



## Chairman's Report

At long last the NSF has appeared, 18 months later than planned. This 'limbo' period has been a deeply unsettling time for diabetes services. Whilst welcoming the increased emphasis on diabetes (especially for PCTs and NHS Managers), all those involved in diabetes care must be apprehensive about the resource implications of having to meet the large number of service (eg retinopathy screening) and performance targets (eg glycaemic control, BP etc) set out in the Delivery Strategy and the myriad of linked supporting papers and websites. Clearly, much of the immediate impact of the NSF will predominantly affect primary care and PCTs but there is little acknowledgement of the "fall out" effect on secondary care. This, taken together with the tough standards for acute hospital management of diabetes emergencies and the imperative to develop "patient empowerment", is going to result in major additional pressure on specialist services. Although there will be some funding for retinopathy screening and there is talk about the provision of additional funding for PCTs within the General Medical Services baseline allocations, there will be no "ring-fencing" of resources to support the NSF and we know many PCTs are already crippled by historic debts.

What can be done to help the situation? One initiative is the development of the "GP with a Special Interest in Diabetes"

(GPSI). ABCD welcomes this scheme providing there are adequate safeguards concerning training, competence and links to local specialist care. The views of the ABCD Committee are set out in a paper in this issue of the Newsletter.

Despite these uncertainties and threats, ABCD continues to thrive. Membership is growing and we are now recognised as a significant professional representative organisation. We have been asked to contribute to many important national initiatives, including the NSF and NICE Guidance. The Autumn 2002 Meeting was very successful (and for the first time oversubscribed). A report on the proceedings is included in the Newsletter. We will hold future meetings in larger hotels or conference centres whilst ensuring that we maintain the intimate relaxed atmosphere that has characterised our previous meetings and contributed to their success. ABCD's progress has been facilitated by the establishment of an administrative office in London (see contact details on front cover). Further development of the Association will require substantial growth in funding and infrastructure. The Committee and Trustees are currently considering how to achieve this. We have had and anticipate continuing strong support from the pharmaceutical industry and we are grateful for this. I look forward to seeing you in Cardiff in May.

**Richard Greenwood**  
Chairman, ABCD

## NEWS ROUND-UP

### Consultant diabetologist appointments during 2002

During the year, 49 posts were advertised and AACs held. Nineteen were because of retirements or long term vacancies, but 27 were new jobs and it is pleasing to note that the importance of our specialty is being recognized (insufficient data were available on three jobs). A breakdown appears below.

	Held	Retirement	Long term vacancy	New post	Not appointed
Diabetes	5	1	0	4	2
Diabetes/Endocrin.	44	9	9	3	6
Total	49	10	9	27	8

It is worrying that 8 out of 49 (16%) posts were left unfilled. It suggests that there are insufficient trainees. If you have a post "on the stocks" please let the Editor of the Newsletter know as soon as possible, so that it can be publicized in these pages before it is advertised formally (see contact address on front cover).

The Editor is grateful to the Royal College of Physicians of London for providing the raw data on which this analysis is based.

### New post at Barts and the London NHS Trust

Applications are invited from motivated and enthusiastic individuals for a new post for a Consultant Physician in Diabetes/Metabolism and General Medicine based at the Royal London Hospital. The recently expanded Diabetes and Metabolism service provides secondary care diabetes services for Tower Hamlets and tertiary care obesity and lipids services for East London. The Academic Department of Diabetes and Metabolism has ongoing diabetes and obesity-related research projects.

The post-holder will join four Consultants in Diabetes and metabolism and six Diabetes Specialist Nurses on the Whitechapel site and three Consultants on the Barts site. He/she will be expected to take a lead in delivering high quality services to Tower Hamlet patients. There will be a shared commitment to the acute GM in-patient service for six months of the year, and to teaching medical students from Barts and the London Queen Mary Medical College, plus protected time to carry out service development and academic activities. If you are interested, please contact Dr Tahseen Chowdhury on 020 7377 7000 ext 4384 or e-mail tahseen.chowdhury@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk

### Audit presentations at future ABCD Meetings

It is planned to include a session comprising two or three brief audit presentations (15 minutes plus 5 minutes discussion) at the November 2003 and subsequent ABCD meetings. ABCD is seeking submission of completed projects for consideration. Please send a 200 word abstract to Peter Winocour, Hon Secretary, preferably by e-mail (see front cover for contact details).

### Jeremy Bending is new ABCD Membership Co-ordinator

Jeremy Bending (Eastbourne) is the new Membership Co-ordinator for ABCD. Membership Application Forms and enquiries about membership should now be directed to him. If you are interested in joining the Association, or know anyone else who might be, Dr Bending will be very pleased to hear from you. Please write to: Dr Jeremy Bending, District Diabetes Centre, Eastbourne District General Hospital, Kings Drive, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 QUD.

## FORTHCOMING ABCD MEETING

**Thursday/Friday, 8/9 May 2003 – ABCD Spring Meeting**  
Cardiff Thistle Hotel, Cardiff

**AGM - Debate:** Glitazones represent a major advance in the treatment of type 2 diabetes (*For Prof Tony Barnett; Opposing Prof Edwin Gale*)

Plus state-of-the-art lectures on: The implications of the EU working time directive on the future of acute medicine (*Dr Hugh Mather*); Treating to target in type 2 diabetes (*Prof Hannelle Yki-Jarvinen*); New approaches to the treatment of erectile dysfunction in diabetes (*Dr David Price*); Surgical treatment of obesity (*Mr Steve Pollard*); Pitfalls in the diagnosis and treatment of phaeochromocytoma (*Dr Pierre Bouloux*); Recent advances in hypolipidaemic therapy (*Dr Alan Rees*).

Hotel details: Cardiff Thistle Hotel, Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3UD. Reception: 0870 333 9157. Fax: 0870 333 9257. E-mail: cardiff@thistle.co.uk. Website: www.thistlehotels.com/cardiff

Registration/programme details: Dr Peter Winocour, Hon Secretary ABCD (see front cover for contact details)