

British Paediatric Respiratory Society

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NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

Dear Colleagues,

1. Scientific meetings

BTS/BPRS Winter meeting – Dec 3rd - 5th.

Joint BTS/BPRS Symposium – “Counting beans and saving lives” – the economics of respiratory disease. Wed 1.30-3.15.

Joint BTS/BPRS Symposium – “The respiratory consequences of childhood obesity – the shape of things to come”. Thurs 8.30 – 10.15.

BPRS Business Meeting - Wed 3 Dec 5.00 - 6.15pm, in the Mountbatten Room on the 6th floor.

Upcoming 2008/9 UK meetings/courses

Bristol course on sleep and long term ventilation November 5-7th.

Royal Brompton Hospital – 7th Flexible Bronchoscopy course November 6-7th.

Royal Society Medicine cystic fibrosis day November 11th.

BPRS Spring meeting – Tuesday 31st March 2009 **** NOTE**** Respiratory session is now in the AFTERNOON (with general plenary session in morning).

****Course organisers – please try not to clash with existing courses****

2. Annual December dinner / GSK sponsorship

Independently of our own debate on the role of pharmaceutical sponsorship, GSK have said they are no longer able/willing to sponsor the BPRS winter meeting to the level they have done in the past, which incidentally was £60-70,000 each time. This is principally because the sum is way out of line with the educational content i.e. the hour talk before the dinner. It does not count that we attend the BTS meeting as the sponsorship solely relates to that talk and hence the dinner, and this is stretching ABPI guidelines.

We are very keen to continue to hold the annual dinner as it is an important time for meeting up with each other in what is still a small specialty. However it is impossible for me to arrange this without external support. It is likely we will be able to have a much reduced sponsorship as an unrestricted educational grant. The executive committee proposes to use that as follows -

Dinner for a subsidised rate of £30 per head – Wed Dec 3rd. Venue to be confirmed. Arrangements and advanced payments will go through Paul Turner Agency, and further details will follow.

In addition, there will be bursaries available on application to contribute towards cost of registration or your accommodation. Please email Iolo on doullij@cardiff.ac.uk by October 15th. Actual amount will depend on demand and it is open to all BPRS members. Everyone will be responsible for finding their own accommodation.

We hope this works for everyone that many of you will continue to attend the BTS academic meeting, the BPRS business meeting, and the BPRS annual dinner.

3. Executive Committee

Catherine McDougall has been voted trainee representative and will be on the committee for 2 years. In October, Jimmy Paton takes over from Andy Bush as ERS representative now that Andy is finishing as President of the Paediatric Assembly and Jimmy takes on the role of ERS Secretary.

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Applications are requested for the next Vice President to take over from Rob Primhak - starting October 2008. The person then becomes President in April 2010 for 3 years and then vice president for 18 months, so it is a 6 year commitment on the Executive Committee. Please email me and obviously we will hold a vote if necessary. If you are considering it, please feel free to contact me if you want some more information. CLOSING DATE for applications is 9 am on Oct 15th. Please send in a short (1-2 paragraphs) manifesto.

4. Clinical excellence Awards for 2009

On September 4th we sent out a separate mailing to remind everyone and give you the deadlines for requesting BPRS support for any ACCEA applications. I must receive the ACCEA form (2008 version will do) by October 15th 9am. Late applications will not be processed as our deadlines are tight and all forms will be sent out for scoring later that day. Do not forget to consult <http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/accea/index.htm>. Please also note that BPRS is unable to be involved with applications for Platinum level.

5. BTS Specialist Advisory Groups representatives

A minor victory on the BTS Council was persuading them that there should be a paediatric representative on all relevant SAGs. Some have been appointed by the groups directly and others have been appointed by ourselves. Terms will be for 3 years but some are shorter at the start so that the whole group does not change at the same time.

Asthma	David Spencer	SAG request
Cystic Fibrosis	Ian Balfour-Lynn	SAG request
BOLD	Steve Cunningham	BPRS choice
Occupational & environmental lung health	Jonathan Grigg	BPRS choice
Pulmonary infection	To be confirmed	BPRS choice
Sleep apnoea	Rob Primhak	BPRS choice
Tobacco	Huw Thomas	BPRS choice
Tuberculosis	Jimmy Paton	BPRS choice

6. BTS Standards of Care Committee

Another victory was that we can now have 2 representatives on this committee. Jeremy Hull and Mike McKean are our representatives so if you have strong views about BTS guidelines that need to be written (or shouldn't have been) let them know. Thanks to Colin Wallis who stands down from this post.

7. Response to RCPCH paper on modelling specialist paediatric centres

We have been asked yet again to respond to a paper on modelling services and consultant numbers. The CSAC was also asked to respond to a similar offering from the College. It is mostly speculation due to many unanswered issues. If anyone is particularly interested, please feel free to email me and I can send you our response.

8. Lifetime achievement awards

The following have been selected to be the initial recipients of the award – Hamish Simpson and Tony Milner, both for their contributions to the specialty and particularly their involvement at the inception of BPRS. Many congratulations to them. They will be presented with their award at the BPRS Winter Dinner. For 2009 onwards, we intend there to be 1 award per year.

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