

Physiotherapy Research Society

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Newsletter Issue No. 3

Welcome to the third issue of the Physiotherapy Research Society newsletter. This year has seen many changes in the Committee structure as people have come to the end of their term of office. Kate Kerr has now left us after a very long stint as Treasurer. During her period of office we have seen our financial situation go from strength to strength. This has put us in a strong position to consider funding small research initiatives, the details of which we are working on at present. This will be in addition to the conference bursary scheme introduced a couple of meetings ago. We are very grateful to Kate for all of her hard work and diligence in this role. We are also grateful to Suzanne McDonough who has now taken over this responsibility.

Next year will see Jackie Waterfield retiring as Chair of the Committee, followed shortly afterwards by Barbara Richardson as Committee Secretary. Jackie Oldham and Angela Clough are also due to retire but have agreed to stay on for a slightly longer period to maintain some continuity in the Committee Structure. Other changes in responsibility include the post of minute secretary that has been assumed by one of our more recent members, Sarah Tyson. All of these changes mean we now have the opportunity for four new members and we would really like to see you applying. The deadline for applications to apply to become a Committee member is 31st January 2002. Please send a 200 word resume about yourself and what you feel you can contribute to the Committee to Barbara Richardson. All applications will be sent out for voting to the PRS membership and new members announced at the April 2002 meeting.

January will also see the launch of our web site. The address will be www.uea.ac.uk/~w370/prs. The University of East Anglia have kindly agreed to host this web site for the time being. Any ideas or thoughts about what should be included on the web page should be sent to Martin Watson. We have used some of the Society's money to help set this up and any thoughts/ideas would be welcome. We will certainly be including the newsletter on this site in the future. Don't worry those of you who don't have access – we will also maintain a hard copy for the foreseeable future but please keep your ideas coming in.

Finally, we are pleased to announce a dramatic increase in our membership so all of your encouragement is working – please keep up the hard work.

And last but not least, may we congratulate Angela Clough on the recent arrival of her baby daughter Emily.

Jackie Oldham
Newsletter Editor

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES:

The next conference is at Keele University on the 24th April 2002. The conference is entitled 'Dealing with Data' and includes: 'Use and abuse of quantitative data in health care research', Professor Peter Jones (Keele), 'Use and abuse of qualitative data in health care research', Professor Sheila Payne (Sheffield), free paper sessions and parallel workshops entitled 'Design and analysis of qualitative research' (speaker to be confirmed) and 'Methodological and statistical aspects of sampling, Professor Julius Sim (Keele) and Chris Wright (Coventry).

Abstract guidelines and details of bursaries available from: Grahame Pope, Division of Physiotherapy Education, Nottingham City Hospital, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB to whom abstracts should be submitted. Deadline for submission of abstracts 22nd February 2002.

Conference organiser: Jackie Waterfield, Department of Physiotherapy Studies, MacKay Building, Keele University, Staffs ST5 5BG.

Other conferences include: University of East Anglia (10/02), Edinburgh (04/03) and Oxford (10/03).

Committee Members & contact details

Ms Jackie Waterfield (Chair)
Tel: 01782 843537

Email:

j.waterfield@physio.keele.ac.uk

Barbara Richardson (Hon Sec)

Tel: 01603 593320

Email: b.richardson@uea.ac.uk

Dr. Suzanne McDonough
(Treasurer)

Tel: 01232 366459

Email: s.mcdonough@ulst.ac.uk

Mr Grahame Pope (Abstract sec)

Tel: 0115 840 4869

Email:

grahame.pope@nottingham.ac.uk

Prof. Jackie Oldham (Newsletter editor)

Tel: 0161 276 6672

Email: Jackie.Oldham@man.ac.uk

Dr Martin Watson (PRO)

Tel: 01603 593092

Email: m.watson@uea.ac.uk

Dr Sarah Tyson (minute secretary)

Tel: 0161 787 1129

Email: sarah.tyson@man.ac.uk

Mrs Angela Clough

Tel: 0113 283 3438

Email: A.Clough@lmu.ac.uk

Dr. Karen Barker

Tel: 01865 227662

Email:

Karen.Barker@noc.anglox.nhs.uk

Mrs Gill Baer

Tel: 0131 317 3356

Email: gbaer@qmuc.ac.uk

Summary of Belfast Conference, November 2001

As with previous conferences, this attracted a large number of delegates to the excellent conference facilities at the University of Ulster. The focus of the meeting was on 'Clinical Practice and the Evidence' with the scene being set by Professor Mary Dyson from Kings College, London. This was followed by Dr. Deirdre Hurley-Osing and Professor Domhnall MacAuley both from the University of Ulster. These papers stimulated a lot of debate about funding sources for physiotherapy researchers and encouragement was given for the submission of high quality applications to all funding bodies.

The afternoon session again saw enough high quality abstracts to warrant the running of two con-current sessions. The abstracts will be printed in 'Physiotherapy', but in the meantime here is a list of the papers presented.

Oral presentations:

Unraveling the neurodynamic test for the median nerve: Impact of joint positions on the nervous system. M.W. Coppieters, K.H. Stappaerts.

The upper limb tension test – The effect of lateral rotation on the test response. C.H. Stapleton, J.Brew.

Clinical use of interferential therapy in the management of low back pain. A survey of current practice in Northern Ireland. J.H. Gracey, W.H. Noble, J.G Noble.

Test-Retest reliability for measuring isometric neck muscle strength: A pilot study. N. Strimpakos, J.A. Oldham.

Static postural sway, proprioception and maximal voluntary quadriceps contraction in knee osteoarthritis patients and normal control subjects. B.S. Hassan, S.P. Mockett, Doherty, M.

The convergent validity of an aggregate locomotor function (ALF) score in subjects with knee osteoarthritis. C.J.McCarthy, J.A. Oldham.

An evaluation of ankle-braces used in the management of ankle inversion injuries. V.T. Yule, F.H. Kitsell, G. Thomas, G. Bowyer.

Incorporating hydrotherapy into a pain management programme: A comparative study in patients with chronic low back pain. M.P. Armstrong, I. Gillespie, A.Kenny, S.Carson, L.Magee, A.Coyle, S.McDonough, G.D.Baxter.

The development of a new instrument to assess stereognosis. L.A. Connell, S.P. Mockett.

Development of a rating tool for assessing people with parkinson's disease turning in bed. J.Dobson, E.Stack, A.Ashburn.

Turning over in bed: The problem for people with parkinson's disease. A.Ashburn, E.Stack, J.Dobson.

Clinical assessment of movement disorders in multiple sclerosis. J.Hooper, I.R.Whittle, R.Taylor.

Comparison of community and hospital based stroke rehabilitation. R.Flinn, G.Coyle, N.Quigg, A.Kennedy, C.Neeson, M.Donnely.

A comparison of trunk muscle activity while sitting on a conventional seat and on a saddle seat. R.E.Holloway, D.Thackray.

Randomised controlled trials of non-pharmacological interventions for fibromyalgia: A systematic review. N.Adams, J.Sim.

Perceived professional, educational and personal needs of physiotherapists working in the community. J.A. Bourne, S.J.Morris, K.Kziedzic, J.Sim.