

## ACB Clinical Practice Section Report 2007

The ACB Clinical Practice Section was formed to promote direct clinical care within chemical pathology, encourage medical graduate involvement in the ACB, support training requirements and professionally represent interests of medical staff within our specialty. This inclusion of direct clinical work makes the ACB internationally unique among clinical biochemistry societies.

The CPS has three major aims:

- to raise the profile of clinical practice within the clinical biochemistry community;
- to inform the wider healthcare community of the medical work within clinical biochemistry;
- to support best clinical practice by clinical biochemists.

To achieve these aims, the Section has three divisions – Specialist Interests, led by Stuart Smellie; Training, Education and Academic Development, led by Eric Kilpatrick; and Professional Affairs, led by Robert Cramb. Pat Twomey is Vice Chair. Marek Dominiczak is Director of Communications and is developing the Section's web pages. Danielle Freedman chairs the Clinical Excellence Nominations Committee. The Section has a Steering Group that includes executive and regional representatives.

Membership of the Section is open to all ACB members and all medical graduates joining the ACB automatically become members of the Section.

In 2007 the section became positioned within the ACB structure to deliver joint initiatives together with the established ACB committees. It is now represented on the ACB Executive and has a seat on the Education Committee. It maintains an active dialogue with the Scientific Committee.

**The Specialist Interests Division** has several Specialist Interest Groups covering cardiovascular disease prevention, endocrinology, nutrition, bone metabolism, inborn errors of metabolism, and best practice. We see these groups as CPS's knowledge repository. The Division has now developed a significant consultative activity and is regularly asked to work with national bodies on matters related to medical aspects of chemical pathology. It had an input into the development of the NICE guidelines on type 2 diabetes and on hypertension in pregnancy, and also into the lipid treatment guidelines. The activities of the specialist groups also include audit and development of CPS position papers.

Last year the Section collaborated closely with the ACB Scientific Committee on the development of proposals for standardized test content in commonly requested profiles. It is now developing position papers on the recommended frequency of some common tests and profile ordering, and on suggested test content for clinical presentation-related profiles, for instance a "chest pain" admission profile. Other activities relate to new cardiovascular disease markers, advice for junior doctors and evidence-based materials related to bone metabolism. CPS also contributed to the Best Practice in Primary Care Pathology project.

The output of this work, originally published in the Journal of Clinical Pathology is now available on line at <http://www.bettertesting.org.uk>. It is intended as a quick reference guide for laboratory providers, users and patients. The site is being hosted by SCHIN (Sowerby Centre for Health Informatics in Newcastle, producers of the NHS Clinical Knowledge Summaries).

**The Training, Education and Academic Development Division** works closely with the ACB Education Committee to ensure that training programmes become more relevant to medical trainees and that clinical aspects of biochemistry are covered for all trainees, medical, clinical scientist and undergraduates. The Chair of the division is presently a member of the National Audit Committee. The Division monitors trainees' activities through the CPS Trainee Representative. The Representative attends the ACB Educational and Trainee Committees. Medical trainees are now involved in the development of all ACB training courses.

**Professional Affairs Division** has been collecting information on consultant contract and job plans from, to be able to provide CPS members with current data. A survey of consultant contracts and job plans has been completed in December 2006 and published in 2007.

The ACB has been recognised as a National Professional Society for proposing candidates for National Clinical Excellence Awards. Last year, the 3 out of 5 candidates put forward by the ACB were successful.

#### **Scientific meetings.**

The CPS had a major input to the Meeting of Consultants and Specialist Registrars in Chemical Pathology in Nottingham in October 2007. This was organised, as before, by Bob Cramb, and was supported by educational grant from Astra Zeneca. The meeting included workshops by all the Specialist Interest Groups. The Section will contribute to Focus 2008 where it will host a plenary session and would be responsible for a number of breakfast workshops.

Mike Toop, the first Chair of the CPS who led the Section through its initial stages of organisation, stood down as CPS Chair in the summer 2007. We appreciate his efforts and the ideas with which he inspired the Section: Ceridwen Coulson became the new Chair.

**Our Strategy for 2008** is to strengthen the regional networks. We will continue to make an effort to involve all Chemical Pathology trainees in our work and improve communication with membership. We wish to build on the work of specialist interest groups and will continue to support national effort to improve harmonisation of reporting. We hope that the development of the CPS website this year will further encourage both medical and scientist membership.

Any interested ACB members are very welcome to join (contact Graham Groom at [enquires@ACB.org.uk](mailto:enquires@ACB.org.uk)).