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Editors Welcome

Good day to all of you.

Firstly, I would like to apologise for being so quiet of late. I propose to ensure that eXhale has a more regular publishing timetable, although slightly less frequently than initially hoped.

All members of the ARTP can help with this mission by sending in articles, tit bits and miscellaneous contributions for all to enjoy.

My second apology is for the absence of badger this edition. Badger has gone AWOL but is believed to be making a very welcome return in a later edition.

As we all work under the new coalition government, with the new spending cuts and with the new healthcare structure it can feel like things are moving extremely quickly. All members of the ARTP, both old and new, are very proactive at keeping up to date with changes. Through the many ways of communication that we embrace as an association, including eXhale, Inspire and the ARTP forum, we attempt to keep each other abreast of anything new, as it happens. I would encourage all members to continue using these communications to voice opinions, questions or to just clarify things that you may have heard.

Remember, there is no such thing as a stupid contribution, because guaranteed if you are thinking it, at least 1 other member is to. Even the really old members of the ARTP were junior at some point and asked more experience colleagues to share their knowledge with them. Besides, some one has to get the information from them before they get old age disease and forget all they know!

Happy reading.

The New NHS – An Event for Healthcare Scientists

This month was the NHS Healthcare Scientist event. The world of respiratory physiology had good representation. As always, members of the ARTP were right in the thick of it.

This event was held in London and had an interesting array of speakers, including Sue Hill, Andrew Lansley and David Nicholson.

Now, I was going to give an overview of the presentations and speakers, but I have been sent a link (after scribbling down furiously copying what I thought were key slides). This link will give you access to all of the presentations.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Chiefprofessionalofficers/Chiefscientificofficer/index.htm>

Remember, these presentations have a very specific political spin on them, but I would encourage all members to look through them.

I did not attend the dinner myself but I am well informed that the food was lovely, but unfortunately the awards ceremony did not take place as the winners were yet to be decided. Only in the NHS could there be an award-less award ceremony.



Breast Cancer Awareness

A huge thank you to all the members at the conference who helped the ARTP raise £210.90 for Breast care awareness.

I'm sure we can all appreciate the good work that this charity does. Every year nearly 46,000 people receive the devastating news that they have breast cancer. Dealing with this diagnosis can be a confusing, lonely and frightening time not only for the person diagnosed, but for their partner, family and friends. Let us not forget that it is not only woman that can get this diagnosis either.

The ARTP, and its members, are pleased to support this charity through the raffle at the ARTP conference 2011.

The Best Things in Life are Free

As the old saying goes - the best things in life are free. At the ERS HQ they agree and are providing free membership to anyone under the age of 35. Simply by registering at <http://register.ersnet.org/selfregistration/> you get silver level membership free for one year.

Step by Step Guide to Free ERS Membership!

First you must register for *my ERS* using the address link above; registering is quick and easy with just two short pages to complete online. You will need to create a user name and password and provide all the usual contact information; once you have registered you will receive an e-mail confirmation and your log in details.

You will then need to log in to your *my ERS* account using the user name and password you have already set up, this will be in the confirmation e-mail. Once logged in to *my ERS* click on the tab along the top bar to 'become a member'. It will ask you if you will pay with either a Mastercard or Visa credit card, agree to this even though membership is free! Your personal information will already be filled in so navigate through the pages using the next button until you reach the scientific groups page.

It is **essential** that when you join you select to join ERS **Group 9.1 (Lung Function Technicians & Scientists)** as your primary membership Group and then select another group in Assembly 4 that best fit your interests. You will then be asked if you have dual membership with any partner organisations of ERS; continue on to the membership category page.

Silver membership – under 35 will be listed only if your date of birth puts you under 35; select '1 year' in the adjacent drop down box. Tick the box at the bottom of the page to agree to the terms of membership. You are required to provide proof of your age (passport, driving license or ID card), tick the box to agree to this. Proof of age can be e-mailed at a later stage to members@ersnet.org or you can upload them from a link on this page. In my experience I found uploading the information from this page somewhat tricky and the form kept resetting itself but you can upload attachments from a tab on your *my ERS* homepage at a later stage.

Once you process your application an invoice page of 0EUR will be displayed, click end process and a confirmation page will be displayed confirming your membership details have been updated. An e-mail will be sent to your registered e-mail address confirming your membership details and your login details for access to ERJ (see benefits below). You will receive a second e-mail reminding you to send ERS your proof of age. You should now be able to view your membership status under the 'my status' tag when logged in to *my ERS*; you can now enjoy all the benefits of ERS membership completely free of charge.

Look at what this excellent Silver membership entitles you to:

- Print copy of *Breathe*
- Access to ERSNET including all electronic publications and educational resources including on-line access to *ERJ* (for free!)
- Special rates on ERS events
- Eligible to participate in shaping the Annual Congress scientific Programme
- Access to all research proposals
- Eligible to stand for office and to vote
- Eligible to propose Symposia for the annual congress
- Eligible to apply for grants
- Eligible to apply for financial support when setting up seminars and task forces
- Access to ERS members' lounge during Annual Congress
- As an under 35 member you are eligible to stand for office on the ERS student committee and vote for student committee members

Samantha Briscoe
Junior Members Representative

NHS Networks

The NHS has launched a series of networks, accessible at <http://www.networks.nhs.uk/> to ensure good communication between healthcare professionals. There are many topics on here, including respiratory, specific SHA's and MSC.

A new NHS network has been created for the open sharing of MSC curricula, which can be accessed here. <http://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/msc-framework-curricula>.

This network will host all published MSC curricula and is an open network that anyone can view.

Have a look around these networks. There are some useful topics and resources that can be utilized on this site.

White Paper for Consultation

Liberating the NHS: developing the healthcare workforce

This consultation document sets out proposals to establish a new framework for developing the healthcare workforce and seeks views on the systems and processes that will be needed to support it. The final date for responses is 31st March 2011, but earlier expressions of view would be helpful.

A summary of the response to this consultation will be made available before or alongside any further action, such as laying legislation before Parliament, and will be placed on the Department of Health consultations website. This will occur after the consultation is completed on 31 March 2011.

This is very short notice for a consultation, but please look at the document at the link below.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_122590

This document is relevant to all of us.

Breathe Easy

Earlier this month, I was invited to talk at our local Breathe Easy group. When I enquired what they would like me to discuss, they were fairly adamant that they wanted to know why I tortured them all on a regular basis and why I could possibly need to see them more than once in a lifetime.

Now, being a patient group, I wanted to keep the talk informal and let the audience lead the topic in any direction that they felt was appropriate. Well, I was there for 2 hours and I think we talked for a grand total of about 15 minutes around the subject of PFT's.

Many different topics were discussed; attitudes towards smoking 'back in the day', occupational exposure and lack of compensation (in relation to some of the silly claims you see in the paper today), non-allergic dogs, hairless cats, GP referrals, claims in the media regarding respiratory health and the merits of different biscuits that dunk well into your tea amongst others.

I had an e-mail from the group, thanking me for an informative but fun meeting. My response to them was

“

Dear all

You are more than welcome. I enjoyed the breathe easy meeting and want to express my gratitude to you all. I also learnt a lot.

It was a wonderful experience talking to respiratory patients, outside of a medical setting. You were all very welcoming and open in your experiences of how your respiratory problems affect you, your life and the people around you.

It is always humbling to be let into a patients world in a very open way.

Thank you to all the members of the group and I am happy to come back and talk anytime in the future.

”

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members of the ARTP to approach their local Breathe Easy group and become involved in the local respiratory community. Not only do they provide an important service to respiratory patients but they all have unique stories or knowledge of their own.

Click on the link, and find your local group. Get involved!

<http://www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/breathe-easy>

Lung Improvement Programme

NHS Improvement is a national, NHS funded programme offering practical service improvement support to clinical teams and NHS organisations, working across the whole patient pathway from prevention through to end of life care

Building on the work of national improvement programmes in Cancer, Cardiology, Diagnostics and Stroke services, the Lung Improvement Programme was set up to provide national support for the local improvement of respiratory services. This will initially cover COPD, asthma and home oxygen services in England. It is also an initiative to support the implementation of the forthcoming National Strategy for COPD.

The Lung Improvement Programme aims to support clinical teams, commissioners, service managers and other key stakeholders to deliver high quality and effective services through process improvement and redesign, and provides a wide range of expertise on how to begin, manage and sustain improvements that benefit patients and frontline staff.

The Lung Improvement Programme will work closely with the Department of Health and other organisations working in this area and focus on:

- Undertaking local projects to test, inform and accelerate local change
- Supporting clinical teams and SHA Respiratory Clinical Leads to deliver the National COPD Strategy
- Dovetailing with other national priorities such as Long Term Conditions (LTC) and the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention challenge (QIPP)
- Reviewing the feasibility of developing communities of practice that build on existing respiratory networks
- Sharing information, resources and best practice examples towards the delivery of high quality respiratory services

This is an important initiative that is under way at present. In Milton Keynes, we have been working on the oxygen service and with the help of the scheme we have improved the patient care and the efficiency of the service no end. The experience has been rewarding to both staff and patients alike.

The next phase of the project is being reviewed currently and I recommend everyone get involved in this. The national improvement project lead for diagnosis is Zoe Lord.

To find out more about this programme, look on www.improvement.nhs.uk/lung or email Zoe Lord on zoe.lord@improvement.nhs.uk

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 (About ARTP | Membership | Travel Grants).

Forthcoming Education and Events - 2011

- Spirometry Course 5th & 6th April Hichingbrooke Hospital, Cambridgeshire
- ARTP PFT Reporting Course July 6th and 7th ARTP HQ, City Wharf, Lichfield
- 2 Day Spirometry Course 13th – 14th April University Hospital of North Staffs
- LFT Reporting Course 1st & 2nd June ARTP HQ, Lichfield, Staffordshire
- Spirometry Course 6th – 7th June Royal Brompton Hospital London
- BSS Spring Meeting 21st – 22nd June University of Nottingham
- British Thoracic Society 30th June – 1st July Cardiff City Hall
- Spirometry Course 5th – 6th September Royal Brompton Hospital
- National Strategy Day 4th October Queen Elizabeth & Selly Oak Hospitals
- IARS/ARTP Joint Meeting 20th – 21st October Bewleys Hotel, Dublin
- Spirometry Course 28th – 29th November Royal Brompton Hospital

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