

Chairman's Report

Our Spring Meeting in Chester did indeed provide a much needed opportunity for us to convene and discuss the issues of the day affecting our speciality. Rather like Charles Darwin and his observations on the Galapagos Islands, I have often thought in this way of our separate Diabetes Centres developing their individual initiatives and innovations, whilst delivering an impressive record of progressive improvement in Diabetes Care for our patients. A fundamental principle established by ABCD at its inception was that we would share our experiences, support our colleagues and strive to ensure we worked together and not in isolation. But, extending the evolutionary analogy, are we presently subject to the principle of "Survival of the Fittest"? It does seem like that at times. As specialist diabetologists we do have substantial experience and expertise that I feel is essential for the future of diabetes services in the United Kingdom. Finding a constructive way forward is our immediate challenge. Preliminary results from the recent Specialist Diabetes Services Survey were presented by our Hon Secretary at Chester. A number of positive findings were reported including evidence of less single-handed consultants, more specialist nurse provision (although that may well have since changed) and more sub-speciality clinics being established. On the other hand concerns that specialist services were under threat proved a constant and worrying theme. An advance summary of the survey findings has been circulated, and once the final paper is available, a Press Release is planned with the intention of highlighting the key findings and the implications on patient care.

ABCD continues to be involved in a number of joint initiatives working with the Society for Endocrinology, Diabetes UK and the Royal College of Physicians. Of interest is the proposal by the Federation of Royal Colleges to introduce a speciality higher diploma i.e. MRCP (Diabetes and Endocrinology) which will supplement but not replace MRCP (UK). I am grateful to those ABCD members who have volunteered to be trained in the art of defining discriminant questions and to then determining a repository of 1200 questions for future twice-yearly examination purposes. Older ABCD members will be relieved to know there is no immediate intention to implement retrospective examination!

Inviting the Chair of the Primary Care Diabetes Society to speak at our Autumn Meeting, inevitably involved a "pay-back" requirement. Last month I entered the "Lions' Den" and spoke at the first national GPSI (Diabetes) Conference in Birmingham. Fears rapidly subsided. In fact, a high degree of concordance was evident, all agreeing that we shared common aspirations and that we should talk together more often. I came away feeling that as specialists we are still very much wanted (at least by GPSIs). We resolved that we would continue dialogue and in the first instance would publish a revamped joint position statement on integrated care.

On a final note, could I express my great thanks to Peter Daggett for his Editorship of these regular newsletters, which have been significantly informative and equally entertaining, blended with his own inimitable style. Sadly Peter has

indicated that he would like to "stand down" in the latter part of 2008 and we hope that we have found a successor, whose name will be announced at the next ABCD conference.

Ken Shaw
Hon 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 Secretariat at the following address:

Elise Harvey
ABCD Secretariat
Gusto Events Ltd
PO Box 2927
Malmesbury
SN16 0WZ
Tel: 07970 606962
email: elise@gustoevents.com

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