

## Chairman's Report

With some reflective sadness but balanced by increasing expectant relief, I put pen to my final Chairman's Report. Having recently perused rather nostalgically through the early ABCD archive files, when the initial "gang of three of us" set forth with determination and no little trepidation, I believe we can look with pride on the many achievements of the organisation over the last decade. It is time for the new generation to move forward and I have every confidence that the future of ABCD is in good hands, equipped to take on the huge challenges that are currently facing Consultant Diabetologists in our, as ever but seemingly rapidly changing, specialist world.

At an extraordinary meeting of committee last October members met to consider the role of Consultant Specialists within the changing NHS Models of Service Provision, the implications to recruitment and training of young doctors, and how ABCD should respond to these significant issues. All wanted to share a positive future vision, ensuring ABCDs essential contribution and responsibility for the promotion of professional diabetes speciality care within the NHS.

It is difficult to predict the precise way we will be working in the future – in reality there will be several different scenarios. However, as we await the Darzi Report on the way "Long-term Conditions" are to be managed, it is evident that the political direction of travel is for a significant proportion of specialist activity to shift into the community. Working with the NHS Alliance, ABCD has engaged in discussions around a Model of Integrated Working between Specialists and Primary Care, trying to move away from present activity-based accounting towards better systems of care. Whatever is ahead, we need to understand that the rules of engagement on the NHS Playing Field are changing and we need to ensure that we are still in the game. We face competitors from private providers waiting on the sidelines, but I believe we are still very much part of the future strategy and ABCD can help shape the way forward.

Having recently drafted a commissioned paper on contingency planning for diabetes services in the event of an influenza pandemic, it has become increasingly apparent to me that integrated working and communication with primary care remains absolutely crucial. Contemplating the consequences of an influenza pandemic to our vulnerable population of diabetic patients is a matter of some concern – in fact quite frightening.

ABCD has continued to contribute to many professional activities over the year. ABCD representatives have provided expert advice to NICE both on specific topics as well as guideline development (including being prepared to disagree should the new type 2 guidelines fail to reflect the spectrum of current treatments available). ABCD now regularly meets with the Society of Endocrinology, discussing issues of training and education, and with Diabetes UK, encouraging patient advocacy of what best care should be expected. For example, such patient experience of care whilst in hospital underpins the much needed guidance on "Improving emergency and inpatient care for people with diabetes" a recently published report led by Mike Sampson on behalf of the NDST and endorsed by ABCD. Meanwhile "Ensuring Access to High Quality Care for all People with Diabetes" remains the paramount principle of our Joint Position Statement released this March in conjunction with Diabetes UK, the Primary Care Diabetes Society, The Royal College of Nursing Diabetes Forum and the Community Diabetes Consultants.

As I stand down from my term of office as Chairman, a privileged role I have much enjoyed but recognising how much more there is still to be done, I extend my grateful thanks to my many ABCD colleagues who have worked so hard on behalf of the organisation. Peter Winocour's tireless energy and enthusiasm is legend, and after 6 very productive years as Hon Secretary he takes over the mantle of Hon Chairman. Chris Walton clearly has financial aptitude and our accounts are now sufficiently healthy to enable us to extend our widening activities (supporting 20 SpRs to attend the King's Fund Course for example). Thanks to Anne Kilvert and Jiten Vora who also complete their term on the committee but both seek re-election and so there is every chance we will continue to benefit from their valued input. Particular thanks to Brian Frier who also stands down this time. Brian has been with us from the very beginning and I have been personally very appreciative of his sustained wise counsel.

At the time of writing we learn that Rowan Hillson is to be the next English Clinical Director for Diabetes and we congratulate her on this distinction, wishing her every success with the appointment. We hope she can continue as a committee member of ABCD but, if protocol prevents, our thanks also extend to you Rowan – well done indeed.

Final thanks must go to Elise Harvey and her staff at Gusto Events who have continued to provide a highly professional and effective administrative back up to ABCD. They have been tremendous. As for myself, I will take the opportunity of the "emeritus year" granted to the retiring Chairman and will continue to contribute where I best can. Having recently chaired the excellent meeting organised by Alan Sinclair at the RSM on "Diabetes in the Older Person", your retiring Chairman now knows the formula for long and healthy years ahead: to maintain a fast walking pace and to get a good nights sleep. Early nights from now on!

*Professor Ken Shaw*

### 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](mailto: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