



## **Chair's Bulletin, October 2014**

The summer recess seems a distant memory, but I hope you all managed to recharge your batteries. We now know that Scotland voted 'no', which at least means that we can avoid debating whether there is a need to rename the association.

**Committee Time Out, 1 September:** The new ABCD committee assembled at the RCGP (yes really!) on what for some was their first day back at work after the holiday. Inevitably with so much to discuss and with a novice chair the event overran, but was very productive in setting the priorities for the association, and the executive team had the opportunity to brief the Gold Supporters immediately afterwards.

We agreed to concentrate on three main areas:

1. Improving services for people with type 1 diabetes with phase 2 of the “Lost Tribe” campaign, to include the work of the Transitional Care group. Patrick Sharp will lead on this.
2. Peter Winocour is heading up the Diabetes and Kidney Disease work stream in conjunction with the Renal Association.
3. There is a lot of interest in 'Parity of Esteem' for people with long term conditions and we are looking at how to address inequities in outcomes and access to care for people with diabetes and mental ill health. Kate Fayers has agreed to lead on this.

We hope to build national networks to contribute to and disseminate the results of these work streams, so please volunteer for one or more.

**Education and Professional Development Subcommittee:** Dev Singh agreed to chair this subgroup with YDEF representation after presenting a paper setting out an educational and professional developmental strategy for ABCD members at all stages of their careers. The committee approved the principle and asked Dev to bring a detailed proposal to the November meeting. The future of the highly-rated King's Fund Course in Leadership and Management for SpRs is within the subgroup's remit, but I have given YDEF an assurance that ABCD will support a 2014-15 course with modified acceptance criteria that is open to new consultants who have not previously done such a course.

**Academic Subcommittee:** I am delighted to announce that Professor Hugh Jones will take over as Chair from Professor Alan Sinclair, whose major contribution was to ensure

that the first ever ABCD-funded research project got off the ground. We thank Alan for this and for his advice on academic matters during his tenure. I am keen to attract and retain academic diabetologists as ABCD members, and the subcommittee will be considering how best to do this. While ABCD cannot be a major grant provider, modest funding might sometimes be available and it should be able to support the researchers in other ways. The subcommittee will also be an invaluable resource for BJDVD.

**Succession planning:** While I am delighted to have retained the experienced Patrick Sharp as General Secretary for a further year, I am anxious to identify his successor ASAP. If you fancy doing this, or just want to find out more about the role please contact Patrick then look out for a call for nominations.

### **A Root Cause Analysis of Mortality and Morbidity in Diabetic**

**Inpatients:** Invitations to participate in this important national Quality Improvement project have gone out as promised. We want each trust to sign up and send in completed templates. Three months to analyse six cases should not be too onerous, and might convince you to establish a regular M&M meeting if you don't yet have one. With luck this work might lead to a full NCEPOD review in 2015.

**ABCD Nationwide Audits:** The portfolio of audits has grown and it has got even easier and even more secure to submit your data, so please share your experience of using exenatide QW, insulin degludec and dapagliflozin with Bob Ryder and his team:  
[abcd.audits@diabetologists.org.uk](mailto:abcd.audits@diabetologists.org.uk)

**ABCD Clinical Research Fellow:** We hope to recruit to a second post very soon, so if you are interested in a research opportunity, including another project with Endobarrier, or know someone who is, please contact Bob Ryder for an informal discussion:  
[bob.ryder@nhs.net](mailto:bob.ryder@nhs.net)

**Diabetes and CQC:** I am cautiously optimistic that diabetes will feature in all CQC inspections of acute trusts, but a further 'long' meeting has been arranged to work through the detail....

**The Rowan Hillson Insulin Safety Award 2014:** Congratulations to the winners of the competition for the best insulin prescription chart. See the ABCD website for their names and the winning entries. Thanks to the judges who had 41 entries to score. I am pleased to say that Rowan will be presenting the awards at a ceremony being held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November at the ABCD Autumn meeting. Winners and judges have been invited to join us for dinner afterwards.

**BJDVD:** You should now have received the third issue. Paul Grant would love to have feedback about the journal so far, suggestions for topics and, even better, articles for publication. Get scribbling!

**Communicating with you:** Thanks to the few who completed the membership survey. Andy Macklin summarised the feedback for us, and we discussed it at the

committee time out. In future you may be asked for your view on a single question that ABCD is grappling with. Your responses are valued and ensure that the executive stays in touch with the membership. We have been active on Twitter and I would encourage those of you who tweet to follow @ABCDiab.

**EASD:** The association had a stand jointly with BJDVD in Vienna. Feedback from those who attended and 'manned the stand' was that it was well worth the effort. It facilitated networking by providing a base for meetings. There was lots of interest in the journal, and even in joining ABCD. We intend to have a stand at the DUK conference in the spring.

**International Conferences on your doorstep?:** It is getting harder to attend international conferences because of squeezes on study leave budgets, and fewer sponsored places available. ABCD offers travel grants for SpRs who are presenting abstracts at international meetings. We are planning an exciting development for 2015 that will bring international conference content closer to home. Watch this space.

**All Party Parliamentary Group for Diabetes (APPG):** I attended a meeting of this group, chaired by Adrian Sanders MP, and heard evidence from patients and carers about their experiences of diabetes education. I was apprehensive as the minutes of the previous meeting contained the following quote, *"We have to look to the consultant clinicians who lamentably have failed to champion education across the country. They have failed their patients and failed their profession..."* The UK offering is certainly inferior to the standard offering in Germany which involves admission to hospital for two weeks at diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, and a regular day per year educational refresher. The German health insurance companies are clearly convinced that patient education is worthwhile, and are prepared to pay for it. Barriers to accessing educational courses were discussed. Patients are sometimes afraid to ask employers for time off to attend. Perhaps this is something that might be helped by legislation. Patients are increasingly looking on-line for help managing their diabetes. The Diabetes Online Community, was represented at the meeting and holds Tweetchats every week @OurDiabetes: ABCD has offered to host one soon.

**Insulin Safety Education for Healthcare Professionals:** ABCD has registered its concern that the Safe Use of Insulin e-learning module is no longer available free of charge to NHS organisations and staff. We have seen a sharp drop in the number of organisations offering staff the e-learning, and practically no CCGs have signed up. We are talking to PCDS about a possible joint project to address this deficiency.

**Mentors needed:** The ABCD Mentorship Scheme has been very successful. Dev Singh is having to turn away mentees because of a shortage of mentors; this is most acute in the East Midlands and in Scotland. Please consider volunteering:  
[http://www.diabetologists-abcd.org.uk/NDCMP/Call\\_for\\_Mentors.pdf](http://www.diabetologists-abcd.org.uk/NDCMP/Call_for_Mentors.pdf)

**Hypoglycaemia Survey for Consultants and SpRs:** 'Hypoglycaemia Awareness Week' is about to start. Chitrabhanu Ballav and colleagues in Oxford have asked me to

publicise their survey about hypoglycaemia in type 1 diabetes. They say it only takes 10 minutes, so give it a go! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hypointype1>

Finally please register to attend the ABCD Autumn Meeting in November at the RCP London. If you are an SpR, you can stay for the annual SpR Meeting too. <http://www.diabetologists-abcd.org.uk/meetings.htm>

I look forward to seeing you there.

Rob Gregory

Leicester  
October, 2014