informal discussion.

Corresponding authors will be notified by e-mail on or before 25 February 2012 if their abstracts have been accepted for oral or poster presentation. Presenters of abstracts will be required to register for the conference in the normal way. The ultimate decision as to whether selected abstracts will be oral or poster presentations rests with the abstract committee.

The IPCRG and PCRS-UK appreciates that this can seem intimidating to new researchers, particularly those whose first language is not English. However, we believe it is a more valuable way of sharing research and we want to encourage researchers to try. Therefore the IPCRG Research Network may offer some support to new or inexperienced researchers whose first language is not English. Please complete the relevant question on the abstract submission form.

If you have any queries, please contact 6th IPCRG World Conference Abstract Secretariat at [abstracts@ipcr-gpcrs2012.com](mailto:abstracts@ipcr-gpcrs2012.com).

## Education – E-Quality

We are delighted to report that two projects have been funded following our first E-Quality bidding process.

- **Dr Sundeep Salvi and Dr Monica Barne, Chest Research Foundation, Pune, India.** To assess the impact of the Chest Research Foundation's one day training programme for GPs on asthma (called CHAMPS – Changing Asthma Management Practices).
- **Professor James Stout, University Washington in collaboration with Professor Alan J Crockett, University of Southern Australia and Dr Kerry Hancock Adelaide.** Disseminating on-line spirometry training and feedback in Australia based on the Spirometry 360 Train-the-Trainer program.

See <http://www.theipcr.org/educprog/equality.php>

## Research

We are delighted to report that the FRESH AIR Survey Uganda has now been launched, funded by the IPCRG, and supported by a grant from Mundipharma International Ltd. It is a population-based, cross-sectional epidemiological study on the prevalence of COPD and its risk factors in resource-poor settings of a rural area in Uganda among 300 men and 300 women above the age of 30 years. Our launch during the ERS attracted over 1000 signatures to our Petition to "Clear the Air". **There is still time to sign up:** <http://www.freshairuganda.co.uk/>

## Meetings and advocacy

### IPCRG-Wonca Europe: agreement of collaboration 2011-2014

IPCRG's collaboration with family physicians' societies continues to grow. During the last Wonca Europe Conference held in Warsaw in September Miguel Román and Wonca Europe President Tony Mathie signed an agreement of collaboration for the next three years. This agreement enables us to collaborate to promote primary care's role in the

management of chronic conditions throughout Europe. IPCRG will represent Wonca Europe when required on respiratory issues and will liaise on its behalf with secondary care clinical respiratory societies. IPCRG will also deliver keynote or state of the art lectures and lead workshops at each Wonca Europe annual meeting.

### Successful meetings at Wonca Europe Conference, Warsaw September 8th-11st

IPCRG developed a full day education programme on chronic lung conditions delivered by a faculty of five. Attendance at our four workshops exceeded expectations, ending with standing room only. Slidesets from these workshops will be available on the website shortly. [www.theipcr.org/resources/wonca2011presentations.php](http://www.theipcr.org/resources/wonca2011presentations.php) Thanks to Drs Catalina Panaitescu, Svein Hoegh Henrichsen, Miguel Román, Ioanna Tsiligianni and Prof Jim Reid.

### Prevention and control of childhood asthma and allergy in the EU from the public health point of view: urgent need to fill the gaps, Warsaw

<http://www.presidency.wum.edu.pl/>

Prof Witold Lukas and Dr Osman Yusuf represented us at an important policy meeting on the Prevention and control of childhood allergy and asthma in a GP's practice. Slides for this will also be available in our resources section and we also launched our position paper on the role of primary care in chronic lung disease <http://www.theipcr.org/resources/positionpaperone.php>

## GARD

Osman Yusuf represented the IPCRG at the last GARD annual meeting; we continue to support its activities. The results of the elections for representatives is not yet known but we are hopeful that we will retain the primary care nomination.

*Sian Williams and Miguel Roman*

Future dates	
November 6 – 7	ICC 2nd World Conference for COPD Patient Organizations, Shanghai China <a href="http://www.internationalcopd.org/Conference/Default.aspx">http://www.internationalcopd.org/Conference/Default.aspx</a> where we will deliver a plenary presentation. All welcome
November 9	European Parliament workshop on COPD facilitated by our associate member EFA
November 22	European Parliament Allergy Awareness Session facilitated by our associate member EFA
December 4 – 8	XXII World Allergy Congress, Cancún, México <a href="http://www.worldallergy.org/wac2011/">http://www.worldallergy.org/wac2011/</a> where we will run one session

## ERS General Practice and Primary Care Group 1.6

### PCRJ Award for the best quality abstract submitted to the General Practice and Primary Care Group (category 1.6) of the ERS



At the European Respiratory Society meeting held in Amsterdam in September, the high quality of research in primary care was recognised formally for the first time. This year, authors of abstracts submitted to the General Practice and Primary Care Group (category 1.6) were competing for the *Primary Care Respiratory Journal (PCRJ)* Best Abstract Award, worth €500.

There were over 100 primary care abstracts selected for the ERS Congress held in Amsterdam from 24th – 28th September. These were narrowed down to a shortlist of five – two from the UK and one each from Sweden, Spain and Russia – by a Committee led by Associate Professor Niels Chavannes (Group Chair) and Associate Professor Bjorn Stallberg (Secretary). From these five, the *PCRJ* Editors selected the winner.

The *PCRJ* Award was won by Dr Shamil Haroon from the Department of Public Health, Sandwell Primary Care Trust, West Bromwich, Birmingham, together with his co-authors Rachel Jordan, Peymane Adeb and Carl Griffin. Their study, entitled “COPD case finding in primary care: a pilot study in the West Midlands, UK”, compared the effectiveness of targeted versus opportunistic case-finding strategies for COPD using a randomised trial design and a symptom questionnaire.

The photograph shows Dr Haroon (centre) receiving his award from the *PCRJ* Joint Editors-in-Chief Professor Aziz Sheikh (left) and Dr Paul Stephenson.

### Meeting of the ERS Primary Care Group 1.6, Sunday 25th September 2011

The Primary Care Group meeting was held at 17.00 on Sunday afternoon at the ERS congress. Many thanks to all those who attended.

We had very useful discussions regarding symposia proposals for the 2013 ERS meeting. We all agreed that this year’s Primary Care Day – held the day before on Saturday 24th September – had been a great success. For the 2012 meeting in Vienna, we are proposing a shorter Primary Care Day to take place just in the afternoon on the Saturday of the conference.

This year, the number of submitted abstracts to the Primary Care Group (category 1.6) was slightly above 100, with a very high acceptance rate of 82%.

Hilary Pinnock has agreed to be a candidate for the post of Group Secretary, and will take up her position as from next year in Vienna.

Finally, we agreed that telemonitoring should be recommended as the subject for a new ERS Task Force.

Looking forward to see you all at the ERS in Vienna, September 1-5, 2012!

*Niels Chavannes, Chair Group 1.6*  
*Bjorn Stallberg, Secretary Group 1.6*

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