

Diabetes UK Annual Professional Conference 2009

Very little headline sensationalism has happened since the last Diabetes UK Annual Professional Conference in 2008. The glitazone debate still lingers on and the use of incretin mimetics has become familiar to many. The conference this year was varied and had several highlights.

Emphasis was placed on prevention and obesity management and new technologies and insulin pump therapy were discussed. In particular, the Year of Care (NHS Diabetes, 2009) and vascular screening programmes (Department of Health [DH], 2009) are worthy of a mention.

The Year of Care describes the ongoing care that a person with a long-term condition should expect and includes engagement, self-management and care planning. Emphasis is placed on the involvement of the person with diabetes and the encouragement to take a central role in their own management (NHS Diabetes, 2009). The review and satisfaction of people appears good but we await the formal appraisal.

The vascular screening programme is to be launched in England for people 40–74 years of age (DH, 2009). The National Service Framework (NSF) for coronary heart disease, renal disease, diabetes and stroke have all highlighted the need for prevention but each has set out its own individual approaches. The NSF for vascular screening looks at a single integrated check that will seek to give an individual a personal package of prevention (DH, 2009). There is an aim to complete three million checks per year at a cost of £320 million, which does not include the savings the programme may achieve. The anticipation is to reduce the rate of illness by 4000 cases of diabetes, 650 cardiovascular deaths and 1600 heart attacks and strokes (DH, 2009).

David Millar-Jones, GPSI in Diabetes, Torfaen, Wales, and committee member of the PCDS

Department of Health (2009) *Putting Prevention First NHS Health Check: Vascular Risk Assessment and Management Best Practice Guidance*. DH, London

NHS Diabetes (2009) *Year of Care*. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/xEzrD> (accessed 15.04.09)

Submit your applications for PCDS committee elections

The Committee of the Primary Care Diabetes Society has:

- 17 members elected by the membership of PCDS, with representation from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- Representation from healthcare professionals working in a primary care setting.
- Additional co-opted members where their experience enhances the duties of the Committee.
- A chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and secretary elected by committee members.
- Members that hold office for a period of 3 years after which they can seek re-election.
- Two sub-committees: research and education.
- Meetings that are held approximately four times per year on a Saturday morning with sub-committee meetings on the preceding Friday evening.
- Members receiving travel and accommodation expenses.
- Annual and regional conferences organised in partnership with SB Communications Group.

To stand for election to the PCDS committee:

- Please submit a resumé of up to 150 words which will be used as an “election address” along with a recent photograph.
- These will be published on the PCDS website and in a forthcoming issue of this journal *Diabetes & Primary Care*.
- You are eligible to stand if you are a current member of the PCDS and are involved in the professional care of people with diabetes in a primary care setting.
- Your proposal needs to be supported by one other PCDS committee member.

Deadline for submitting your resumé is Friday 18 September (18.09.2009).

The election will close on the Friday evening of the Primary Care Diabetes Conference, 20 November 2009. Voting forms will appear in the journal. Voting will be restricted to one vote per member.