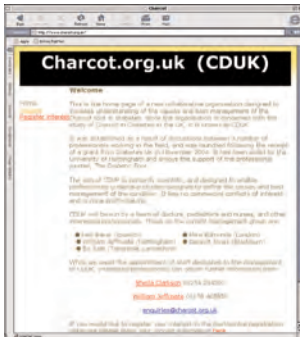


Diabetes UK agrees to fund new collaborative project on Charcot foot



For more information, log onto www.charcot.org.uk

We have announced in a previous issue (Volume 7, No 2, page 68) plans for a new project designed to study aspects of the acute Charcot foot. We are now pleased to report that funding for the project – to be known as Charcot in Diabetes UK (CDUK) – has been approved by Diabetes UK. *The Diabetic Foot* is 100% in support of the new organisation, and hopes it will be the forerunner of effective new research networks in the UK. The Charcot foot is an uncommon problem, but by sharing individual experience it will be possible to study far more cases than will ever be possible in a single unit. CDUK will be coordinated by a small team from which the members will retire in sequence, and be replaced by people with new ideas. The initial team comprises:

- Neil Baker (diabetes specialist and research podiatrist, Ipswich Hospital)
- Mike Edmonds (consultant physician and specialist in diabetic complications, especially the diabetic foot, Kings College Hospital, London)
- William Jeffcoate (consultant endocrinologist, City Hospital, Nottingham)
- Geraint Jones (consultant diabetologist, Blackburn Royal Infirmary)
- Ed Jude (consultant diabetologist, Tameside General Hospital, Lancashire). Blackburn will be the administrative base.

electronic database on which any clinician (nurse, podiatrist, doctor or other) can register anonymised details of any new case (ideally, of every new case) of acute Charcot foot in diabetes. To ensure that we record as many cases as possible, the details required will be minimal. The main aim is to define the treatments used, the incidence of secondary ulceration and infection, and the time taken before the person is walking in shoes again. In this way it will be possible to obtain a better idea of prognosis than is available from published reports. Once the new organisation is up and running it is intended that it will be used as the basis for a new collaborative audit as well as for nationwide prospective research designed to define optimal management.

How to get involved

Any reader who wishes to register an interest in the new organisation and would like to take part in this important new study, should log onto its new (embryo) website – www.charcot.org.uk – and leave their contact details. They will then receive further details in the not too distant future.

It is intended that all communication and data entry will be via e-mail and the web. If any clinician in UK feels that this will limit their ability to participate and would prefer to have a hard copy, paper-based option, they should contact Sheila Clarkson (01254 294560; sheila.clarkson@mail.bhrv.nwest.nhs.uk) and leave their details with her.

The CDUK database

The first project will be to establish an

Management Team, CDUK
(contact us at
info@charcot.org.uk)

Free reader access to PDUK forum



Podiatry in Diabetes UK (PDUK) is a national organisation for podiatrists and others working with the foot in diabetes. Throughout 2004 we have developed an e-mail/web forum for members to facilitate:

- the exchange of information
- the sharing of good practice models
- clinical debate
- a support network

for all those who are involved in diabetes foot care and research.

We would now like to offer all readers of *The Diabetic Foot* journal free access to the forum for two weeks in February 2005.

This will give you access to e-mail discussions (you can either read or contribute) and the archive of discussions that have already taken place.

If you are interested in registering for the free trial, simply e-mail PDUK at pduk2004@hotmail.com requesting 'the free trial for *The Diabetic Foot* readers'. You will then be invited via e-mail to complete the simple registration process to gain access.

To continue to have access to the forum after the free trial and be a part of PDUK we hope you will then choose to become full members at a cost of £20 per year.

Martin Fox, Secretary, Podiatry
Diabetes UK