

Patients in Practice Conference

The Patients in Practice Group (PiP) in association with the Patient and Client Council, and supported by GlaxoSmithKline, hosted a Conference on Promoting Patient Involvement on 5 October 2011 in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn. The event featured a keynote address on the future of patient participation in primary care by the new Health Minister, Edwin Poots MLA, and was attended by sixty delegates.

The Conference included a series of workshops looking at the concept of setting up Patient Participation Groups in general practice as well as hearing from GPs and practice staff already successfully engaged in the process.

Following the PiP response to the Dept. of Health Patient Involvement Consultation in April, and subsequent letter to Dr Jim Livingstone (Director of Safety, Quality and Standards), a meeting was held between PiP and Dr Livingstone on 12th September. Mr Alan Braiden (Chair PiP) and Mr Drew Boyd (Vice Chair PiP) represented the Group.

Following up on the meeting with Dr Jim Livingstone, a representative of the PiP Group has been asked to sit on the Department of Health's review team which is looking at revising the Government guidance on promoting patient involvement in health and social care. The next meeting of the working group is on 30th November.



Mr Edwin Poots MLA (Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety)

RCGP Members Forum



Voices!!! We all have one, but sometimes it can prove difficult to have our voices heard above the din of so many others. This can be the case when we belong to a large group. We may have fantastic ideas

we'd like to share, or an innovative solution to a long standing problem, either way trying to make yourself heard can sometimes prove difficult.

At RCGP NI we wanted to change that, and in October 2011 the first Members Forum meeting was held. The Members Forum was established to ensure there was open dialogue between the RCGP Northern Ireland and its Members. Chaired by Dr. Laurence Dorman, Executive Member (membership) the meeting was attended by 9 GP's from throughout Northern Ireland and represented a wide career span of GP's in Northern Ireland ranging from newly qualified GP's to retired members.

A full agenda was discussed, and included items such as communication, CPD and membership support. A 'Google Group' is to be established to allow GP's to discuss any current issues. If you would like to join this group please register your interest with Katherine Gardiner of RCGP NI.

Katherine.gardiner@rcgp.org.uk 028 9023 0055.

Fellowship

Becoming a fellow of any organisation is an honour. It is an acknowledgement by ones peers that you are at the top of your profession. RCGP has many amazing GP's throughout the country, but many of these individuals continue their professional career having never received the accolades and recognition they deserve.

The situation is no different in Northern Ireland and hence the Northern Ireland Fellowship Advisory Panel was established. After an intensive recruitment process a panel of advisors was elected and nominations for Northern Ireland GP's are now being sought.

To date the college has received a number of nominations. However we believe that this does not properly reflect the talent, expertise and calibre of our many members.

If you or someone you know would like to nominate a member for Fellowship please see www.rcgp.org.uk/membership/fellowship or contact, Katherine.gardiner@rcgp.org.uk, 028 9023 0055.

Those nominated will be put forward for final approval by the Fellowship Committee in London.

The Princess Royal Trust For Carers



The Princess Royal Trust
for Carers

The Princess Trust for Carers and the Royal College of GPs as part of their ongoing partnership have launched the new edition of the GP Action Guide. The partnership between the Trust and the RCGP is based on many years of experience and has produced significant mutual benefits and support for carers including highly successful carer GP support projects, enhanced Carer Centre GP partnership working, the Caring for Carers annual award, greater carer recognition and carer support from the healthcare teams.

This action guide is another step in enhancing the support for the estimated 6,000 people who take on caring responsibilities every day and will also encourage knowledge sharing and learning, all of which will help to improve the support and understanding that carers so desperately need.

Whilst the policy section in the guide is England specific it never the less contains some excellent pointers to enhance carer support. As the Chair of the Professional Development Board of the RCGP Professor Nigel Sparrow states

'The guide supports the continuing education of GPs so that doctors can more easily identify patient carers and be aware of their needs. We hope it will lead to tangible results and new ways of working within the primary healthcare team but perhaps most importantly, it will put carers at the top of the health agenda – where they rightfully belong.'

If you would like any further information or have any queries on developing GP carer support programmes please do not hesitate to contact Paul McCormack, Development Manager NI, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers.
pmccormack@carers.org or 07794 318403

'Improving Practice Management' RCGP Practice Managers Conference

The First RCGP Managers Conference took place on 14th September 2011 in the Tullyglass Hotel Belfast. The event was attended by over 60 Practice Managers from across the province.

The conference covered a range of topics relevant to general practice including QoF, Staff Management, Developing Integrated Care, Working with the Corners Service, Patient Practice Communication and Pensions. Feedback from the conference has been extremely positive and the intention is to run a similar event on a bi-annual basis.



Comments from the event were very positive and included:

"Excellent variety of speakers, lots to think about."

"Impressed - more RCGP events please."

"Very well organised."

"One of the best I have been to in 10 years"

Caring about Carers Award 2011

The Royal College of General Practitioners in partnership with The Princess Royal Trust for Carers once again undertook to find GPs who provide the best support to unpaid carers. In today's society, many people are faced with caring for relatives or friends who are sick, disabled, frail or have problems with alcohol/ drugs and often it is the help of their GP and their Practice teams which can make all the difference.

Launched in April 2011, the deadline for nominations for the Caring About Carers Award has since passed and we are delighted to announce that the winner of the Caring About Carers Awards 2011 is Dr Josephine Mercer and the staff at Kilkeel Primary Care Centre in Kilkeel.



On behalf of the Royal College of General Practitioners and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, we would like to extend our many congratulations to all staff at the Kilkeel Primary Care Centre and look forward to seeing them at our Annual Awards Gala on the 26th November in the Dunadry Hotel where they will be presented with their award on the night.

Dr. William Ramsay

In May 2011 the Royal College of General Practitioners said farewell to Dr. William Ramsay who had served as a GP in Portadown for more than 30 years. Dr. Ramsay was described by many as a Doctor from the old school, who was totally dedicated to his patients and was a true gentleman.

A gentle and quietly spoken man, Dr. Ramsay was a courageous and determined person who made his mark wherever he went. A devoted father and family man, Dr. Ramsay is survived by his loving wife Lilian, their daughter Anne-Marie, son Michael and his four grandchildren.

Dr. Ramsay began his academic career at Coleraine Inst where he attended as a boarder. He went on to study medicine at Queen's University (1947-53) followed by a year at the City Hospital in Belfast. In 1991 Dr. Ramsay retired from Portadown's Hadden practice where he had been based for 30 years.

In his estate Dr. Ramsay bequeathed a sum of money to the College to help with the crucial work they undertake in contributing to the wellbeing of every man, woman and child in the UK.

As recognition of his donation and more importantly, his dedication to the medical profession, Dr. Ramsay's name will be added to the College's Foundation Wall in the new Euston Square Development.

"Dr. William Ramsay FRCGP"



Spotlight on Dementia Care

A new improvement report by the Health Foundation on dementia care says that services need to be improved urgently for people with dementia and their carers, as the costs of care could triple within 20 years if we don't take action.

Spotlight on Dementia Care brings together good practice guidance, case studies, research



evidence, key recommendations from major policy documents and current data on service delivery with the aim of helping health service providers provide high quality care.

The report concludes that both the level and the style of care provision are not meeting people's needs and this is resulting in a poor experience of care and higher costs.

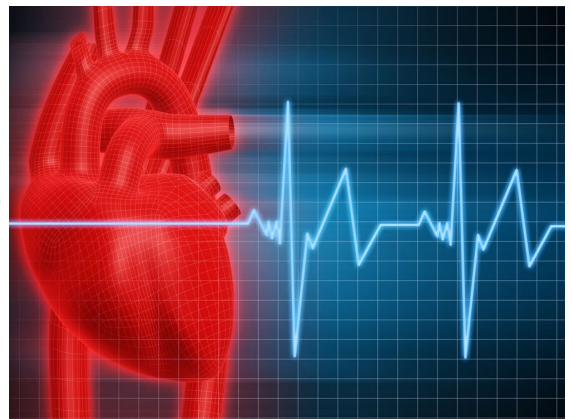
Download the full report *Spotlight on Dementia Care*: www.health.org.uk/dementia

Atrial Fibrillation and Management in Primary Care

On 21 September RCGP NI and the Atrial Fibrillation Association held a conference aimed at addressing the perceived quality of life for Atrial Fibrillation (AF) sufferers and AF treatment as well as looking at the new NICE guidelines on AF management.

Atrial Fibrillation affects approx six million patients in Europe and can precipitate heart failure, ventricular arrhythmias and it is associated with a four –to– five fold increase in the chance of thromboembolic stroke. In addition, although AF is frequently asymptomatic, it can reduce quality of life causing fatigue, palpitations, anxiety and dizziness.

There are also many adverse events associated with the medications used to treat AF. Health care intervention should consider both the risks and benefits of treatment to patients and take their quality of life into account particularly when prescribing warfarin anticoagulation therapy.



With close to 50 members in attendance the conference was a great success and received many positive comments;

- "Plethora of information—Excellent learning points and ideas for the future."
- "Insightful, informative and helpful."
- "Good talk, very relevant to General Practice."

RCGP Northern Ireland Annual Awards Gala

On November 26th the RCGP NI will be hosting the Annual Awards Gala. This is the 10th year of this very popular event. The evening provides general practice with one of the few opportunities to celebrate the good work that is done in this area on a daily basis, and the contribution it makes to society.

Awards being presented this year include:

- GP of the Year Award
- Practice Manager of the Year Award
- Practice Administration Team of the Year Award
- Caring About Carers Award



Please contact Angela McLaughlin for further details on:

T: 028 9023 0055 or E: amclaughlin@rcgp.org.uk



EVENTS, CONSULTATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Date	Time	Venue
CPR Training Course	7 November 2011	7:00 pm	RCGP NI Office
RCGP NI Annual General Meeting (AGM)	14 November 2011	7:00pm	Radisson Hotel, Gas Works
RCGP NI Council Meeting	14 November 2011	8:00pm	Radisson Hotel, Gas Works
RCGP NI Annual Awards Gala	26 November 2011	7:00pm	Dunadry Hotel, Dunadry
RCGP NI Patients in Practice (PiP) Meeting	9 December 2011	10:00am	RCGP NI Office
RCGP NI Quality Committee Meeting	14 December 2011	4:30pm	RCGP NI Office
RCGP NI Quality Committee Meeting	7 February 2011	4:30pm	RCGP NI Office
Consultation			Deadline
RCGP Consultation on Integration			4 November 2011
Misuse of Drugs Regulations			14 December 2011
Maternity Services: A Draft Maternity Strategy for Northern Ireland			23 December 2011
<p>If you require further information or wish to have your views included in any of RCGP Northern Ireland responses please email david.fry@rcgp.org.uk New consultations and opportunities to have your say are arising frequently. Watch our website for the latest information www.rcgp.org.uk/ni</p>			

Congratulations!!

RCGP Northern Ireland would like to extend its many congratulations to Mrs Lindsay Wallace and her husband Andrew on the birth of their baby boy Nathan Andrew, born on the 31st of October 2011. We wish them every happiness and best wishes for the future.

