



Chair's Bulletin, April 2015

Democracy in action

As I write this Easter bulletin the votes are being counted for the election. No not the general election, I mean the really important one to decide who is to succeed Patrick Sharp as ABCD General Secretary. After failing to get a single nomination last year, two excellent candidates have thrown their hats into the ring, but not before Patrick has submitted ABCD responses to four simultaneous NICE consultations on important topics – thank you. Committee stalwarts Rustam Rae and Hermione Price will complete their term next month. My thanks to them for their contributions to ABCD's work on integrated commissioning and the Parity of Esteem workstream respectively. In case you were not aware, YDEF does things differently. Instead of elections for officers and committee they have interviews. I had the privilege of being on the panel this year and was impressed by the quality of the candidates; it bodes well for ABCD committee in a few years. I observed that all the candidates interviewed were taking time out of programme to undertake research. This has to be good for them as individuals, but also for the future of the specialty.

Supporting Professional Development

The YDEF committee told me that the latest ABCD-funded King's Fund Leadership Course had been evaluated very well, and naturally wanted to know what they can expect of us in the future. They are working with Dev Singh and Susannah Rowles on a new support strategy based on a spiral model of professional development from training to retirement. The final version should provide something for everyone, and the baby will not disappear down the plughole.

Diabetes UK PC feedback

There was a significant ABCD presence at the recent Diabetes UK PC. We had an ABCD/BJDVD stand in the exhibition hall, which kept a few volunteers busy. Clearing up afterwards was quite an adventure, as neither Chris Walton nor I had exhibitor passes, and were thrown out of the hall after lunch on Friday. It took the combined diplomatic skills of chairs past and present to get back in to collect the banners and boxes of journals, and stagger to the car with them.

Stella George stepped into the limelight presenting the Manpower Survey, which oddly showed only 4 new consultant posts in the specialty in 2014, the lowest number on record. We think 2015 has already beaten this.

At our regular conference meeting with Diabetes UK we shared our concern that the relentless medical emergency pressure was impacting on the quality of specialist diabetes care to inpatients and elsewhere. We plan to collect some data to demonstrate this and will need your support. If you have any examples from your organisations I would be pleased to hear them.

National Pump Network

Insulin pumps have been in the news lately. The incorporation of pump questions in the National Diabetes Audit means that data from our services will be extracted and benchmarked. I am keen to support pump services and will take a proposal to committee for an ABCD-hosted National Pump Network to fill the NHS Diabetes void.

Education, education, education... and education

ABCD contributed to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Diabetes investigation into the availability and quality of diabetes education in the UK. The resulting report is now available and contains recommendations to address the identified weaknesses. See

http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Global/Homepage/News/APPG%20Diabetes%20Report_FINAL.pdf

By happy co-incidence, or masterly planning, the March issue of BJDVD carries an editorial on the same subject: <http://www.bjdvd.co.uk/index.php/bjdvd/article/download/51/119>

I was pleased that the report adopted my suggestion to compel employers to release employees to attend approved diabetes education.

CQC

I know I seem to mention this in every bulletin, but the patience of JBDS-IP has paid off and details of how diabetes will be incorporated into inspections will be announced shortly. It is clear that ABCD will have an important role in training and supporting inspection teams.

Quality by Association

ABCD is pleased to be associated with the QiC for diabetes awards once again in 2015. You may also have seen that we are sponsoring the diabetes category of the 2015 BMJ Awards. The shortlisted teams are on the website, and Russell Drummond and I will be presenting their certificates at the ceremony on the eve of the general election. <http://thebmjawards.bmj.com/38529>

We will welcome the finalists of the second Rowan Hillson Safety Award for the best initiative to prevent hypoglycaemia in inpatients to the ABCD autumn meeting.

Medical Exemption Certificates for diabetes

I am pleased to announce that, in response to concerns raised by ABCD and others, the NHS Business Authority has agreed to change its position on fines for people with diabetes claiming free prescriptions without a current prescription exemption certificate. The fine will be waived if they obtain a certificate within 60 days of receiving the fine notification. Our call for an amnesty and refund of historical fines has not yet been resolved.

Room for another meeting?

I alluded to a novel meeting to slot into the calendar in June, and encouraged you to save a day of study leave. This won't now be required as the proposal needs more work. We will be taking it to potential sponsors in September and are optimistic about a new ABCD event next summer.

Nationwide Audits of New Therapies

May I encourage you to submit data for the new Dapagliflozin and Degludec audits.

http://www.diabetologists-abcd.org.uk/n3/live_audits.htm

A canagliflozin audit is imminent so please start keeping a note of your cana patients as well. As always the tool will make analysis of your own patient data really easy.

ABCD survey of use of U500 insulin

Umesh Dashora is interested in the unlicensed use of U500 insulin in the UK. He wants you to complete a Survey Monkey survey in 7 clicks (It's true!). <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JC9RJL3>

ABCD-WEDS Spring Meeting, Cardiff, April 23-24.

It is not too late to register to attend this event.

<http://www.diabetologists-abcd.org.uk/meetings.htm>

The slippery slope

I am thinking of banning ABCD committee members from taking skiing holidays after seeing this season's casualty lists. You know who you are! Talking of people doing crazy things, our Communications Lead Andy Macklin is doing the 162km Wiggle Jurassic Beast Cycle ride (up & down the Purbecks) in May, in aid of JDRF (www.justgiving.com/JurassicBeast)

See you in Cardiff.

Rob Gregory
Leicester