

## Welcome



2012 will be a fascinating year. We will undoubtedly hear about the sporting prowess of the great champions taking part in the Olympics and Euro 2012, both of which are likely to be dominant headlines in the national press.

Our own national press, RCGP News (and CIRC bulletin!), may well report on the Olympics but over the year you are more likely to hear about the work of our own champions past and present.

So what are likely to be the headline banners from CIRC?

The new clinical priority areas 2012-15 have been chosen by CIRC Board. These are Antimicrobial Stewardship, Cancer, Dementia and Rare Diseases. So why not apply to become a clinical champion? Look out also for the spring

## The RCGP and Care Planning - Dr Isabel Hodkinson

I am delighted to have started work for CIRC as the lead for Care Planning.

Be warned! "Care Planning" in this context has a very specific meaning and builds on the work outlined in the College document: *Care Planning, Improving the Lives of People with Long Term Conditions* ([www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/year\\_of\\_care.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/year_of_care.aspx)).

Care planning is an **attitude towards** and a **structure for** the delivery of care to people with long term conditions

call for the 2013-16 clinical priority proposals. Do come and meet all of our clinical champions at the RCGP conference in October 2012.

Our continual collaborative work with Diabetes UK (DUK) will help to highlight key aspects of diabetes care. Thanks to Brian Karet who has worked hard in his role as joint RCGP/DUK clinical lead. The new clinical lead has been appointed and will start his post in March. The National Review of Asthma Deaths will go live in February and our respiratory lead Kevin Gruffydd Jones has been involved with this. We are presently looking for GP panel assessors for this RCP led project, why not apply?

The new revamped clinical resource will be advertised, we will be looking for the generalist as well as those with enhanced roles to respond to consultations and act as representatives for the college, do look out for this. Minor surgery audit led by our clinical champion Jonathan Botting is likely to make a headline with the setting up of a database that will allow audit projects to be uploaded with the aim of making comparative analyses. The Research Paper of the Year award always makes a big splash, look out for the successful paper.

Our own Helen Lester will be giving the James Mackenzie Lecture at the College's AGM which is a great honour for her. Helen has amazing

with **support for self management** at its heart.

This is a whole system change which demands a profound shift in our attitudes as health care professionals away from the medical model of our training which drives us to fix things, do to, to prescribe.

We think we are doing this already? My experience suggests that we think we are but patients do not and I would like to find ways to help teams get feedback about this.

clarity of thought and it promises to be a great lecture. CIRC are also involved in developing a cardiovascular toolkit as part of the National Audit of Schizophrenia, working with the excellent David Shiers, a mental health GP lead appointed by the RCP.

One measure of success (not another performance indicator!) for us will be engagement in our activities through CIRC with the membership. We are keen to hear from you. Why not let us know what you are doing and we could look at broadening your messages and activities through CIRC. Models of care in the delivery of care relating to Multimorbidity will be of particular interest to us, as will examples of how you have applied research findings to the care of your patients. Good pieces of audit could be put up on the CIRC website. We are also keen to involve members in the work of NICE and CIRC's role is a bit like a marriage match maker - happy to help foster a long and fruitful relationship!

Finally, new year honours go especially to the 2008-2011 clinical champions who have ended their tenure. We thank them for all their hard work and efforts for the College. Adieu to David Kernick (Headache), Graham Davenport (Osteoporosis), Mark Porcheret (Osteoarthritis), Louise Robinson (Older people's health) and Kevin Gruffydd Jones (COPD).

Happy New Year! Imran Rafi

I come from a diabetes background but for real value we need to centre this process around the patient. We need to develop infrastructure to support general practice to deal effectively with multi-morbidity in a single care planning process.

I notice that clinical lead categories mirror secondary care structures; either around diseases or stages of life. Being a care planning lead is novel and stands up for generalism!

Interested in engaging in this work? Contact: [isabel.hodkinson@nhs.net](mailto:isabel.hodkinson@nhs.net)

## The Expert Resource Initiative - New Year, New Look!

The RCGP Clinical Innovation and Research Centre's (CIRC) Expert Resource initiative has been in operation since 2008, so we felt it was time to stop and see what is working well and how we can make it even better.

The Expert Resource provides an opportunity for experienced and interested GPs to participate in a range of clinical developments such as NICE guidance, supporting work across the College including the clinical champions and the development and review of educational activities, and representing the College in other initiatives as required both nationally and internationally.

### Current participants:

For all those who are currently an Expert Resource we thank you very much for your ongoing support and participation in the work we do. As part of the review we have updated

our participation criteria so you will soon receive an email or letter from us outlining this. Ongoing participation does involve some level of commitment which we hope you can all sign up for. The feedback we receive from those GPs who do get involved in the range of requests we send through is that it is a valuable learning experience and usually enjoyable!

### New Participants

For anyone who is not currently a part of the Expert Resource but is interested in joining up we will be calling for new members in early 2012, so look out for the advertisement or go to the website. GPs with an interest or expertise in particular areas as well as the strong generalist are all welcomed and needed. The number and variety of requests coming through are growing and we need your participation.

For further details go to [www.rcgp.org.uk/expert](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/expert)

## Nutrition for Health - An RCGP Clinical Priority Dr Rachel Pryke, Clinical Champion

At a time of year when even the most willowy of waists are under calorific pressure, it is good to know that the RCGP have made Nutrition for Health a clinical priority - a heading that encompasses obesity, malnutrition and much else besides.

A central aim of the programme is to give GPs a greater say in how our role within nutrition and weight management should develop. For starters we are hosting a One Day Obesity Essentials conference on March 22, featuring an impressive and diverse group of speakers who



will cover the breadth of the subject. It includes a debate on whether obesity should form a routine part of health promotion in primary care, with the aim of listening to and sharing as many hands-on views about our role in weight management as possible.

Is this an area you are already interested and active in? If it is, then please

consider signing up to the CIRC Expert Resource database. This does not require any formal level of expertise, but is an opportunity for GPs' interests and expertise to be put to good use by the College. We are particularly keen for GPs with an interest in weight management and/or nutrition to put

their names forward. Engagement is always voluntary and individuals are able to do as much or as little as fits with their other commitments. Please contact [expertresource@rcgp.org.uk](mailto:expertresource@rcgp.org.uk) if you would like to find out more.

Gathering examples of good practice is another aim of the programme and will be of immense value when other GPs and commissioners are considering how to develop their own approaches.

Please let us know if you have been involved in a weight management service and would be happy to share your experiences. Email [circ@rcgp.org.uk](mailto:circ@rcgp.org.uk)

## National Review of Asthma Deaths: Call for GP Panel Assessors



The National Review of Asthma Deaths (NRAD), run by the consortium of asthma professional and patient bodies, in collaboration with the RCGP, is being led by the Royal College of Physicians and will look into the circumstances surrounding deaths from asthma from 1 February 2012 to 30 January 2013.

We are looking to recruit General Practitioners (ideally with some interest in respiratory medicine) to be panel assessors for this important project. Panel assessors must currently be in clinical practice or have retired within the previous five years. The role of the multidisciplinary panels will be to analyse patient deaths from asthma through systematic review of the patients records.

**Time Commitment:** you will be asked to commit to attending at least **two full day panel meetings** in the course of the 15 months. You are able to do more if you wish.

**Location of meetings:** panel meetings will be held in London, Bristol, Birmingham or Manchester, Newcastle, Belfast and Edinburgh.

**Travel Expenses:** Travel expenses (and accommodation if required) will be available to GP assessors.

**For further information on the project, the role of panel assessors and how you can apply please see the website:** [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nrad](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/nrad)

**Alternatively please email** [nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk](mailto:nrad@rcplondon.ac.uk) **or phone +44 (0) 20 3075 1522 or 1500.**

## Clinical Champion Spotlight

### Dr Martin Johnson, Chronic Pain Clinical Champion and the English Pain Summit 2011

The Pain Summit took place on Tuesday 22 November at Central Hall, Westminster.

The Summit was well attended by a wide variety of delegates, ranging from health care professionals to commissioners, academics and patient groups. There were speeches from Earl Howe, Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Professor Dame Carol Black and Professor Sir Liam Donaldson combined with accounts from patients and professionals and two panel discussions.

Workshops took place on the themes of 'Education', 'Public Health: The Wider Context of Pain' and 'Quality Commissioning'.

Some of the recommendations included:

- An across-England gold standard educational provision needs to be agreed and the level of variation from this measured.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

- treating chronic pain as a long term condition and undertaking systematic local needs analysis and planning could result in better outcomes.

- Quality and monitoring framework - there should be a NICE quality standard on pain management and this should include self management principles.
- Training should allow clinicians to make a biopsychosocial assessment of pain.
- To increase community-based specialist-led services where assessments are made to determine how people living with pain are best treated with the fewest number of steps.

A full report is being written. The Pain Summit Steering Group will then plan a three to five year programme of work, which may entail further summits, in order to achieve the agreed outcomes.

Similar summits are being planned in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

## Clinical Fellow opportunities at HQIP, in collaboration with the RCGP

CIRC has joined forces with HQIP to appoint two Clinical Fellows to assist with the development of practice amongst clinicians in clinical registries, confidential enquiries and clinical audits.

HQIP's roles include the commissioning of national and regional clinical audits and registers and promotion of best practice to anyone who practices clinical audit, including clinicians in all settings and disciplines.

This extensive clinician support includes comprehensive guidance, events, mentoring, training, online networking, organisational funding for groups and networks and funding for small-scale project development.

We are now recruiting two clinical fellows to help support HQIP staff on key projects. These are likely to be young clinicians, having completed their initial training and prior to

progression to senior roles, for example, general practitioners within five years of completing speciality training.

Placements of this type can take various forms and can be attuned to the capacity, period of availability and skill mix of the person involved, with a minimum period of two sessions per month for one year.

There will be a small grant available to cover expenses. Work undertaken will be supervised closely by a senior member of HQIP's staff and the Medical Director of CIRC and will form part of a wider programme.

For all further details, including contact and application information go to:

[www.hqip.org.uk/hqip-collaborates-with-rcgp-to-create-clinical-fellow-roles/](http://www.hqip.org.uk/hqip-collaborates-with-rcgp-to-create-clinical-fellow-roles/)

**Deadline:** Noon, Tuesday 31 January 2012.

## Don't forget to apply for the Yvonne Carter Award for Outstanding New Researcher.

The deadline for this award is **31 January 2012**, so there's still time to apply.

The award, of £1000, has been instituted in memory of Professor Yvonne Carter CBE by the RCGP's Scientific Foundation Board and the Society for Academic Primary Care.

The award is intended to support the international development of promising researchers in primary care, enabling them to attend and present work at an international research meeting and to meet and collaborate with researchers abroad.

Details of last years winner can be found here: [www.rcgp.org.uk/pdf/decemberbulletin.pdf](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/pdf/decemberbulletin.pdf)

For more information about how to apply and eligibility, please visit: [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/translational\\_research/yvonne\\_carter\\_awards.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/translational_research/yvonne_carter_awards.aspx)

## Call for Clinical Champion Applications

CIRC is now advertising for Clinical Champions to represent the College in line with the clinical priorities that have been chosen for 2012-15.

The three new clinical priority areas are:

- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Dementia
- Rare Diseases (with a particular focus on Motor Neurone Disease)

Clinical Champions lead a three year programme of work in the specified clinical area and the baseline commitment is one day per month.

**Deadline** for applications is 12.00 on 3 February 2012.

For a full role description and application details please visit: [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/priorities\\_commissioning/clinical\\_champions/clinical\\_champion\\_recruitment.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/priorities_commissioning/clinical_champions/clinical_champion_recruitment.aspx)

## The Kuenssberg Award 2012 - applications invited

Are you an Associate in Training (AiT) in primary care/general practice, or a member of the RCGP in your first five years of general practice?

Are you also interested in clinical audit?

Applications are now invited for the 2012 Kuenssberg Award for high quality audit projects undertaken by AiTs and GPs in their first five years of practice.

The Clinical Innovation and Research Centre (CIRC) are pleased to announce this RCGP award. The RCGP Kuenssberg Award is given for high quality full cycle audit projects which demonstrate a change in clinical practice or service improvement as a direct result of the audit. Five awards are given and the winners will receive £1000 and be invited to present their audit work either as a poster or an oral presentation at the Society for Academic Primary care (SAPC) Annual Scientific Meeting or the RCGP Conference. Winners will also have the opportunity to shadow the Chair, the Head or the Medical Director of CIRC.

The Award is open to AiTs and RCGP members within their first five years and not currently in an academic

department of general practice. Applicants conducting audit projects in the RCGP's clinical priority areas are particularly encouraged to apply (please go to [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/innovation\\_evaluation/clinical\\_priorities.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/innovation_evaluation/clinical_priorities.aspx) for a full listing of these areas).

The **deadline** for submissions is 18 May 2012.

Individuals can apply themselves or be nominated. For full details on nomination, submission and application criteria go to [www.rcgp.org.uk/kuenssburgaward](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/kuenssburgaward)



Dr Ekkehard von Kuenssberg (CBE) founding member and past President of RCGP

### Key Links

To learn more about the work of the College's Clinical Champions, please visit: [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/priorities\\_commissioning/clinical\\_champions.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/priorities_commissioning/clinical_champions.aspx)

To find out about Research Governance please visit: [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/translational\\_research/research\\_governance.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/translational_research/research_governance.aspx)

For information about the College's Research and Surveillance Centre please visit: [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/rsc.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/rsc.aspx)

To discover more about clinical guidelines please visit: [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/effectiveness\\_evidence/expert\\_resource/hcgc.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/effectiveness_evidence/expert_resource/hcgc.aspx)

## RCGP Clinical Innovation and Research Centre

Developing clinical excellence through clinical audit and effectiveness, service development and research projects

For any further information or to contact the CIRC team please email [circ@rcgp.org.uk](mailto:circ@rcgp.org.uk) or visit the RCGP Website [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research.aspx)

Please let us know if you have found this issue useful, or tell us what else you would like to hear about.

## Don't miss your opportunity to nominate a paper to be considered for the Research Paper of the Year Award

Applications for 2011's Research Paper of the Year are still open and this year there are more opportunities for your paper to win as the award will include additional specific categories aligned to the six NIHR topic specific research networks of : Cancer, Dementias and Neurodegenerative Diseases, Diabetes, Medicines for Children, Mental Health and Stroke.

Each subcategory winner(s) will receive a prize as will the overall winner, who will be selected from this group and announced at the awards ceremony, supported by Novartis, in June 2012.

The overall winner will also be invited to present their paper at the joint RCGP and SAPC Conference in October 2012.

For information about criteria and eligibility visit: [www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical\\_and\\_research/circ/research\\_knowledge\\_transfer/research\\_paper\\_of\\_the\\_year.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical_and_research/circ/research_knowledge_transfer/research_paper_of_the_year.aspx)

**Deadline: 29 February 2012**

### Next time:

- Find out about the College's Practitioners Allowance Grants
- Learn about our Research Ready Scheme
- Meet the new Clinical Lead for Diabetes
- Discover more about the work of the Research and Surveillance Centre

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[www.rcgp.org.uk/fundraising](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/fundraising)