



Chairman's Report

Taking over the Chairmanship from Richard Greenwood is not an easy task. During his stewardship ABCD has become firmly established as a respected and powerful professional body representing UK consultant diabetologists and SpRs training in the speciality. Although from its inception we never doubted the need for ABCD we have recognised that the way ahead would have its difficulties and challenges. Richard has steered us adroitly to our present strong position and for that we are indebted. It was a privilege and pleasure to provide a few words of appreciation at the East Anglian Association for the Study of Endocrinology (EASE) to mark his retirement. Richard – we wish you well for the years ahead but I am grateful you will still be contributing to ABCD for a while yet.

These are indeed challenging times and we all have uncertainties concerning the future role of Consultant Physicians in Diabetes and Endocrinology. Much of what we have previously cherished seems to be progressively threatened with the relentless shift to Care in the Community. A recent commentary from our Royal College, entitled "Making The Best Use of Doctors skills – A Balanced Partnership" underlines how far we have gone in this direction. The College no longer envisages the terms primary and secondary care, and describes the terms "generalists" and "specialists", but this is too simplistic and we need better understanding of what these terms mean and how they are implemented. Sadly, ABCD continues to be made aware of hospital-based diabetes services struggling to survive, lacking current investment and losing resources to the community (I believe you can only sell the "family silver" once). The current ABCD-DUK Survey of Specialist Diabetes Services 2006 will provide information of immense importance to the future provision of specialist diabetes care. In the meantime we are keen to learn of positive service developments where they have occurred, for at present such knowledge is scarce.

The Spring Meeting in Glasgow was an excellent occasion. Our secretary, Peter Winocour, arranged a first-class programme of high educational content. His energy and drive is commendable and I am delighted he continues in this role. The AGM was also held at Glasgow. I am pleased that all Committee Members were able to be re-elected for a further term of office. Standing down as Treasurer it was also good to leave the Association's finances in a strong position, particularly with seven Corporate Sponsors now signed up for the next three years, and a further three companies close to commitment as well. All the best to Chris Walton as the new Treasurer. We are very grateful to Sanofi-Aventis for providing further substantial funding for the Annual ABCD National Audit Programme. Mike Sampson presented an impressive report on the first audit of UK Inpatient Diabetes Services. We look forward to the publication, as its key messages will provide crucial evidence supporting the need for dedicated diabetes support in Acute Trusts.

One important responsibility undertaken by ABCD is that of expert Consultee advice to NICE, and it is evident that the opinion of ABCD is taken seriously. The present consideration of Inhaled Insulin has required major input, and we are very grateful to Tony Barnett and Stephanie Amiel for serving as our

expert advisors. It is quite probable that ABCD will be asked to provide the audit process for evaluating the selective usage of Inhaled Insulin, once the guidance has been clarified.

Another significant developing role of ABCD is the publication of Clinical Guidelines and position statements concerning various aspects of diabetes care. Thanks to Anne Kilvert and Mark Savage for their paper on the "Management of Hyperglycaemic Emergencies in Adults" published in the June 2006 issue of Practical Diabetes International. Congratulations also to Peter Daggett as the first ABCD representative on the PDI Editorial Board.

Lastly, I am pleased to confirm we have formally concluded an agreement with Elise Harvey and Gusto Events to provide administrative support for the next three years. Elise will be responsible for organisation of meetings and mail shots as well as managing the membership database. Finally, thanks to Jeremy Bending for his years of valued service as Membership Secretary.

Ken Shaw, Chairman, ABCD

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 £50.00. 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