

Physiotherapy Research Society

Newsletter Summer 2003

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Edinburgh Meeting 7 Spring 2003

A successful PRS meeting was held at Queen Margaret University College on 1st May but it was not without its dramas! We had originally organised this meeting jointly with the Scottish Physiotherapy Research Group, by the middle of April 40+ people had registered. The SPRG decided this was insufficient numbers for their purposes, cancelled the meeting and informed the registrants to this effect. This was done without any consultation with the Physiotherapy Research Society and did not take into account our commitment for an AGM at the Spring meeting. 40+ registrants is quite sufficient for us to run a financially and academically successful meeting, so the PRS executive committee therefore took the decision to continue by running a PRS meeting on the 1st May with those registrants who were still able to attend.

Consequently, a small but successful meeting was held. Dr Phil Rowe, a reader in rehabilitation at Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh gave a keynote address about quantitative measurement of human performance and how this can be considered within the ICIDH contextual framework.

Our grateful thanks to all who enabled the meeting to take place, particularly Gill Baer the local organiser at Queen Margaret's College.

Free Paper Presentations

There were nine free papers, with pain forming a focus for the papers presented in the afternoon.

Rebecca Sims & Simon Mockett	A pilot study of the effect of haemodialysis on leg extensor power and postural sway in older haemodialysed patients.
Karen Barker	Using inherent muscle length to predict knee range loss on limb lengthening.
Kathleen Rielly	An RCT of accelerated recovery programme for unicompartamental knee arthroplasty—interim results.
Kath Vick	How accurate are physiotherapists at predicting the outcomes of their neurologically impaired patients.

Dennis Jones	Professionals beliefs and attitudes about chronic non-malignant pain.
Stella Howden	How do people with rheumatoid arthritis make sense of their pain?
Nadine Foster	Development and evaluation of a multi-media web resource using computer mediated communication as a learning tool in a research project module.
Gill Doughty & Nadine Foster	Overcoming barriers to evidence based practice: An example using the acute low back pain guidelines.
Ann Daykin	A survey of physiotherapists' pain beliefs

The Future of the PRS

The executive committee is aware that with one cancellation of a recent meeting and a close miss of another confidence and interest in PRS may wane.

We wish to assure the members and physiotherapy research community that we are still here and are working hard to turn things around. Circumstances beyond our control really have played a large part in the last year or so but we have also identified that the communication links and general publicizing of PRS activities are issues that we need to work on.

We have therefore taken a number of initiatives to improve this. These are detailed below.

Initiatives

Communication Database

At present we have a database containing members' details. Forthcoming events, newsletters etc are circulated to all members and advertised in Frontline, but we do not have any formal contacts with institutions or interested non-members through which to publicise future meetings, PRS activities, attract new members etc.

We would like to develop a publicity data base. We would like to identify a person (or persons) from institutions: universities, clinical depts, professional bodies, etc who would act as a contact point and distribute publicity material locally.

If you are willing to act as a local contact please contact:

Gill Baer at gbaer@qmuc.ac.uk or on 0131 317 3356

Departmental Membership

A new membership category has been developed for departments - either higher education institutions or clinical departments. Departmental membership will allow a department to join PRS at the same rate as a single member (£15 per annum), they will get all the PRS info etc and can send 1 member of staff to each meeting for the same cost as a full member.

The savings from this are more than the annual cost of the departmental membership.

If you wish to take up departmental membership, please contact:

Sarah Tyson at sarah.tyson@man.ac.uk or on 0161 276 5035

PRS Website - www.prs-uk.org

The PRS website has been revamped and we have a new more easily accessible address – www.prs-uk.org. The new website will go live in July.

The website will be an instant source of info about PRS with details of the upcoming meetings, submitting abstracts, joining PRS, the presentation bursary, research award etc, etc. So go and visit!

Other Developments;

Presentation Bursary

A bursary is available for people presenting at PRS, in the past this has been for members on a low income, but this criteria has now been removed and it is available to any PRS member. PRS will award up to £100 to cover expenses in attending the meeting to present at PRS. There will be up to 2 awards per meeting.

Where there are more applicants than awards, the bursary will be presented to the highest quality presentation.

For details of the presentation contact the treasurer, Suzanne McDonough at:

s.mcdonough@ulster.ac.uk or 02890 366459

Research Award

A small research award has been developed to pump prime research studies. The award is for up to £500 and can be used for any expenses for a study relating to physiotherapy.

The closing date for submissions is 1st September 2003 and awardees will be announced at the Autumn meeting in Oxford.

For further details and an application form contact the abstract secretary,

Karen Barker at:

Karen.Barker@noc.anglox.nhs.uk or on 01865 227662

Next Meeting

The next PRS meeting will be on November 27th at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford.

The theme will be lower limb rehabilitation and there will be workshops on systematic reviews or randomised controlled studies. Full details will follow as soon as they have been finalised.

There is a call for abstract for presentation at the meeting – the deadline for abstract submission is the 1st September. Contact the abstract secretary, Karen Barker at:

Karen.Barker@noc.anglox.nhs.uk or on 01865 227662

What is the Physiotherapy Research Society?

Promoting research and developing the scientific basis for physiotherapy practice.

Aim: The Society will promote research in physiotherapy, so that a firm scientific knowledge base is developed, from which more effective physiotherapy practice may be delivered and patient services enhanced. This will be achieved by encouraging high quality research relevant to physiotherapy practice and education and by fostering critical awareness throughout the profession. The Society will aim to disseminate the results of research both within the profession and beyond.

Meetings: Each year, the Society normally organizes two meetings. The main scientific meeting is held in the Spring and another meeting in the Autumn. This may be a scientific meeting or workshop. The Society aims to hold the meetings in different locations throughout the UK, but the location depends on volunteers to host the meetings. The meetings are to disseminate physiotherapy research and to highlight topics relevant to physiotherapy research. They are designed to encompass a range of experience from the most experienced leaders in a field to those new to research. The Society welcomes new researchers such as those who have recently completed Masters research projects and who would wish to present their research work.

Members: Membership is open to all physiotherapists with an interest in research. It is also open to academics and professionals from related disciplines, either working with physiotherapists or conducting research in areas relevant to physiotherapy. The Society welcomes members from the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries. We have a separate membership category for departments - especially clinical departments - which wish to join. Departmental membership enables the department to receive all correspondence, newsletters, information about up-coming events etc and to send 1 member of staff to each PRS meeting at the full members rate per year.

Links: The Physiotherapy Research Society has close links with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy as well as other physiotherapy research organizations in the USA, Australia and Europe. In addition the Society has established links with other health related research groups such as the Society for Research in Rehabilitation.

To join the Physiotherapy Research Society:

The annual fee is £15.

Complete the application form and standing order form and forward it to:

Dr Sarah Tyson, Centre for Rehabilitation Science, Manchester Royal Infirmary Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9WL - Email: sarah.tyson@man.ac.uk

If you do not want to set up a standing order, a cheque for £15 can be sent to the same address annually.