

# PCDS

## Primary Care Diabetes Society

The latest news and views from the Primary Care Diabetes Society

### **Successful launch for Primary Care Diabetes Society**



**A**fter a year's planning the steering committee of the Primary Care Diabetes Society chose

the beginning of this year to introduce our group. Judging by the fantastic response to our launch, many of you, working as healthcare professionals in primary diabetes care decided that your new year's resolution was to commit to an organisation which offers a unique forum and gives support and information to help with patient care.

Over 1000 healthcare professionals from all aspects of primary diabetes care have already joined. The membership is growing by the day, and it is cheering to see that all areas of the United Kingdom are covered by our membership, as well as several diabetes professions, including practice nurses, family doctors, diabetes specialist nurses and podiatrists.

#### **The nGMS contract**

It is apparent that many of you have been battling with details of the new General Medical Services (nGMS) contract and how it relates to diabetes. This resonates with many in the steering committee of the society who have watched as the contract

evolved from evidence to targets and finally rewards. Those of us who have worked through this first year deserve congratulations and rewards, as well as support as the next round begins again in April 2005.

#### **Society membership**

Membership remains free. Those who join will receive this journal, incorporating this new section dedicated to PCDS news. They will also join the Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE) – a young and well respected organisation in its own right, which is consistent in supporting the validity of a primary

care approach to diabetes in the European context.

As we said in our launch editorial (last issue, p156), above all, we will seek to represent you, and to become the voice of primary care diabetes, to influence the future direction of healthcare policy in this field. Please continue to offer your support and encouragement through our journal and remember to put the dates of our first conference (11–12 November) in your diary.

*Colin Kenny  
Acting Chair, PCDS and GP,  
Dromore, Co Down*



### **The importance of GPSIs in diabetes**

GPs with a Special Interest (GPSIs) are on the increase! In the field of diabetes, the multidisciplinary nature of the condition and the drive to work within networks make the GPSI role important. Diabetes GPSIs seeing patients with diverse problems can act as a bridge between primary

and secondary care. They can also help the patient to access the care that they want or need in the appropriate place, by the appropriate person.

Other activities for GPSIs include the development of patient services, professional guidelines and teaching programmes. Establishing different ways of delivering care is a challenge – nevertheless, the role can be a rewarding one.

We hope that the PCDS will act as a forum for GPSIs in diabetes. Anyone interested in forming an informal GPSI network can contact me through the journal – please email [editorial@sbcommunicationsgroup.com](mailto:editorial@sbcommunicationsgroup.com).

*Sue Holmes, GPSI, Cambridge*