

RCGP Chair Coming To Northern Ireland



Dr Clare Gerada MBE, FRCGP, FRCGP, MRCPsych

Dr. Clare Gerada, Chair of RCGP, is coming to Northern Ireland on 26 May to engage with AiTs and local RCGP members. This is a great opportunity to meet Clare and ask her questions on topical issues relating to general practice and primary care. Within her role Clare provides the political, academic, governance and leadership of the RCGP. To register your interest in attending this event please contact lwallace@rcgp.org.uk.

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Quality Committee Update



RCGP Northern Ireland is proud to award North West Doctors on Call (NoWDOC) the prestigious Out of Hours Accreditation. This is the first time that any out of hours co-operative in the Republic of Ireland has worked towards achieving the high standards needed to be granted the Award.

The assessment team was extremely impressed by the dedication, quality and innovation of the services administered by the NoWDOC Team and further stated that 'NoWDOC should also be commended for the additional care taken to ensure that patients with access issues, sensory problems and disabilities are well cared for.'

Professor Scott Brown, Chair of RCGP Northern Ireland commented: "With flu and other winter infections dramatically increasing practice work loads, this has been a very stressful time for all those working for NoWDOC, especially Service Manager, Ms Angela Tysall. It is

Spring Symposium 2011

RCGP Northern Ireland's Spring Symposium on "Medical Problems in Pregnancy" took place on 18 April 2011 and was very well received. This Symposium was designed to provide an opportunity for GPs to update their knowledge of pregnancy related problems. The event looked at issues such as the screening and management of diabetes in pregnancy, depression and pregnancy, hyperemesis and managing smoking cessation in pregnancy.

Over 40 GPs and Midwives attended the event and feedback has been very positive. RCGP Northern Ireland would like to thank everyone who attended and participated on the day, with a special word of thanks to McNeill who kindly sponsored the event and our other supporters who included Pfizer, Dermal Laboratories, and Leo Pharma.



Dr, Matt McKernon delivering his presentation on Hyperemesis at the RCGP NI Spring Symposium

RCGP Northern Ireland aims to meet other educational needs of GPs. If there is something that interests you please email lwallace@rcgp.org.uk and we will endeavour to facilitate this.



Dr Diarmuid Hegarty, NoWDOC Medical Director with Angela Tysall, HSE Service Manager for the NoWDOC Service.

practices.

Following on from the launch of the future of General practice 10 year strategy RCGP Northern Ireland has been tasked with developing a draft **Model Practice Framework**.

The Quality Committee has set up a working group, led by Dr John O'Kelly (Chair RCGP NI Quality Committee) to draft a Model Practice Framework. The group that includes Dr Jeni McAughey, Ms Jackie Barr and Mr Mark Nolan hope to have a first draft ready to present to Council by September 2011.

RCGP Welcomes New Chief Executive



Mr. Neil Hunt, Chief Executive RCGP

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. At the time of writing I have been working at the College for almost six weeks - that's the health warning on anything I have to say.

First, I should say how pleased I am to be appointed as Chief Executive of the RCGP. The College is one of those bodies that has such a reputation and standing that people are aware of it, even if not working with it. In the role I had before this, as Chief Executive of Alzheimer's Society, it was important both to understand issues facing GPs as well as offering some (hopefully) constructive challenges. The College

was always a target for our communications and collaboration was highly prized. You were always on the radar.

Part of this stems from the central role GPs have in our health system and part from the extraordinary range of activity the College undertakes. Since joining, I have been genuinely impressed and (I must confess at times alarmed) by how much is going on. I have met some very clever, highly committed people who are working extremely hard to develop insights and suggest new approaches. I am in no doubt at all that, as Chief Executive, I have a responsibility to support this work by ensuring our systems, capacity and resources are working to best effect. To that end, I am eager to understand the top priorities we have - the absolute 'must do' items - and to make sure we deliver on them. I shall be listening.

For example, the Health and Social Care Bill in England is so dramatic and has such implications for GPs and patients that we must take all the opportunities we can to influence it. So too, the new Centre for Commissioning and the potential business and development role it can

play. However the Bill proceeds, the commissioning agenda is here and the Centre needs to be a respected and reliable source of good practice.

It is vital, however, not to allow the agenda in England to dominate all others. (I am a great believer that a distance from London brings many advantages). I was pleased to receive today details of the new 'Creating Mental Wealth in Wales' programme from colleagues in Cardiff. It is my sense that almost daily, the College is innovating something to improve the life chances of people across the UK.

I have had an initial opportunity to recognise the work of the faculties and the crucial challenge of making the College relevant and accessible to all. We are already looking at our digital systems with a view to improving usability for College Members. Additionally, I hope that the decision to move into a wonderful new central office will add greatly to the range and quality of services available.

It is excellent to arrive at a time of growth for the College. I aim to keep us on that path, to find ways to refine what we offer and to increase the impact of the work we do.

RCGP in Photographs



1) Dr. Briget Osborne, Chair RCGP Wales, Professor Scott Brown, Chair RCGP Northern Ireland and Dr. Iona Heath, president RCGP at the Wales Gala Dinner 2010 2) Dr. Des McMahon and Professor Mike Pringle 3) Professor Mike Pringle and Dr. Jocelyn Anderson 4) Dr. Eamonn Shanahan and Professor Mike Pringle, 5) Dr. Jocelyn Anderson and Mr. Robert Pereira. Photographs 2, 3, 4, and 5 are from the Republic of Ireland Winter Meeting.



GMC proposes costs can be considered when prescribing off-label: New consultation looks at how doctors prescribe medicines

For the first time, the GMC is proposing that Northern Ireland GPs can prescribe a cheaper off-label alternative to a licensed medicine, as long as it is approved in authoritative clinical guidelines and is just as safe and effective for the patient.

Good practice in prescribing and managing medicines and devices puts forward new standards designed to make prescribing safer for patients while supporting doctors in managing medicines.

Patients buying prescriptions online would receive greater protection under the guidance, which would require doctors prescribing via websites to liaise with the patient's GP, unless the patient objects.

Doctors are also being asked to respond constructively to concerns raised by colleagues and patients about adverse incidents and near-misses involving the use of medicines and medical devices.

Tough standards for doctors working in sports medicine are set out for the first time, including guidance which says doctors who suspect that athletes' performance is improperly enhanced should raise concerns when it is in the public interest.

Niall Dickson, the Chief Executive of the GMC said:

"It is vital that our guidance on prescribing and managing medicines is up to date and relevant for doctors

working today. We want to hear the views of doctors, patients, carers and other health professionals about the difficult decisions doctors can face when prescribing and how doctors can help their patients better understand the information about the medicines they are taking."

The consultation, which is open now, runs until 27 May 2011. Doctors can share their views and take part in the consultation by visiting:

www.gmc-uk.org/prescribing



PiP Update

It has been a very busy number of months for the RCGP Northern Ireland Patients in Practice Group (PiP).

Following on from their very successful workshops on setting up new Patient Participation Groups, PiP have been involved in supporting the development of 4 new Patient Participation Groups and in drafting a set of **supportive guidelines designed to help both GPs and practice managers set up new Patient Participation Groups**. The guidelines will be launched in May 2011.

Planning is underway for PiP's **second conference on patient involvement which will be held in Lisburn on 5 October**.

The PiP Group has also provided a response to the Department of Health consultation on **The Personal and Public Involvement Scheme** and are currently recruiting additional members for the group.



Practice Managers Update

On 27 May 2011, in the Dunsilly Hotel Antrim, The Royal College of GPs Practice Managers Committee are to hold their second event of 2011 on **"How to Improve your financial Performance"**. The aim of this seminar is to provide a better understanding of GP financial accounts and how they can be used to assess and improve the performance of their practice. Seamus Dawson and Lisa McCaffery from Bridge Chartered Accountants will be presenting at the seminar, which aims to be as successful as the **Legal Aspects of Practice Management** event held by the committee on 4 February. Rosemary Wilson, a local

Barrister was the speaker at this event which was a resounding success with excellent feedback

In addition to the events organized by the Practice Managers Committee a new Practice Managers website has been launched to assist practice managers in the everyday running of a medical practice. The website has already attracted a large number of users and includes documentation practice managers require on a daily basis. If you wish to view the Practice Managers Website please visit the **s i t e o n** www.rcgpnipracticemanagers.co.uk

AiTs Prepare for "Life as a Locum"

On Saturday 26 March, RCGP Northern Ireland held it's second information event for current ST3's. The seminar was designed to provide registrars with an insight into what they could expect as they enter locum life.

A wide range of topics were discussed including; the First 5 CPD Project, the role of RCGP Northern Ireland in future careers, life as a locum, revalidation, how to get that dream

partnership, portfolio careers & how best to deal with finances when becoming self employed.

Over 40 ST3's attended the event and feedback was very positive. RCGP Northern Ireland would like to thank everyone who attended and participated on the day especially GSK who provided lunch and refreshments. RCGP Northern Ireland look forward to holding a similar event in 2012 for the next ST3's.



EVENTS, CONSULTATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Alzheimer's Disease Management in Primary Care	May 25 2011	1pm	Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim
Clare Gerada Q & A	May 26 2011	7pm	Antrim Civic Centre
How to Improve your Financial Performance	May 27 2011	9.30am	Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim

RCGP is aiming to run the Certificate in the Management of Drugs misuse . In order to help us gauge interest please let us know if this is something you would be interested contact Lindsay Wallace at lw Wallace@rcgp.org.uk

Consultation	Deadline
DHSSPS: Consultation on the new Strategic Direction for Alcohol & Drugs Phase 2	20 May 2011
DHSSPS: Living with a long term condition- Policy Framework	10 June 2011
DHSSPS: Pandemic Flu Consultation	10 June 2011

If you require further information or wish to feed your views into any of RCGP Ireland responses please e-mail Edward Hanna, ehanna@rcgp.org.uk



RCGP Northern Ireland
New Opportunities to get Involved

RCGP Northern Ireland Members Forum
Engaging with our Members throughout their Career and Beyond

The Royal College of General Practitioners in Northern Ireland is seeking applications from RCGP Northern Ireland Members who are interested in becoming involved with the new Members Forum currently being established.

The aim of the Members Forum will be to bring together representatives from across the broad spectrum of members in Northern Ireland in order to:

- support all members throughout their careers
- act as the members' voice
- identify educational needs
- share ideas across the membership
- respond to issues affecting membership in Northern Ireland
- promote RCGP Fellowship and MAP (Membership by Assessment of Performance)

The Forum will be constituted of members that reflect the geographical spread of GPs throughout the province, the wide range of ages/stages within a GPs lifetime and their associated needs.

If you would like to be involved in enhancing the quality of services provided to our members in Northern Ireland, please contact RCGP Northern Ireland for a Role Description and Terms of Office.

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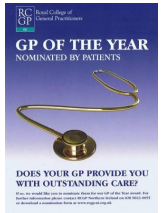


Closing Date for Applications Friday 27 May 2011 at 5pm

Applications can also be downloaded from the RCGP NI website. www.rcgp.org.uk/ni

RCGP NI Launch Awards 2011

Quality patient care is a priority for RCGP Northern Ireland and it is important to recognise general practice at its best. The Annual RCGP Northern Ireland General Practice Awards which will take place in the Dunadry Hotel on 26 November 2011, will create an opportunity for patients and practice teams to recognise the dedication of GPs and Practice teams who all play an important role in ensuring quality care for patients.



Caring for Carers Award

The Royal College of General Practitioners in partnership with [The Princess Royal Trust for Carers](#) is looking for GPs who provide the best support to unpaid carers and recognise the impact being a carer can have on the health of the carer.

Closing Date for applications 30 June 2011

GP of the Year: Patient Nomination

This award acknowledges the outstanding level of care which GPs provide and is an opportunity for patients to tell us about the excellent care they have received from their GP and the positive impact this has had on their overall quality of life.

Closing date for applications 16 September 2011

Practice Manager of the Year

The Practice Manager of the Year Award acknowledges the dedication and commitment of Practice Managers in keeping their practices running smoothly in what is often a very pressurised environment. Their ability to do this successfully has a positive impact on the quality of patient care and RCGP Northern Ireland aim to recognise this.

Closing date for applications 16 September 2011

Practice Administration Team of the Year

This award acknowledges the outstanding work of Practice Teams who contribute to the overall service and quality care for patients. Practice teams are invited to nominate themselves for this award.

Closing date for applications 16 September 2011

You will shortly be receiving information on the awards for your surgery. We would be grateful if you could display these in a prominent place for the attention of staff and patients.