

Primary Care Respiratory Society UK

SPREAD THE WORD!



Message from the Chair, PCRS-UK Executive Dr Iain Small

Change, quality and productivity are the current buzz words in the NHS – We've also been changing (our name), improving the quality of our resources and events (not possible I hear you say!) ... and increasing our productivity levels, by garnering increasing numbers of members to help generate (and spread) the word!

Change

We are delighted that, with the overwhelming support of our members and stakeholders, we reached another significant landmark in the history of the organisation at the end of 2009: we have changed our name to the Primary Care Respiratory Society UK, PCRS-UK.

Therefore, this is the first members update from the Primary Care Respiratory Society UK – giving you a précis of our achievements in 2009 and an idea of what 2010 has in store.

Quality

We are regularly praised for the quality of our resources

and events – and 2009 was no exception. There were several jewels in our crown worthy of mention here:

- the Annual Conference with more delegates than ever attending high quality sessions and workshops;
- the *PCRJ* with increased submissions, citations, reprints and downloads;
- the excellent preparatory work undertaken in advance of the long-awaited COPD National Strategy; and
- the high quality of our wide variety of resources, events and professional development programmes

.... and thank you for your support and glowing praise indicating that we are producing what you need, and providing the right sort of resources to help you, as working primary care professionals help manage people with respiratory conditions.

Productivity

With no rest for the wicked, we are all full-steam ahead delivering our activities in 2010:

- providing key resources, feedback to the Department of Health and attendance at SHA and national meetings to support the implementation of the COPD National Strategy
- forging ahead with our plans for an exciting innovative PCRS-UK Practice Quality Award
- contributing to junior doctors' training requirements and e-learning modules with regard to respiratory care
- contributing to the process to amend QOF and feeding into the consultation on generic substitution
- adding a new dimension to our professional development programmes for local nurse group leaders and respiratory leaders have taken on a new dimension this year

Read on for more information on how you can be kept informed, get involved and change for the better too.

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HANDY HINT: HOW TO USE THIS NEWSLETTER

Check out the nifty dynamic links to the PCRS-UK and other websites... simply place your cursor over the dynamic link shown in pink and click to access the relevant area of the website. ...have a go at hovering!

Make sure you remember to log-on if you wish to access member-only resources. If you have forgotten your log-in details simply email us at info@pcrs-uk.org and we will send your details to you.



This symbol highlights areas in the text where further information is available on our website

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PRIMARY CARE RESPIRATORY JOURNAL (PCRJ)

The term of office of the current Editor-in-Chief of the PCRJ, Dr Mark Levy, comes to an end on 31 December 2010 after nearly 20 years of developing the PCRJ into a fully indexed, internationally recognised academic journal. We will be celebrating Mark's contributions later in the year but in the meantime are advertising for a new Editor-in-Chief.

 For details of how to apply visit our [website](#)

We are always keen to help new and budding researchers. Submission is easy and there is a simple step-by-step process.

Visit our [journal website](#) for more information or call Tricia to help you through the process on 01461 600639.

PCRJ News

2009 was an excellent year for the PCRJ:

- over 120 articles were submitted; those published were clearly popular with our members and non-members alike – approximately 350,000 downloads from the PCRJ website in 2009
- we exhibited the journal at the European Respiratory Society Congress and the British Thoracic Society Winter meeting, enabling us to reach out to a wider audience
- significant levels of income were generated from advertisements and reprints.

We hope you enjoy reading the PCRJ and encouraging others to do so

The recently published Spirometry Standards Paper is generating a lot of interest. [Take a look for yourself.](#)

The March edition of PCRJ has some particularly pertinent papers and summaries for PCRS-UK members:

- [a summary of the recently updated BTS guidelines on the management of community acquired pneumonia \(CAP\)](#) Endorsed by the RCGP and the PCRS-UK, it has all the the key messages and recommendations for

diagnosing and managing CAP, including the use of the CRB-65 score for assessing severity.

- paediatric asthma care:
 - GPs or specialists – who provides better care?
- review of the importance of assessing levels of asthma control rather than disease severity
- discussion paper on asthma consultations in primary care
- economic analyses comparing tiotropium and ipratropium or salmeterol in COPD patients

Top 5 PCRJ Downloads in 2009:

1. [EPOS Primary Care Guidelines](#) – 12,991 hits
2. [Spirometry Standards Document](#) – 12,236 hits
3. [End of Life Care Review](#) – 9,517 hits
4. [IPCRG Guidelines – Diagnosis](#) - 8,442 hits
5. [Summary of the BTS SIGN Guideline for the Management of Asthma](#) – 6,995 hits

Research and Audit News

Thanks to those who provided much food for thought at the Research Forum meeting last year. Watch out for the resultant discussion paper on the future of primary care respiratory research coming soon.

There will be an interesting and stimulating PCRJ stream on research and innovation at the [annual conference in Telford this September](#), including original research presentations and Editor's Choice of recently published papers.

PCRS-UK Audit

The PCRS-UK Executive recognise medical audit is one of the few ways that health care professionals can

demonstrate what they do in practice and are keen to encourage all members to get involved with the Society's audits. The 2009 chest infection audit is still open for you to complete, so why not take a look ([click here](#)). The audit enables registered participants to enter their findings through a secure, password protected, anonymous website and to view their audit results (compared with others) online immediately after each new patient is entered. When at least 10 patients have been entered, it will be possible to print a report for discussion with your colleagues, and for inclusion in a personal development plan, as


evidence of completed audit, for appraisal purposes.

A new 2010 COPD diagnosis audit is currently being planned, led by PCRS-UK Executive member Ruth McArthur, who says, "We are going to make it simple and easy to complete. It will raise awareness of some of the quality criteria for diagnosing COPD in primary care, and through a benchmarking facility, will allow participants to identify spirometry training needs for themselves and their practice."

This is an ideal way to dip your toe in the research water or get involved in an area of personal interest. Give it a whirl, you might like it!

Policy News

New respiratory policies for Northern Ireland and Scotland

There's a lot of noise about the COPD National Strategy in England at present. Meanwhile, Northern Ireland and Scotland have been quietly getting on with it. Have you seen the all-singing, all-dancing 'Service Framework for Respiratory Health and Well-being'? It covers all the main respiratory conditions in one document – and sets standards to which the NHS in Northern Ireland must work. Have a look – it's pretty impressive! – there's more information on our policy webpage '[Policy – other nations](#)'. 

Scotland has been busy developing standards for COPD management. In the autumn, PCRS-UK responded to a consultation on the draft standards and gave our views from a primary care perspective. The issues in Scotland are very

similar to those in England for COPD: under-diagnosis, and missed opportunities for early intervention; poor diagnosis; availability of and assessment for pulmonary rehabilitation and oxygen; and lack of services at end of life for people with COPD. Watch out for the standards due out this month!

Quality and Outcomes Framework – on the move.... Slowly....

Our vision is for QOF to move away from process indicators and measure real patient outcomes; to measure quality of care in a way that is meaningful to patients. We have recently responded to two QOF consultations from NICE and recommended changes to the asthma and COPD indicators. Changes to the COPD indicators are on hold until the revised COPD guidelines are published by NICE in June 2010. Changes to the asthma indicators may

also be considered – and will have to go through cost-effectiveness analysis and be piloted. Any further changes to QOF therefore won't come into effect until April 2011.

The challenge is on - Quality and productivity

Times are going to get tougher in the NHS from a budget point of view and there is increasing interest in sharing good ideas about how to do things more efficiently – i.e. saving money. We shared with you the request from the Lung Improvement Team ([click here](#)) for good ideas in COPD, asthma and oxygen – look out for those when they are made available and see what ideas you may be able to implement in your area. IMPRESS is also keen to gather good ideas for how to overcome over-use of services, mis-use and under-use – [see their website](#) and share your experiences.

In brief –

PCRS-UK have provided input to:

- NICE consultation on the use of omalizumab in children aged 6-11
- NICE consultation on draft revised COPD guidelines
- Spirometry working group at the Department of Health
- Sleep apnoea work at British Lung Foundation
- Asthma groups for adults and children at Dept Health

We are currently contributing to input to:

- Consultation on generic substitution - this would allow pharmacists to substitute a generic when you have written a brand name – unless you specifically state on the scrip that you want the brand dispensed
- RCGP Core Curriculum for GP trainees - respiratory curriculum needs an update

COPD National Strategy in England – What do you think?

PCRS-UK e-consultation on National Strategy

The [DH Consultation document](#) has been available for comment and discussion at the recent SHA events.

PCRS-UK has submitted our views to DH based on the collated views of stakeholders in primary care ([click here](#)).

Respiratory infrastructure across England

For the first time, there is now a range of people with specific responsibility for respiratory disease at national and SHA level in England – including, we are delighted to say, a number of PCRS-UK members. Their challenge will be to turn the COPD National Strategy into a reality. NHS Improvement is an organisation that drives change and improvements in specific disease areas (e.g. cardiovascular, stroke,

cancer). They have appointed a Lung Improvement Team who will:

- support the implementation of the National Strategy
- look more widely at improvements in asthma and home oxygen
- work closely with the SHA clinical respiratory leads
- support the development of a respiratory network in every SHA
- drive the programme of pilots for COPD.


Have a look at their [website](#). Why not get in touch with your local Lung Improvement Lead and let them know you can support them locally.

Time to get started?

We don't know the exact date for the launch of the National Strategy yet but don't let that hold you back. The need to improve COPD care is clear and the

consultation document

provides some clear recommendations so the time is right to get started. Whilst the consultation period may have ended, there's still a lot you can do:

- introduce yourself to your SHA Lead and Lung Improvement Lead
- get ready for the COPD National Strategy. [Click here to access First Steps directly](#)
- keep up-to-date with the PCRS-UK COPD NS [website](#) 
- tell others about the PCRS-UK COPD [website](#)
- find out or follow up on your SHA event which featured an overview of the National Strategy and a whole range of useful information, e.g. local audit data and plans for respiratory networks and pilots



Respiratory Leader

- Remember that

on 6 July we will be running a one day National Meeting in London for primary care respiratory leaders to equip them to use the new COPD National Strategy in England lead and drive local change, at a PCT and practice level.

To find out more [click here](#).

What's coming from PCRS-UK?

We shall have a comprehensive package of resources ready for you, to coincide with the launch of the National Strategy, including:

- Quick Reference Guide (summary of the key points relevant to primary care)
- PCRJ supplement,
- Case studies
- New Opinion Sheets
- A new Teaching Resource Pack.

We would like to acknowledge that this programme is being supported by educational grants from Allen & Hanburys, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim/ Pfizer and the Department of Health.

Thanks to all who came to our stand at the SHA event and for all the encouraging comments about PCRS-UK, our events and resources – the more we can all spread the word, the better, and the National Strategy is an ideal way to engage your colleagues!

How is PCRS-UK supporting you in COPD management?

We already have a great range of COPD resources – relevant to all 4 nations – for you to access via a new section on our [website](#) dedicated to COPD and the National Strategy.

Survey highlights issues in COPD management

Many thanks to those of you who completed our members' survey on COPD last year –

your views are really important to us, providing valuable insight into some of the leadership, patient education and health inequality issues faced when treating COPD. A poster of the key findings was published at the conference last September and a full report is [available here](#).

Have you recently reviewed the approach to COPD management in your practice?

Go to 'First steps' to help you review your current approach and prepare for the National Strategy. Published in mid November 2009, this consists of 3 elements:

- **How ready are you?** - a self-assessment knowledge test on some of the clinical aspects of managing COPD

- **How ready is your practice?** - a practice assessment tool which provides a checklist of questions and supporting information, intended to prompt discussion and review of the way COPD is managed within your practice.
- **Quick tips** - a series of initial key, practical first steps when reviewing the way you manage COPD within your practice.

Why not set up a meeting in your practice and use these tools to prompt debate on your approach to COPD management and identify areas that may benefit from review? ... or encourage a wider range of people to take a look – how about the PCO or nurse forum?

IMPRESS: Improving and Integrating Respiratory Services in the NHS: a joint initiative by PCRS-UK and the British Thoracic Society (BTS)

2009 IMPRESS Award Winners

COPD Patient Pathway Project – Guy's and St Thomas' and Kings College NHS Foundation Trusts, Lambeth & Southwark Primary Care Trusts

2009 Special Commendation

The South East Essex Model for Integrated COPD Care

Sian Williams, IMPRESS Project Manager said, "Here we are now in 2010 and one thing is certain: change is here to stay. IMPRESS remains resolved to add value by understanding and explaining what contribution clinicians across primary and secondary care can make; by focusing on knowledge exchange and implementation about how to improve health and health care; and how PCRS-UK and BTS members can act as expert resources for the system, not just expert case managers."

IMPRESS conference

If you did not manage to attend the first IMPRESS conference in 2009 take a look at the [webcasts](#).

The 2010 IMPRESS conference will take place on 11 May 2010 at Birmingham ICC ([click here](#)).

Book now! ([click here](#))
Special rates for commissioner / clinician teams – and why don't you plan to bring a poster?

IMPRESS Effective Care Effective Communication: Living and Dying with COPD

About 5,000 copies of this information and education programme have been distributed so far. Thanks to DH funding, IMPRESS have made improvements and plan to increase the availability and usage of the package in 2010, along with support in ensuring its effective delivery. If you are developing a clinical network or discussing this sensitive topic in practice, why not get a copy? It clearly supports the agenda of putting people first. ([click here](#))

IMPRESS resources

Take a look at the recently added resources on the [IMPRESS website](#):

- response on [end of life quality markers to the DH England consultation](#)
- a [social care and housing jargon buster](#)
- response to [shaping the future of care together the big care debate](#) on a National Care Service
- [service specification for Investigation and treatment](#)

[of obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome](#)

- [bidding for community COPD services - A second case study](#)
- [good practice](#) examples
- new sections on [networks](#) and [personalising care](#)

Watch out for IMPRESS work in 2010 on:

- managed clinical networks and clinical leadership
- the Quality and Productivity Challenge - and respiratory care in organisations' priorities
- clinicians adoption of personalised care planning to aid supported self-care
- interface between health and social care to achieve integrated care, improve patient experience and potentially reduce waste and cost
- improved advanced and end of life care for people with non-malignant respiratory disease
- watch out for 'Guide to respiratory information' and 'Working with the pharmaceutical industry'.



Remember to book your place for 11 May conference! ... and watch out for your chance to win a prestigious 2010 IMPRESS Award!

PCRS-UK News

Name Change

2010: Same vision – new name

Hopefully you've spotted the new name and logo ... reflecting the primary care respiratory focus which is our acknowledged forte.

Thank you to all who participated in the consultation process to find a new name and to all who have subsequently contacted us to say they are getting used to saying the new name, are finding it easier to

explain to others what we do and appreciate being involved in this significant landmark for the charity - it's beginning to trip off the tongue!

Don't forget to update your bookmarks and favourites to the new URL <http://www.pcrs-uk.org>

The name change has given us additional opportunities to tell others about what we do – if you'd like more information to tell your colleagues in practice,

in training, in meetings or in passing, please do contact us for some membership leaflets or slides, or take a look ([click here](#)).

Also look out for our advertorials and articles in the medical press – and point them out to colleagues!

We will be updating all our materials and resources on the website with the new PCRS-UK livery over the next year.



UPDATE YOUR FAVOURITES/ BOOKMARKS AND CONTACTS TODAY



Website:
www.pcrs-uk.org



Email:
info@pcrs-uk.org

Website News

Help us to help you! - Update your details TODAY... It takes only a few minutes

Why is it important that we have your correct contact information?

We're sure you only want to receive emails and correspondence which is relevant to you and your locality, so we need the correct contact information and details about the area you work in, according to the NHS structure, e.g. Strategic Health Authorities, individual Primary Care organisation, etc.

The whole process should only take 2-3 minutes. At the same time, we recommend you review the contact details which we hold to confirm that they are correct.

The popularity of our website continues with thousands of users visiting our site. Yet again, our Opinion Sheets proved to be the most popular resources offering concise practical guidance especially for healthcare professionals working in primary care and dealing with real-life respiratory issues.

As you know, we also offer additional resources exclusively to PCRS-UK members for some of our tools and web-pages, including our conference webcasts and our nurse-specific materials. We are planning a whole range of materials specifically tailored for those of you taking on respiratory lead roles in your area – watch out for more news.

If you have forgotten your log-in details simply contact us [here](#) to receive a reminder.

Need to know what resources are available – FAST...?

Simply use our Quick Retrieval Tool (QRT). At the touch of a button (or two) you can search for resources by any of the following categories:

- disease type (e.g. COPD, asthma)
- resource type (e.g. Opinion Sheet, guidelines etc.)
- audience type (respiratory leader, nurse, GP etc.)
- PCRS-UK rating (produced by PCRS-UK, endorsed by PCRS-UK, accredited by PCRS-UK)

Or you can simply search by key word if you know what you are looking for; searching by author, title or description.



Why not give it a try?

[Click here](#)

We're updating the website with new resources and links regularly

Simply [click here](#) to view a list new or updated web pages in the last 30 days.

Don't forget to log-in regularly to keep up-to-date with all our new tools and resources.

Top 5 downloaded resources in 2009
In 2009 the top five downloaded resources were Opinion Sheets:

- Spirometry
- Self management of COPD
- Management of stable COPD
- Palliative care for COPD
- Inhaler devices



The PCRS-UK website as a whole is by far the most information-packed site I have ever used. The info is all very easy to read, in a perfect straightforward format, without the extra (& often unnecessary) waffle!! It is now always my first port of call



Update your information – simple as 1,2,3

To update your contact information and submit your own local organisation details you simply need to:

1. Log on to the PCRS-UK website using your login and password
2. Click the link just below the log-in boxes to manage your account
3. Select the option to:
 - i. change your personal details.
 - ii. update PCO details - choose from a drop-down menu a list of authorities and primary care organisations.

“ We need to spread the word about what a fantastic resource PCRS-UK is ”

Member News

Appointments and resignations

Trustees

As you will recall at the last Annual General Meeting Jane Scullion, who has been involved with PCRS-UK for many years was appointed as a trustee. We welcome Jane to the PCRS-UK Board.

[Click here](#) for the AGM minutes.

PCRS-UK Executive

We are delighted to announce that Duncan Keeley and Jacqui Cooper have been re-elected for a further term of office to the PCRS-UK Executive, both having made a significant contribution to the Executive already. Duncan continues to act as policy lead for PCRS-UK with Kevin Gruffydd-Jones. Jacqui is a valuable

member of the nurse, conference-organising and website committees and has been heavily involved in the development of some of our newer materials. Special thanks go to Vikki Knowles, Dorothy Wood and Richard More who were unsuccessful in their application - we hope to be able to engage their skills and support in many other ways through the PCRS-UK.

PCRS-UK Nurse Committee

Congratulations to Sally Harris and Andrew Booth who have been appointed to the PCRS-UK Nurse Committee. Having just experienced their first Nurse Committee meeting, no doubt they are both still reeling from the ambitious plans of the nurse committee for new and

exciting resources to support our members but we are sure that they will enjoy their new roles. Thanks too to those nurses who were unsuccessful in their application this time round. We know who you are and have plans to engage you in many of our other plans for 2010!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda French who has recently resigned from the nurse committee. Linda was a member of the original practice nurse working party and played an active role in the evolution of the nurse committee and its outputs. We remember her for her commitment and enthusiasm, and wish her well in her future endeavours.

“ Opinion Sheets: ...packed with relevant information... What we need is the nitty-gritty, and it is all packed in here ”

PCRS-UK Resources

Here are some of the new resources developed in 2009

Simply hover over the link to access them directly:



Asthma Quick Guide:

Online quick guide
Slides
Simple 10 question knowledge test



COPD – First Steps:

How ready are you?
How ready is your practice?
Quick tips



New Opinion Sheets:

High risk asthma – [click here](#)
Diagnosis of asthma in adults – [click here](#)
Pulse oximetry in primary care – [click here](#)
Management of cough in primary care – [click here](#)
Sleep apnoea – [click here](#)
Lung cancer – [click here](#)



New Nurse-Specific Materials:

Asthma review protocol
Asthma checklist



Updated Skills Document

Inspiring Respiratory Leadership

The new, improved PCRS-UK Respiratory Leaders programme is a professional development programme **where clinicians can develop their clinical and leadership skills and respiratory knowledge**

- to build effective business cases, project plans and teams in respiratory primary care
- to educate others in the essentials and details of good quality respiratory primary care

A faculty of experienced respiratory leaders helped to develop the programme and “tested the water” with a group of 20 delegates at the November 2009 Respiratory Leaders’ Update meeting. By all accounts we are definitely on the right track... facilitators and delegates learnt a huge amount of practical tips and timely news. Many are coming back for more and many previous participants have taken on broader and more challenging roles in improving respiratory primary care, acknowledging that the respiratory leaders programme played a key part in their professional development.

As Chair of the programme, Steve Holmes says, “We hope to develop a primary care respiratory leader in each PCO who can drive respiratory service improvements in the locality and support the achievement of PCRS-UK policy priorities locally, including:

- implementation of COPD National Strategy
- maintaining asthma as a priority area
- development of respiratory networks and integrated services”

In other words, the programme is about Inspiring Respiratory Leadership:

- **Onwards** – to improve quality and effect change
- **Outwards** – into the locality and beyond the practice where we historically operate
- **Upwards** – to raise the profile of respiratory primary care, and its leaders, at national level ... and downwards back into clinical practice at a grass roots level.

Up to 25 clinicians can participate in each of 2 interactive skills-based workshops per year and engage in a comprehensive, ongoing support package of resources and interactions with experienced respiratory primary care leaders, like-minded peers and management/leadership skills experts.

What’s in the pipeline:

- special policy and clinical updates – the “so what’s in it for me and my team?”

- interviewing experienced respiratory leaders to find out what they do and how they do it
- collating and sharing ideas and examples of best practice from around the UK
- putting you in touch with each other, with other organisations and with other sources of relevant information and learning.

If you, or others, are interested, in engaging on the programme, please do contact Steve Holmes, Stephen Gaduzo, Basil Penney or Sandy Walmsley via info@pcrs-uk.org or 0121 351 4455.

The PCRS-UK is grateful to Allen & Hanburys, AstraZeneca, Napp and Nycomed for their financial support of the Respiratory Leaders programme in 2009.

Tailored events



18th-19th June 2010, Solihull

Are you developing a respiratory business case?

Do you have an idea for a new or improved respiratory service for your locality? Need help knowing who to influence and how? Not sure what to do next?



Register now for the PCRS-UK Respiratory Leaders' Workshop in June, do a bit of preparation, attend the interactive skills-based workshop and walk out with a respiratory business case and outline project plan likely to succeed!

[Click HERE for more information.](#)



12th-13th November 2010, West Midlands

Looking to develop an effective team to deliver that business case/project plan?

To understand and get the most out of different people and to share and implement good clinical practice within the locality or beyond. More details nearer the time.

If you would like to register for either event, or request further information please contact the PCRS-UK Secretariat on telephone: 0121 351 4455 or info@pcrs-uk.org.

Places are available on a first-come/first-served basis **FREE to PCRS-UK members!**



Are you a respiratory leader in England, keen to use the National Strategy to drive local improvements in quality of COPD care?

.... then [click here](#) for more information on this exciting one day meeting, which will inspire you to make change happen, provide you with a Respiratory Leaders Resource Pack and an action plan to help you begin to make a difference and in COPD care.

Register now for this key PCRS-UK event on 6th July in London

Places are available on a first come, first served basis, so don't delay, book your place today.

The PCRS-UK wishes to acknowledge the educational grant provided by Allen & Hanburys for the organisation of this meeting. Allen & Hanburys have had no input into the educational content.

“Immensely useful opportunity for our team to get together. We have sorted out several pressing issues that have been problems - Thanks for the opportunity!”

“Keep up the good work and without a doubt this should be considered as an ongoing educational opportunity for those striving to improve patient care”

ATS/ERS Mentorship Scheme – For Nurses and GPs

Twelve GPs and nurses attended one or other international symposium again last year, mentored by two very experienced PCRS-UK Executive members before, at and after the event; with travel and accommodation funded by Allen & Hanburys. Especially geared to those who have not attended an international scientific meeting before, previous attendees acknowledge, the scheme helps to develop their respiratory leadership skills and role.

Steve Holmes praised them saying, “all delegates are enthralled by the sheer size and sense of occasion that greets them at an international congress. They soon get to grips with the opportunities to learn and focus on respiratory care for an extended period of time; the chance to discuss ideas and issues with peers and internationally renowned experts; and the tips and actions points that they can take back to practice.” Many have taken on

expanded roles in the locality up to SHA level (and become members of PCRS-UK committees and faculties; respected speakers; and members of advisory boards and working parties in the NHS and industry!)



Apply for a mentorship scheme place at the ERS in Barcelona in September! [\(click here\)](#).

Be quick – closing date for applications is May 24th

Nurses in the Know!

Nurses now account for 52% of the Society’s membership – and is growing! Many of you are accessing the key resources such as [Opinion Sheets](#), [Asthma Quick Guide](#) and [First Steps](#) and attending

our [Annual Conference](#).

There are now also more nurse-specific materials than ever – and more on the way – take a look: [\(click here\)](#)

We’ll also be checking that we’re on track by asking you to participate in some

nurse-specific surveys before developing new resources.

Please spare a few moments later in the spring to let us know your views.

Support for Nurse Group Leaders

A small, but growing, group of dedicated nurse group leaders are working hard to provide a forum for primary care nurses in their locality. These nurse group leaders got together last September in Warwick for the second “Acorns” meeting - and what a success it was. The Chatterbox session allowed delegates to see our sponsors in a different light – facilitating mini skills-based workshops: presentation and AV skills, marketing the group, understanding others - all to help with the setting up and development of these local groups. Some excellent speakers gave their views on the environment, experience in a new or more established group and how to just “do it”. It was such a success we’re organising the next one! – 9th September, Telford – the day before the Conference.

In the meantime, if you’re thinking about setting up a

group or are already a leader:

- put the date in the diary – and consider registering for the conference too [\(click here\)](#)
- investigate local sponsorship
- have a look at the specially designed Resource Pack for leaders [\(click here\)](#)
- call Gail who can put you in touch with other group leaders and advise you about affiliation to PCRS-UK (0121 351 4455)

Affiliated to PCRS-UK?

We now have 12 local nurse groups affiliated to the PCRS-UK, with more discussing affiliation with their members as we speak. Why not ask your group to join? [Click here](#) to find out more about affiliation to your professional society, the PCRS-UK.

And for our next trick....

With new blood on the Nurse Committee and a new Nurse Faculty in the making, we are convinced that we shall be taking the nurse programme to new heights in 2010, working with our partner organisations and corporate sponsors to support our nurse members in improving respiratory care. We’ll need your help, so do please send in your ideas for resources and support that you need, or think would be good to share with other members.

The PCRS-UK are grateful to Allen & Hanburys, the specialist respiratory division of GlaxoSmithKline, for their financial support which allows us to develop and deliver the nurse development programme in 2010 and to Allen & Hanburys, AstraZeneca, Chiesi, MSD and Schering Plough in 2009.



Calling all leaders of local nurse groups!

DATE FOR THE DIARY

9th September, Telford

Afternoon and evening meetings to develop skills and share ideas about setting up or developing a local group.

FREE to all PCRS-UK members.

Dinner and overnight accommodation provided free to those registering for the [annual conference](#).

PCRS – UK Quality Award

“Recognising Quality Respiratory Care in Practice”

An award that is “Desirable, Achievable and Measurable”

As members are aware, at the end of 2008, PCRS-UK embarked on a major 3-5 year initiative to “put the quality back into respiratory care in primary care”. Out of all the work done in 2009 (see previous newsletter), the PCRS-UK Executive unanimously agreed that our focus needed to be, on developing a practice award for quality respiratory care

The overall purpose of the PCRS – UK Quality Award, “Recognising Quality Respiratory Care in

Practice” is to drive up standards of respiratory care in primary care by promoting an integrated and seamless service that is centred on the patient. Under the chairmanship of Drs Iain Small and Kevin Gruffydd-Jones, and working with the patient charities and other professional societies, we will set out the critical markers of a high quality primary care respiratory service, and in very simple and practical terms what a practice needs to do to achieve the award.

Achievement of the award will be recognised

through a certificate or badge that can be displayed or used on letterheads to demonstrate the service your practice offers.

Our aim is to develop an award that is stretching but achievable by any practice that is committed to delivering quality respiratory care. We hope to be able to start testing the award later in the summer and to implement it in pilot practices in early 2011.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Inez Gentles, Project Manager (inezgentles@hotmail.co.uk)

PCRS-UK Annual Conference

2009 conference – did we make a difference to your respiratory care?

Last year’s theme was “transforming respiratory care”, and how primary care health professionals can “make a difference”. It featured a range of plenary sessions, parallel sessions and practical “how to” workshops; research-focused sessions plus the Innovation Zone; and The Exhibition area – all highly informative, interactive and, from all we’ve heard - it was a huge success!

View the [conference webcast](#) to see the main plenary sessions. Take a look at the conference newsletter produced especially for those of you who attended as an aide-mémoire (and record for your personal development plan) and a summary for those of you who couldn’t make it.

2010 conference... *Optimal Respiratory Health: Leading the way, 10th-11th September 2010, Telford International Centre*

This year’s conference is

designed to equip you as a primary care health professional to meet the challenge of driving quality respiratory care. The programme offers:

- essential clinical updates on asthma and COPD
- insights into the impact of lung disease on our patients
- guidance on how to spot those rarer, but serious, respiratory conditions

There will be parallel streams addressing:

- the more complex clinical and service delivery issues, in conjunction with IMPRESS;
- the latest respiratory research and original audit/research presentation, in conjunction with the PCRJ; and
- practical “how to” workshops.

Whether you are working at practice level or in the community, as a respiratory lead at locality level driving service improvement, or as a

primary care respiratory researcher – this outstanding conference has something for you.

Are you involved with audit? Would you mind letting others know about it?

This year, at the conference we are also focusing on the power of audit and are seeking abstracts from those who have undertaken respiratory-related audits and projects. For your chance to win £250 why not consider submitting an abstract to be presented at the conference?

[Click here for more details.](#)

We are delighted that Boehringer Ingelheim/ Pfizer; Merck Sharp & Dohme; Novartis; Nycomed; and, Allen & Hanburys have all confirmed sponsorship at the 2010 conference. PCRS-UK would like to thank the sponsors for their continued support.



Register for the 2010 Annual Conference

Have a look at the conference programme for 2010 ([click here](#)).

Visit the website for registration information, including how to take advantage of the early bird registration discount! ([click here](#))

“**Excellent - very pleased to have attended, very well organised - looking forward to shaping future practice**”

The Essential Allergy Update for Primary Care – 9th September, Telford

We are delighted to be jointly hosting a one day meeting designed for GPs and primary care nurses with BSACI (British Society for

Allergy and Clinical Immunology), in conjunction with RCGP and Education for Health.

The Essential Update will be held on the 9th September 2010 at the same venue as our Annual

Conference. Special rates are available for those delegates attending both conferences.

[Click here for more information and registration details.](#)



Dates for the Diary 2010

– see if you can get them into your calendar by:
a) hovering and clicking! and b) registering for your place!

Today	Update your personal information for us, please! (click here)
4th May	World Asthma Day Get involved in local activities – see Asthma UK website
14th-19th May	American Thoracic Society Organised by American Thoracic Society Venue: New Orleans, United States
24th May	Deadline for receipt of completed applications for ERS mentorship programme
2nd-5th June	International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) 5th World Conference Venue: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
18th-19th June	PCRS-UK Respiratory Leaders Meeting – building a successful respiratory business case and project plan Solihull, UK
20th June	Deadline for receipt of abstracts for submission for PCRS-UK Conference
24th-25th June	BTS Summer Meeting Manchester, UK
6th July	Respiratory Leaders COPD National Strategy Meeting London, UK
9th September	BSACI/PCRS-UK Allergy day Telford International Centre, UK
9th September	Local Nurse Group Leaders meeting - “Acorns 3” Telford International Centre, UK
10th-11th September	PCRS UK National Primary Care Conference Telford International Centre
18th-22nd September	ERS Congress Barcelona, Spain
12th-13th November	PCRS-UK Respiratory Leaders Meeting – building a successful respiratory team/network West Midlands, UK

Acknowledgements

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