



## Chairman's Report

The Association continues to grow healthily, helped by the recent surge in new SpR members. This welcome development has reduced the average age of members to below 50 and, reflecting this overdue change in our constituency, we now have an SpR representative, Kath Higgins, on the Committee. The increased membership does, however, make the organisation of meetings more complicated and to address this problem, the Association has reached agreement with Gusto Events to provide more permanent administrative support. Our next meeting will be held in Glasgow on April 5th – 6th. Once again we will be meeting back to back with the endocrinologists, this time as part of the 8th European Congress of Endocrinology. Last year's meeting with the BES in Harrogate was a success so we have decided to continue with the arrangement. This will, however, restrict the number of meeting locations, especially if we stay with the BTA in London in the autumn. In view of this, the Committee is considering making the spring meeting with BES an alternate year event, in order to give us more flexibility in choice of venue.

The Association continues to wrestle with a range of issues, including Payment By Results, Choose and Book and Practice-based Commissioning. In order to address these effectively, ABCD has formed useful relationships with the National Diabetes Support Team (via the Specialist Service Liaison Group) and Diabetes UK. We have recently published a Joint Position Statement, entitled "Ensuring Access to High Quality Care for People with Diabetes" and this is available on our website. You may find it useful in persuading your managers, PCTs and local patient groups that adequately resourced specialist diabetes care is an essential component of all local health services. Without it, primary care will struggle, quality will decline and 'patient choice' will be compromised. This was emphasised by Colin Kenny in his recent BMJ editorial, which coincided with the launch of the Primary Care Diabetes Society (PCDS). ABCD welcomes this important development and looks forward to working constructively with PCDS to promote effective integrated care for all of our patients. I should like to draw your attention to two important ABCD initiatives. The first is a repeat of the Survey of Specialist Care Services, which this time will be a joint exercise with Diabetes UK. The questionnaires will be sent out shortly. Please help by completing and returning them as soon as you are able. Reliable information about our services is vital and we can only get this if there is a decent response rate. The second is the ABCD Audit programme and I am delighted to report that Sanofi-Aventis have agreed to fund this for a further three years. Further information is available from Peter Winocour.

Sadly, the Glasgow meeting will be my last as Chairman of the Association, because I shall be retiring from the NHS in May. Like John Wales, I feel that in order to be in touch with all the clinical and political issues of the day, the Chairman should be a practicing clinician. Helping to found and develop the Association successfully, in the face of stiff opposition and numerous difficulties, has been the most satisfying achievement of my professional life. There is no doubt that ABCD is now a force to be reckoned with. Now Ken Shaw will be the only one of the original "gang of three" left in office. He will be able to

provide continuity during the next few years whilst the Association continues to evolve. It goes without saying that I am grateful to all of my colleagues, especially the Officers and those who have served on the Committee, for helping me to survive as Secretary, then Chairman. I should also like to acknowledge the support of friends and colleagues from the pharmaceutical industry, especially Peter Robinson (Bayer and now Takeda), Jeff Goulder (Novo Nordisk) and Martin Jones (Lilly), without whose help we would have found it very much more difficult, not only to get started, but to remain in existence.

**Richard Greenwood, Chairman ABCD**

*There will be many tributes to Richard's work, but I would like to thank him personally for everything that he has done to help me. He has politely revised some of my more immoderate scribbles and contributed not only his Chairman's column (usually on time), but also the Association's logo. Richard, thank you very much. Ed.*

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM FOR ABCD

Membership of ABCD is open to all Consultant Physicians with an interest in diabetes patient care in the NHS and all SpRs in Diabetes and Endocrinology. At present, the annual membership fee is £25.00. If you are interested in joining the Association, please fill in the application form below and return it to the ABCD Membership Co-ordinator at the following address:

**Dr Jeremy Bending**  
**Consultant Physician**  
**District Diabetes Centre**  
**Eastbourne District Hospital**  
**Kings Drive, Eastbourne**  
**East Sussex, BN21 2UD**  
**Tel: 01323 414902**  
**Email: jeremy.bending@esht.nhs.uk**

*When your application has been approved, you will be sent a Standing Order Form for your annual subscription.*

#### Membership Proposal Form

**I wish to apply for membership of the Association of British Clinical Diabetologists.**

Please use block capitals

Name (in full, please)
Professional Qualifications
Position held
Address
/ Post Code
Tel. No.
Fax No.
Email
Signed
Date