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Editors Welcome

Good Day to all!

Now the clocks have gone back and media hype about snow, blizzards and the new ice age has begun, that can only mean one thing. British winter is upon us.

Having been woken up by the Pogues, Fairy Tale of New York 4 times in the last week, Christmas is approaching fast! (My regular radio station has changed frequency and been replaced by a Christmas station which I don't have the heart to change). This makes you think about good will to all men and peace on earth, but also what do you want for Christmas? I have it on good authority that I am now too old for a Mr Frosty frozen drinks machine and so looking forward as an adult professional I think about the challenges that not only are ahead of us, but what we have overcome this year, so far.

There have been moments this year when all looked bleak, with phrases such as "any willing provider" being banded about, the start of the MSC programmes and placements, talk of reprofiling the work force, budget cuts and redundancies. However, we are still here. We are still united and most of all, our standards and professionalism have not dropped.

Working as a dynamic organisation, the members and committees of the ARTP have kept themselves ahead of these changes by working together and ensuring that knowledge is kept up to date and shared with all the other members.

So keeping this in mind, we must continue to work together to ensure high standards in respiratory and sleep medicine, not only to uphold the good reputation of the ARTP, but also to ensure that the standard of patient care does not become compromised.

Happy Reading.

Recording Activity

Mention the terms “tariffs” or “coding” and watch the response in most people eyes. There seems to be 2 responses to these words in the NHS. In even the most experienced clinical staff members this subject can cause either terror or confusion. And to any one that’s actually tried to tackle these with finance and middle mangers in their trusts, even in the hearts of the bravest men, you will see a trickle of perspiration make its way down their panicked brow.

However, this is a fight worth braving. As many people will know, Karl Sylvester has spent many hours working on this. He is trying to collect data regarding all of the procedures we do. Only if we collect this information can we push forward the tariffs.

As was explained at the recent ARTP strategy meeting, this is not an overnight process. It can take approximately 7 years to get a procedure coded, with its diagnosis and turned into a tariff. Although this seems a long time, the sooner we get down to business, the sooner this process ends.

Also, it is important that we report the already coded diagnostics correctly, otherwise we lose the codes and the process starts again. I am sure I speak on behalf of many older, and wiser, ARTP members when I say this would be a shame and a waste of hard work that someone must have put in initially to make these happen. Although not ideal at present, they are better than nothing.

Yet an important point was made around this subject. There will be no extra money in the system if we do start coding appropriately but the demonstration of work load will enable respiratory physiology to have a larger proportion of the allocation, which would benefit departments all round, I’m sure. However, as interesting and as important as all this is, I digress.

There is a call to ARTP members to record their activity in a spreadsheet that is being provided by the ARTP. It was suggested that the best way to do this would be to put a spreadsheet onto the ARTP website that members could update. So an Excel spreadsheet for recording respiratory physiological activity data has now been uploaded to the members’ area of the website <http://www.artp.org.uk/en/members-area/professional/coding.cfm>.

The aim is to send activity data to the BTS Respiratory Expert Working Group on a quarterly basis but we would be grateful if this data could be recorded monthly as per the template.

The current template incorporates October through to December. Once all three months data has been added please forward the template to coding@artp.org.uk. Please also use this email address should you have any queries.

The importance of recording this activity can not be stressed enough.

Thank you all for your help and co-operation.

OSA Hits the Headlines

Some of you may remember that in the last eXhale we highlighted the BLF current campaign to raise awareness of OSA.

The BBC health correspondent for Scotland led on from this and raised a story last month alerting the public to the fact that sleep apnoea is on the rise and included some good statistics about road traffic accidents and the rise in sleep disorders, in Scotland. This story is available on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-15184060>.

It is media coverage like this that can increase our workload over night. I hope this story encourages our patients who would benefit from specialist input to seek help and advice.

RCCP Compulsory Registration Update

In August of his year, the RCCP penned a letter to Anne Milton (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health). This was an open letter and is available to view on the RCCP website (<http://www.clinphys.force9.co.uk/files/Newsletters/Open%20letter%20to%20Anne%20Milton%2008%20Aug%2011.pdf>)

Of course, being the professionals we are most of us are at least aware that there is a campaign to make registration compulsory for physiologists. This letter was written to the government to once again clarify the RCCP's position, and reaffirm the reasoning behind the recommendation.

The RCCP have received a less than encouraging response from the Department of Health. This too can be viewed on the RCCP website at <http://www.clinphys.force9.co.uk/files/Newsletters/Response%20from%20Anne%20Milton%20-%20Aug11.pdf>.

Lead Scientists call to action!!!

There is lot of buzz about Health Care Scientists at the moment.

Many, if not all, of the Strategic Health Authorities are hosting lead healthcare scientist events at the moment.

I can report, with the up most certainty, South Central are running these at the moment as I recently attended one in Newbury and sat around a table with many pathologists and an audiologist. Despite respiratory physiology being under represented it was an interesting meeting.

I appreciate in these tough times of limited time and money that another meeting may be a bit of a squeeze but these meetings have alerted me to the fact that there are pots of money that we never even knew about!

Contact your local SHA and see if they are having these meetings. If they are, try and get along. In South Central they are every quarter. I assume, but can not confirm, that other SHA's follow a similar pattern.

Good Luck!

Consultation Invitation

Respiratory Management of Children with Neuromuscular Weakness

The BTS has released a Guideline for the respiratory management of children with neuromuscular weakness. This document has been prepared by a sub-committee of the BTS Standards of Care Committee (SOCC) in line with the Society's policy for Guideline production.

The draft Guideline is now available for public consultation and can be downloaded from <http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/guidelines/children-with-neuromuscular-weakness.aspx>.

Your input will significantly enhance this document and we formally invite comments from ARTP.

Please return your comments to me by Monday 12 December 2011 if possible (sally.welham@brit-thoracic.org.uk).

World Spirometry Day 2012

It's coming!!!! After the success of world spirometry day 2010, we are all going to do it over again!

World Spirometry Day (WSD) will take place again on 27 June, 2012 - the Olympic Year.

The campaign will focus on sport and the lungs, and resources will be provided for all those organizing testing events related to the Olympic theme.

Testing will not be limited to this day alone and participants are encouraged to capitalize on the Olympics and hold events on the run up to the games on July 27 and beyond.

Start planning your events now and join the race for healthy lungs!

Get involved at <http://www.european-lung-foundation.org/16512-world-spirometry-day-2012.htm>.

you have any questions related to WSD 2012 please contact info@europeanlung.org



If

COPD Day 2011

This year sees the tenth world COPD day on Wednesday 16th November.

World COPD Day is organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) in collaboration with health care professionals and COPD patient groups throughout the world. Its aim is to raise awareness about COPD and improve COPD care throughout the world

What are you doing to mark this day? Maybe you are having a spirometry screening day or a smoking cessation drive. Maybe you are doing something in the hospital setting, or going out into the community and encouraging point of care testing.

This years theme is “Are you short of breath? You may have COPD! Ask your doctor about a simple breathing test called spirometry.” This positive message was chosen to raise awareness of spirometry as the gold standard for diagnosis of COPD, and emphasize the actions a person can take to safeguard his or her lung health.

If you haven't even had time to think about it, pop to the GOLD website <http://www.goldcopd.org/wcd-plan-your-wcd-event.html> and get involved.

Send your plans and events to eXhale and we can share your success with our readers.

A bizarre piece of reporting...

On the train on my way home from another interesting meeting, I was able to liberate a magazine from a fellow commuter; the scientifically, peer reviewed journal called “Stylist”. For anyone not familiar with this trusted publication it offers very important advice such as which handbag to carry and what shoes not to be seen in.

Any way, there was an article in this magazine about “the lost art of happiness”. It was an interesting article “investigating” why the modern woman is less happy and content with their lives than any other generation before. It was all very interesting and quotes that “the difference in life expectancy between the happiest and unhappiest people is nine years; whereas smoking reduces your life by six”.

Now, I don't know how many people out there have direct input into their local smoking cessation plan but figures like that do nothing to promote giving up smoking. However, since the article was published I have only had one patient quote this “fact” to me. He very proudly informed me that he would rather be a happy smoker, than an unhappy quitter because then he only loses 6 years of his life and not the 9!

ARTP Annual Conference 2012

The next ARTP Annual Conference will be at ...

Barceló Hinckley Island Hotel

A5 Watling Street, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3JA

26 - 28 January 2012

Conference Programme <http://www.artp.org.uk/en/meetings/artp-conference/index.cfm>

The conference programme is almost complete with final speaker participation currently being confirmed. Key speakers already confirmed include:

- **Professor Mary Morrell**, London, speaking on the treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea/Hypopnoea Syndrome in the elderly
- **Professor Kim Prisk**, University of California, San Diego, USA speaking on Visiology - probing the lung with MRI
- **Professor Janet Stocks**, London, speaking on Interpreting Lung Function in the Elderly

Register now for early bird discount!!!!

ARTP Travel Grants

Please Note: Grants are only available to ARTP Members.

Meeting Grants

Grants are available for the following meetings and must be received by ARTP Admin by the stated date.

Grant Availability (annually)

ERS Meeting	(5 @ £1000)	1st June
ARTP Conference	(10 @ £500 max*)	1st November
CSO Conference	(5 @£300)	1st June

(*If you are applying for your registration fees as a travel grant please also specify this on your ARTP conference registration form)

Travel / Experience Grants

Grants to allow ARTP members to extend their work experience or learning practices are also available.

(£1500 total fund, at the discretion of Executive Committee)

How to Apply for a Grant

To apply for any of these grants please use the form available from the website <http://www.artp.org.uk/en/about-artp/membership/travel-grants.cfm> .

Forthcoming Education and Events - 2011 & 2012

- CPX Course
Birmingham 7th – 10th November Strathallen Hotel,
- Spirometry Course 23rd November -
7th December Dorset County Hospital
- *Spirometry Course* 25th November -
16th December *Good Hope Hospital*
- BTS/ARTP/BSS Sleep 27 - 29 November The Beeches Conference
Centre
- Spirometry Course 28th – 29th November Royal Brompton Hospital
- Full Certificate Sirometry Course 29th - 30 November Hinchingsbrooke Hospital
- Spirometry Course 8th - 9th December Staffordshire and Stoke-
onTrent
- *Spirometry Course* 14th December *Staffordshire and Stoke-
onTrent*
- Annual Conference 26th - 28th January Barceló Hinckley Island
Hotel
- Spirometry Course 9th - 28th February University Hospitals
Coventry

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