

# General Practice Airways Group

## SPREAD THE WORD!

### Good news - there's a lot of it about

The GPIAG is not alone in recognising that the future for respiratory patients is directly linked with a strong, robust and healthy primary care response to the challenges of asthma, COPD and respiratory allergy, together with other respiratory conditions that have an emerging burden and challenge for those working in the community.

Key to this response is a commitment to support and develop those researchers, teachers, advocates and practitioners working with



Dr Iain Small  
Chair, GPIAG Executive

or within primary care - a responsibility we take very seriously in the General Practice Airways Group.

Consequently, everyone involved with the GPIAG can feel extremely proud of their achievements to

date. The rest of 2009, 2010 and beyond should provide more cause for celebration, if not a lot of hard work, but all working towards a vision we are all passionate about - optimal respiratory health for all.

Hopefully what follows will give you a flavour of our successes in areas you will be familiar with, and not so familiar, and of what's to come in the future.



Iain Small  
GPIAG Executive Chair

### Taking respiratory care to a new level

There has been mounting concern within the GPIAG Executive in recent years that, despite respiratory health featuring highly in certain national health policies, 'quality' is still lacking in respiratory care. In particular, respiratory care is not high on the NHS agenda.

Quality standards are lacking with significant variation in delivery of care. Clinical leadership, integration of care and health professional training are all inadequate and sporadic and patients remain relatively passive.

Under the leadership of Dr Iain Small, supported by the now strong reputation of the GPIAG, the increased profile of primary care and the growing recognition being given to respiratory disease by the four UK national governments, the time feels

ripe for us to take respiratory care to a new level in primary care.

An advisory board of partner organisations and selected experts, supported by educational grants from Allen & Hanburys, Boehringer-Ingelheim Ltd/Pfizer Ltd, Chiesi Ltd, Napp Pharmaceuticals and TEVA UK Ltd has been convened to look at how we produce the evidence, influence and develop the frameworks needed and put in place the appropriate support programmes.

If you hear talk of the 'Quality Initiative' you'll know what it's all about.

For further information or to get involved please contact Iain Small, GPIAG Executive Chair, or Anne Smith, GPIAG Chief Executive, via the [secretariat](#).

#### Putting the quality back into respiratory care - six key areas have been identified :

1. Demonstrating that quality needs to be enhanced, what works and how it can be progressed
2. Defining better quality indicators and standards
3. Driving continuous improvement at practice level
4. Enhancing the partnership between patients, managers and health/social care professionals across primary and secondary care
5. Improving clinical leadership at locality level and nationally
6. Raising the public (and consequently government, professional and patient) profile of respiratory health

### HANDY HINT BEFORE YOU START

Check out the nifty dynamic links to the [GPIAG](#) and other websites... simply place your cursor over the dynamic link shown underlined in pink and click to access the relevant area of the website. ... have a go at hovering!

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## COPD National Strategy—Get involved and be ready



**Put it in the diary**  
World COPD Day  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2009

### COPD resources coming soon...

*First Steps Guide*

*COPD Quick Reference Guide*

*COPD PCRJ Supplement*

*Case Study Teaching Aids*

*New Opinion Sheets*

*Teaching Resource Packs*

### What's it all about?

The COPD National Strategy (formerly known as the COPD National Service Framework) will provide a 10-year plan for improving services and quality of care in COPD management, with a view to reducing the burden the condition places on people's lives and on the NHS.

### What is the GPIAG doing to support you?

You've probably seen the great range of COPD resources already available via our website. A faculty of GPIAG members has also been convened and an extensive communications programme developed to ensure you are aware of what the Strategy means for you and your practice and to support you in making changes to improve the care and services provided to people with COPD.

### Did you see the members' survey recently?

Many thanks to those of you who completed this – your views are really valuable to us.

### What's coming?

A consultation phase is due to start by mid-July, with the final Strategy due to be published by the end of the year. Please get involved in the consultation process and the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) events planned for the autumn so that we can all shape the future of COPD care, both nationally and locally. Further information on how to get involved will be coming very soon...

Watch out for 'First Steps' guide available at the GPIAG annual conference in September - to help you prepare for the National Strategy, it includes a self-assessment knowledge test, a practice assessment tool

and a series of 'Quick Tips' to improve your management of COPD.

Following publication of the National Strategy we will also have a comprehensive package of resources ready for you to access.

Early in 2010 we will be running a one day *National Leaders' Meeting* – a one day meeting for primary care respiratory leaders to equip them to lead and drive local change at a PCT and practice level.

There will also be a series of regional meetings to help you implement the strategy in your local area.

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

## Primary Care Respiratory Journal (PCRJ)

### Want help with your Presentations?

If you are a lecturer and wish to use any details from published papers in the PCRJ, please let [us know](#) and we shall be pleased to help with producing some Powerpoint™ slides for you.

### We can help...

Want to submit a research paper or audit to PCRJ but your are unsure? We can offer support and guidance for beginners - see our [website](#) for more advice

The bumper June issue of Primary Care Respiratory Journal has now been distributed to you. PCRJ Editor-in-Chief, Dr Mark Levy highlights the following papers which may be of interest to GPIAG Members:

1. A research paper by [Halpin and colleagues](#) which showed that tiotropium significantly reduced the risk of COPD exacerbations and associated hospitalisation by 21.
2. Inhalers are used to deliver most treatment for respiratory patients. In recognition of this the PCRJ is running a series of reviews on inhalers- the latest is [included in this issue.](#)
3. In the UK, many clinicians are using the BTS '3'

questions to assess patients' asthma control. A [paper by Thomas and colleagues](#) concluded that the use of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) "3 Questions" in asthma reliably quantified disease control however, they also concluded that larger validation studies are needed

4. [Rae and White](#) provide positive evidence to support the use of swimming-pool based exercise as part of a pulmonary rehabilitation service for COPD.
5. Finally, it is often said that guidelines are implemented in practice, however, there are lessons to be learnt by doctors and nurses caring for patients with asthma in

this issue. Two papers, one from [Australia](#) and another from the [UK](#), demonstrate that guidelines are not always implemented in practice.

Watch out for our special "Editor's Choice" session at the GPIAG conference where specially selected abstracts which are deemed by the editor-in-chief to have the most significant impact for primary care respiratory medicine will be presented.

In the meantime, don't forget to visit the [PCRJ website](#) to see what other new papers are available in the [Articles in Press](#) section and why not consider joining the [PCRJ e-alert news service](#) to keep abreast of PCRJ news and events.

## Policy News

### DH to consult with stakeholders on the COPD National Strategy

Approval has now been given to proceed with an e-consultation process on the COPD National Strategy. We are expecting this to commence before the end of July and to run for twelve weeks. This gives ample opportunity for you, our members, to share your views on the COPD NS – both as individuals and to contribute to a GPIAG response. We will be asking you for your views in various different ways over the coming months - giving you the opportunity to have your say.

Each SHA will also be holding a meeting in preparation for the COPD NS, to consult with stakeholders and interested parties in that area, to share some local results from the National COPD audit, to consider setting up respiratory network and some pilot initiatives. Each SHA will be appointing a respiratory lead to guide this work.

The final date of publication later this year is still uncertain, but we will keep you informed via our website. GPIAG continues to work closely with the respiratory team at the Department of Health (DH) (England), particularly around implementation issues in primary care.

To keep up-to-date with developments in this area – see our [website](#).

### Two boosts for asthma

The Department of Health, now that its remit has expanded from just COPD to respiratory disease overall, has listened to stakeholder groups pressing for asthma to be recognised as a

priority area. In the process of working to improve COPD services and outcomes, there will be synergies with asthma, and the Department is keen that these opportunities are exploited. They have therefore formed the Asthma Steering Group – a multidisciplinary group, tasked with identifying where synergies exist between COPD and asthma, and considering how these are incorporated into the COPD National Strategy. Under the leadership of Professor Martyn Partridge, the group is also inputting into other DH initiatives from an asthma perspective – such as QOF revisions and patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs).

A second group has been convened to focus on asthma in children and the output from that group will be a Good Practice Guide, to guide commissioners in the types of services that will improve asthma management. If you are interested to see an example of such a document, there is one on Audiology services in children – [click here](#) to download this.

This group's membership stretches across government departments to ensure that work being done by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, on how children with long term conditions are dealt with in schools, is informed by the Children's Asthma subgroup. The GPIAG has representatives on both groups.

### COPD guidelines being reviewed by NICE

The COPD guidelines are undergoing a partial review by NICE. The review will focus largely on ongoing management rather than management of

exacerbations, and will only cover areas where there is new evidence. The GPIAG is playing an active role in this review, and will consult with our members in the autumn when the draft guidelines are available to stakeholder groups for comment. We are ensuring that both NICE and DH are aware of the importance of compatibility between the two pieces of work in terms of the final outputs. Final publication of the revised guidelines is expected early in 2010.

### Allergy a clinical priority at RCGP from 2009

The GPIAG are delighted to hear that allergy has been chosen as a clinical priority area by Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), having supported the application from the primary care group within the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI). The RCGP hopes to appoint a Clinical champion to lead this work for the next couple of years. Allergy is an area where several high level reports have highlighted serious shortcomings in service provision, but these have never translated into local action. The GPIAG hopes to work closely with the clinical champion on any initiatives that support improved recognition and management of respiratory allergy in primary care.

### QOF – new COPD indicator from April 2009

COPD 13 is the new indicator now in place for 2009/10, replacing COPD 11. The GPIAG fully support the inclusion of this indicator to drive greater use of the MRC dyspnoea score to measure breathlessness. See our [policy webpages](#) for full details.

### Coming Soon...

Watch out for SHA meetings to discuss the COPD National Strategy and input your views

### Need to know more...

#### GPIAG Website Policy Section

[COPD National](#)

[Strategy](#)

[NICE](#)

[QOF](#)

[Other Policy Work](#)

[IMPRESS](#)

## Policy news—continued

### Transforming respiratory and sleep diagnosis

In February, the DH published a document, designed to improve people's access to, and experience of, respiratory and sleep diagnostic services. It aims to help:

- commissioners understand where sleep and respiratory services fit into their local strategy

for clinical care

- providers by suggesting innovative ways in which these services can be delivered.

There is some really good support for the role of primary care in improving diagnosis of respiratory conditions. Use it to stimulate discussion about respiratory care with your PCT!...

### Resources

1. [GPIAG opinion Sheet - sleep apnoea](#)
2. [Transforming respiratory sleep diagnostic services - a good practice guide](#)
3. [IMPRESS service specification for obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome](#)

## IMPRESS

**IMPRESS** – is a joint initiative between the British Thoracic Society (BTS) and the General Practice Airways Group (GPIAG) for **IMP**roving and **INT**egrating **RES**piratory **S**ervices

### IMPRESSive conference

... that's the feedback from the highly successful first conference of IMPRESS, attended by 160 clinicians and managers! Webcasts of topics covered, such as Co-creating health, clinical networks, pulmonary rehabilitation, integration and technology, are now available on the [IMPRESS website](#).

- will support the National Strategy for COPD.

The film clips tell a powerful story and the learning is complex - so the material is best used by a facilitator (skilled in COPD, communications skills and end of life care) as part of an educational package on communication skills or COPD care.

### Coming soon! – two new tools

In addition to the 14 free publications on its website, IMPRESS is working on two new tools to assist commissioners to integrate commissioning of COPD services into existing work plans and to highlight how policies on clinical engagement, long term conditions, efficiency and End of Life care all offer significant opportunities to benefit people with COPD, and give examples of how with action plans offering "bite-sized chunks" to enable a commissioning organisation to be ready for implementation of the COPD National Strategy in England. It considers, amongst other things, needs assessment, provision of spirometry and extension of pulmonary rehabilitation.

### Lasting IMPRESSions

'Effective Care - Effective Communication: Living and Dying with COPD', an educational package from IMPRESS, has now been made available free to over 3,400 clinicians from primary and secondary care with interests in COPD, communication skills and palliative care, thanks to a grant from the Department of Health. Its DVD contains:

- short film clips of patients' and carers' stories
- views on diagnosis and end of life dialogue
- an 'expert panel' discussion on ways to approach these issues
- tips on how to improve the consultation.

Its CD:

- draws out the key learning points
- references and links to the latest evidence about COPD and publications

So IMPRESS is running two sessions training clinicians in how to deliver and use the package.

1. with a local network led by NHS Bristol across three PCTs (North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol) in October 2009
2. a national training event working with a multi-disciplinary group of respiratory clinicians from across the UK in February 2010.

### IMPRESS' submission to the End of Life consultation about quality metrics

explores the particular challenges of delivering appropriate care for people with advanced COPD given that predicting life expectancy for individual patients with COPD is extremely inaccurate. It also gives examples of patient information about NIV and resuscitation.

Looking forwards, IMPRESS will continue to explore how to support and develop clinical leaders, and how to achieve integrated care in the context of choice and competition policies.

The GPIAG Respiratory Leaders' Network found the [IMPRESS website](#) packed full of really useful materials and commend the site to you - take a look...



### Updated IMPRESS Resource

[Improved Jargon Buster](#)

## GPIAG Website—First stop for respiratory information and support

### Need to find something quickly?

We are delighted to provide you with a new way of quickly finding and downloading resources from our website and those where we have a link.

[The GPIAG Quick Retrieval Tool](#) offers different ways of searching for resources and tools. Examples of searches might include:

- Search for all resources available for the diagnosis and

management of asthma or COPD

- Search for all materials aimed at primary care nurses
- Search for all materials which are produced/endorsed or simply supported by GPIAG
- Search for materials by category type e.g. Opinion sheets

You can also search on particular words or phrases found in the document title, author list, contributor list or in the short description we provide on the content of the resource.

### Need to find new or revised web pages?

To quickly access a list of the newest material, click on the [New this month button](#) in the menu. This will display resources added in the past 30 days, or web pages that have been substantially updated.

We hope you will find the Quick Retrieval Tool and New this Month features helpful and welcome your feedback and suggestions ([click here](#) to send your feedback)

Helping make it easier to find and download GPIAG resources for members...

[GPIAG Quick Retrieval tool](#)

[GPIAG New this month](#)

## GPIAG Resources and materials

### New asthma management materials

The British Thoracic Society and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network will be launching revisions to their national guidance for the management of asthma at the end of June. Revisions to our associated resources will be available soon.

### Six New Opinion Sheets

In addition to the recently launched new opinion sheet on pulse oximetry, we are delighted to announce three new opinion sheets as listed below:

- Diagnosis of Asthma in Adults
- Asthma – Special Situations
- High Risk Asthma

And watch out for two new opinion sheets available in within the next week...

- Sleep apnoea
- Managing Cough in Primary Care

*“...packed with relevant information... What we need is the nitty-gritty, and it is all packed in here.”* See what you think by downloading the new sheets!

### New Nurse Resources

Visit our [website](#) to download the available nurse resources. Watch out for our new protocol on telephone consultations written by Steph Wolfe, GPIAG Nurse Lead and available later this week; and coming soon to complement the range of nurse tools will also be a

new protocol on asthma review, a new PGD (Patient Group Direction) on the administration of prednisolone, a series of nurse audits, a checklist to assist in asthma review and a whole new resource pack to support local nurse groups and their leaders.

### Coming soon...

In addition to the new resources listed above and those materials being developed to support the COPD National Strategy, we will shortly be launching a teaching pack to support the new BTS/SIGN asthma guidelines, a series of case histories to support ongoing professional development or for use in local training and a series of short slide sets to support each of the GPIAG opinion sheets.

### New Opinion Sheets Download now...

- [Pulse Oximetry](#)
- [Diagnosis of Asthma in Adults](#)
- [Asthma – Special Situations](#)
- [High Risk Asthma](#)

## GPwSIs gone AWOL?

The GPIAG are keen to hear from any GPs or other Practitioners with a special interest in respiratory medicine. As a key group who are leading the way in

influencing local service development and delivery, our known GPwSI members are keen to learn from your experience, be able to share it with other respiratory

leaders and work with you to take respiratory leadership to a new level. If you are, or know of, a Respiratory GPwSI, please contact [Gail Ryan](#)

## Special Interest Groups Respiratory leaders - onwards, upwards, outwards



### Put it in the diary

GPIAG Respiratory  
Leaders' Meetings

10/11 July 2009

27/28 November  
2009

### Inspiring respiratory leadership

The GPIAG Respiratory Leaders' programme of events and support continues to gain momentum. Following the success of last year's Initial Training Workshop and Update Weekend, the GPIAG are repeating the events in [July](#) and [November](#) this year. Steve Holmes, GPIAG Education Lead, recommends you book early to avoid disappointment, saying "*The feedback from previous courses has been very positive. It surprised me that, in the evaluations, delegates who felt they were well aware of current issues, had suddenly found they had many areas to develop and get up to speed with. The two days of lively, interactive skills and knowledge based learning clearly helped them a great deal!*" The GPIAG are safe in the knowledge that these primary care clinicians and nurses with a special interest in respiratory disease are well-equipped to influence and develop specialist services within their primary care region, as the NHS continues to

change around them – or as a result of them!

Visit the [website](#) and register to attend our meetings to find how out GPIAG can assist you with improving your local respiratory service.

Next year's programme is in development and looks like inspiring respiratory leadership to the next level and beyond.....

The GPIAG would like to thank AstraZeneca UK Ltd, Napp Pharmaceuticals and Nycomed UK Ltd for supporting the GPIAG respiratory leadership programme.

### ATS or ERS – an opportunity for UK and international learning.

The GPIAG is running its highly successful mentorship programme again in 2009 thanks to a generous grant from sponsors Allen & Hanburys. A small group of hand-picked candidates have recently returned from the American Thoracic Society International Congress in San Diego where they received a structured support package from

GPIAG mentors and opportunities to meet and learn from respected national and international respiratory leaders in clinical, research and policy fields. They are now being supported in developing their leadership skills and disseminating their learning at a local level. The course runs parallel with the conference programme – and is flexibly designed to help delegates address their learning needs.

Feedback from eminent clinicians and DH directors has clearly signalled that the candidates learned a lot as well as imparting their wisdom and newly-honed leadership skills. Suitably motivated, one candidate was heard to say "*Before the course I was comfortably doing my job but a bit nervous; I gained the confidence and knowledge to address not only my director in the PCT, but presented to the Strategic Health Authority Board and Chief Executive – and actually enjoyed it!*"

[Contact the GPIAG](#) if you wish to learn more about the programme.

## GPIAG Nurse Committee delivers the goods

### Tools, spoons and spiel

Feedback suggested there was a whole raft of support that primary care nurses need to deliver respiratory care... and the Nurse Committee has risen to the challenge, producing and linking to numerous materials, support and tools – watch out for videos and webcasts, PGDs and protocols, resource packs and guidelines, self-assessment tools and audits. Take a look at the [nurse section of the website](#)

to find out what's in store - and there's more on the way.

### Nurses take the lead? It's good to talk!

Following the huge success of the 'Acorns to Oak Trees' meeting last year, the GPIAG are expanding their horizons to provide local nurse group leaders with the skills and tools to set up a local nurse group; or to take existing groups to the next level at another [meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September](#) – the

afternoon before the GPIAG Annual Conference.

Steph Wolfe, GPIAG Nurse Lead, says "*This meeting has been designed to provide nurse group leaders and those thinking of starting a group with policy updates, practical tools, materials and tips to set up or develop local groups and, probably most importantly, the opportunity to share practical advice between new and established groups in a very interactive, informal format.*"



### Put it in the diary

24th September 2009

GPIAG Nurse Group  
Leaders' Forum

## GPIAG Nurse Committee delivers the goods

Join the Nurse Committee members and other leaders who are running groups for a chat, coffee and mini-workshops from 3pm onwards before the main meeting and dinner. The Local Group Leaders Meeting is free for those who are, or want to be, leaders of a local nurse group. For further information, and registration details, please visit the [website](#)... hurry – there are a

limited number of places left!

If you'd like to tell the attendees about your local group, look out for the [details on the website](#) on how to display an informal poster in the Chatterbox exhibition running as part of this meeting.

If you can't make the meeting, or know someone else who is involved with a local group, we would be

delighted to hear about it. You, or they, may also want to affiliate to the GPIAG - contact [Gail Ryan](#) for more details.

The GPIAG wishes to acknowledge the generous support of AstraZeneca UK Limited and Schering-Plough Limited in the provision of sponsorship to support nurse activities.

## GPIAG National Primary Care Respiratory Conference University of Warwick, 25th-26th September 2009

### Transforming respiratory care: Your chance to make a difference

This year's annual conference examines how primary care health professionals deliver personalised respiratory care, how the care is structured and organised within the practice and beyond – and how you can make the right changes. The fantastic programme includes eminent, nationally recognised speakers from across primary and secondary care, including Professor Peter Calverley, Dr John Haughney, Dr David Halpin and Ruth McArthur.

### Something for everyone

Main sessions:

- focus on asthma, COPD, infection (including swine flu) and respiratory allergy
- how to "get care right".

Parallel sessions include:

- differential diagnosis of respiratory disease
- oxygen therapy
- key service delivery issues
- Practical workshops such as inhaler device selection, spirometry, allergy testing and chest examination
- Scientific sessions

### Submit an abstract and save £££ on registration fees\*

This year, once again, the GPIAG will be hosting an Innovation Zone at the conference. This exciting area will include an innovative array of features and special areas dedicated to offering delegates new ideas and solutions for sharing best practice in primary care respiratory medicine and helping to drive high quality care for people with respiratory disease.

Have you got a new example of best practice you could use following an audit or study which could be presented as an abstract for poster display? Or perhaps you might wish to present an abstract for poster display of work which you may have previously presented at another major respiratory meeting. Either way, why not consider submitting your abstract. Submission is easy and can be undertaken online. [Submit your 200 word poster outline/abstract](#) before 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

If your abstract is accepted you will be offered the special discounted registration fee of £240

(saving you £70 off the minimum standard registration rate)

### Bursary Scheme

The GPIAG are delighted to announce that there are a limited number of [bursary places](#) available for attendance at the Conference.

If you would like to attend the conference and it is proving difficult to raise the registration funds to attend, please do consider applying for a bursary place.

To apply, please complete and return the [application form](#), along with the necessary information, by 3PM on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Successful candidates will be notified by 15<sup>th</sup> July. The GPIAG are grateful to MSD UK Ltd for the generous sponsorship of these bursary places.

Full details including [registration information](#), [rates](#), [special offers](#), detailed [programme](#) and information on our [bursary scheme](#) are available on the GPIAG website.



**Put it in the diary**  
25/26 September  
2009

### GPIAG National Conference

**No funding?**  
[Consider bursary  
scheme place](#)

### Want to submit an abstract?

Hurry, [click here](#)  
deadline 17/07/09

**Special deals for  
Practice teams**  
Click [here](#) for more  
details

### Conference Sponsors

The GPIAG would like to gratefully acknowledge the sponsors of the 2009 GPIAG national conference:  
MSD UK Ltd,  
AstraZeneca UK Ltd,  
Boehringer-Ingelheim  
Ltd / Pfizer Ltd,  
Allen & Hanburys  
Chiesi Ltd.

\* discounts apply to those whose abstracts are accepted for poster display at the 2009 GPIAG National Primary Care Conference.  
Note: The GPIAG reserve the right to reject inappropriate abstract submissions or those, which in the opinion of the judging committee, are not based on good clinical practice

## GPIAG Membership News

### Play a Lead Role in the GPIAG?

The GPIAG is currently seeking to recruit a full member – GP or nurse - as a Trustee to join the exiting Board of five Trustees.

The Trustees have ultimate responsibility for the running of the Charity, working closely with the GPIAG Executive and the Chief Executive. For further details on duties and responsibilities of a Trustee [please click here](#).

We are looking for a practicing primary care health professional who is passionate about our mission of achieving optimal respiratory health for all, has been involved with the GPIAG over a number of years (but not currently a member GPIAG Executive), and ideally has experience of working on Committees and with the running of an organisation and can operate at a strategic level.

Dr David Bellamy and Dr Patrick White currently serve as Trustees and are supported by three lay Trustees who bring specific business skills and charity experience to the Board. We

are now looking to increase the number of clinical trustees to three to ensure an optimal balance of skills and experience.

The trustees meet 2-3 times per year in London, with occasional teleconferences as required, plus regular email correspondence. Expenses can be reimbursed (including locum fees where necessary).

To discuss this exciting opportunity further, please contact Dr David Bellamy or Dr Patrick White via the [secretariat](#).

### AGM Notification

This year's important AGM, will provide you with an update of the activities of the organisation, presenting our annual accounts and also discussing the proposed name change. It will be held on 25th September from 1PM - 1.45PM. Full details of the resolutions will be sent to you in early September 2009.

### Updating your membership details

Updating your contact information has never been easier. Simply log on to the [GPIAG website](#) and click

[here](#) to manage your account. You will be directed to a new page where you will have the option to change your username and/or password, update your personal details and or join/leave the GPIAG E-Mail Alert Scheme. If you experience any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact us via the [secretariat](#)

### So, what do you think?

As ever, we would love to hear your views. Watch out for our members' surveys landing in your mailbox every so often asking for your views on a variety of topics. Your opinions really matter – don't just leave it to someone else to reply. [Send us your views](#).

They provide us with a body of evidence representing respiratory care in primary care to influence policy. They also inform our plans for allocating our valuable, limited expert resources and they highlight where we are on track in providing you, our members, with the support and materials you require.

.... Just look at what's in this update to see how your views count!

We're on the web:  
<http://www.gpiag.org>

## GPIAG Corporate Supporters

As ever, the GPIAG are indebted to the corporate supporters without whom we would not be able to offer the services and resources which we provide.

This year, we welcome back Nycomed UK Ltd who join Allen & Hanburys, AstraZeneca UK Ltd, Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd / Pfizer Ltd, Chiesi Ltd, MSD UK Ltd and Napp Pharmaceuticals as corporate supporters of the GPIAG.

## GPIAG - Same Vision - New Name

The General Practice Airways Group (GPIAG) is *the* voice of respiratory primary care and is well established as an independent and authoritative professional society, supporting the development and delivery of optimal respiratory health across the UK, but you would no longer have guessed it by its name.

It is now achieving recognition for Primary Care in all relevant aspects of respiratory care, including a key role in research, policy development and implementation, service

delivery and education. Iain Small, GPIAG Chair says, *"Feedback from our members, sponsors and partner organisations consistently suggests that the name General Practice Airways Group - and its abbreviation GPIAG - no longer reflects the extent of our membership and does not communicate the 'respiratory medicine', 'primary care', 'UK-wide' and 'health professional' aspects of our work; they have responded favourably to our recommendation that we change our name to*

*something more clearly demonstrating our forte."*

Thanks to all who read and input to the recent consultation document and associated survey looking at options for the new name – your views and support in this visible change are really appreciated. Full members (those eligible to vote) will receive more information later this summer about how they can cast their vote at the Annual General Meeting and everyone can look forward to a new name in the period following the Conference.



**Put it in the diary...**  
Full members to vote on new name at GPIAG AGM on **25<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

### Spread the word...

Many of you say you really appreciate the support, up-to-date information and materials the GPIAG provide. So why not encourage your colleagues to join GPIAG too

[It's simple...](#)