

HR-UK

Heart Rhythm UK



NEWS

Summer 2008

President's Letter

It is a great pleasure to introduce my first HRUK newsletter as President. My first task is to reiterate my thanks to my predecessor Derek Connolly for his sterling work over the last three years as President of HRUK. He took over in difficult circumstances and has driven the organisation with wisdom and leadership into an unprecedented period of expansion. Ten years ago the annual meeting highlight of the HRUK year (BPEG as it was then) attracted 100 attendees on a good day. The collaboration with Arrhythmia Alliance that has developed in recent years has led to the Heart Rhythm Congress of 2007 attracting over 2000 attendees! Such has the arrhythmia world changed in a decade, and we have been fortunate to have had Derek's services available to us during this time.

Unfortunately one of my first duties as President was an extremely sad one, representing HRUK at the funeral of Charles Lobban. Derek Connolly has written an appreciation of the life of Charles which appears later in the newsletter, and reflects on his contribution and how much he will be missed.

Election fever has affected HRUK almost as much as other political scenes, although perhaps not with as much upheaval as some recent examples. As a result of the elections, we are delighted to congratulate Emma Shepherd, Nicola Meldrum, Donna Elliott-Rotgans and Derick Todd to HRUK Council. Their biographies and impressive achievements are summarised later in the newsletter. I am very grateful to all the others who put their names forward, but who on this occasion were not successful in being elected. HRUK is expanding – we need all the help we can get, so if you were not successful this time, please do not take it as an affront, but put your name forward next time.

I hope that by now most of you will have seen communications from the Healthcare Commission and the Information Centre. Mike Gammage, Dick Charles, David Cunningham and others were responsible for producing the latest National Heart Rhythm Databases. The results of the national survey formed the meat of the report and illustrate the work that has been undertaken by CCAD to collate the national data, the survey group to look at regional trends and HRUK to work with these agencies to develop a strategy for moving forward. Data underpins everything we do – demonstrating quality and equality of patient care. But collecting it, analysing it and acting upon it is time consuming and not always supported at a level that reflects its importance in today's world. The purpose behind HRUK's submission to the Healthcare Commission was that the work undertaken by physiologists, doctors and nurses up and down the country to deliver arrhythmia care needs to be recognised and supported. By incorporating the timely submission of data on arrhythmia procedures, whether they be device implants or ablations, into a benchmark of Trust performance, we believe will give you greater power to negotiate with Trusts for the support you need. This is only the start. We must achieve 100% data submission for all procedures. We must

then develop procedures that reflect the quality of the work we deliver. These will ensure that patients receive the quality of care they deserve and that your work receives the support it requires. Importantly these forms of data will form the basis of revalidation and certification. If we all contribute to developing this data collecting exercise now, life will become easier.

It is a pleasure to announce the guidelines for follow up of implantable cardiac devices for cardiac rhythm management. This important piece of work which was a collaboration between HRUK and SCST is the culmination of hard labour by Brian Campbell and Wilson McNair for the SCST and Sue Jones, Mike Gammage and Nick Linker for our organisation. The full guidance will be made available shortly on the BCS and HRUK websites.

I believe HRUK can have a more prominent role in encouraging and promoting research in the UK. As a small example the potential for the National Arrhythmia Databases to examine clinical outcomes is enormous. On a smaller scale HRUK could help disseminate potential research projects to its members to bring together those who have similar interests and/or patient populations. In this latter category I draw your attention to the proposal from Dominic Abrams later in the newsletter.

This leaves me no more than to wish you a very enjoyable summer and I look forward to meeting you all at the Heart Rhythm Congress in October.

Edward Rowland
President

HRUK Council Members 2008

Officers

Dr Edward Rowland President

Current Role: Consultant Cardiologist, The Heart Hospital, London

Dr Michael Gammage Honorary Secretary

(Also HRUK SAC Representative, HRUK Exam Committee Member)

Current Role: Reader in Cardiovascular Medicine, The Medical School, University of Birmingham

Professor John Morgan Treasurer

Current Role: Professor of Cardiac Rhythm Management, Wessex Cardiac Centre, Southampton University Hospital Trust

Dr Derek Connelly Past President

Current Role: Consultant Cardiologist, Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Subgroup Representatives

Dr Nick Linker Doctor to represent Devices subgroup

(Also Chair of the HRUK Exam Committee, Programme Director, Heart Rhythm Congress 2008 and 2009)

Current Role: Consultant Cardiologist, James Cook University Hospital

Dr Neil Sulke Doctor to represent Devices subgroup

Current Role: Consultant Cardiologist, Eastbourne District General Hospital

Dr Richard Schilling Doctor to represent Interventional EP Subgroup

(Also Scientific Director, Heart Rhythm Congress 2008 and 2009)

Current Role: Consultant Cardiologist, St Bartholomew's and Royal London Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary's University of London

Dr Derick Todd Doctor to represent Interventional EP Subgroup

Current Role: Consultant Electrophysiologist, The Cardiothoracic Centre, Liverpool (For further details, please go to page 5, 'New Council Members - Biographies')

Sue Jones	Physiologist to represent Physiologist subgroup (Also HRUK Exam Committee Member) Current Role: Pacing and ICD Services Manager, St George's Hospital, London
Carole Joyce	Physiologist to represent Physiologist subgroup (Also HRUK Exam Committee Member) Current Role: Senior Chief Cardiac Physiologist, Bradford Royal Infirmary
Donna Elliott-Rotgans	Physiologist to represent Physiologist subgroup (Also HRUK Exam Committee Member) Current Role: Cardiology Service Manager, The Heart Hospital, London (For further details, please go to page 5, 'New Council Members - Biographies')
Emma Shepherd	Physiologist to represent Physiologist subgroup Current Role: Chief Clinical Physiologist in Cardiac Rhythm management, Belfast City Hospital (For further details, please go to page 5, 'New Council Members - Biographies')
Nicola Meldrum	Arrhythmia Nurse Specialist Subgroup Representative (Also HRUK Exam Committee Member) Current Role: ICD Nurse Specialist, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford (For further details, please go to page 5, 'New Council Members - Biographies')

Non-voting members of council (co-opted/observer status)

Trudie Lobban	Co-opted patient group representative from Arrhythmia Alliance (Chair, Heart Rhythm Congress Business Committee)
Anne Jolly	Co-opted patient group representative from Heart Care Partnership (UK)
Dr Paul Sheridan	BJCA Representative (soon to be leaving Council. Replacement tbc)
Jeff Davison	SCST Representative
Pierre Chauvineau	Observer from industry (Medtronic)
Dr Susanne Ludgate	Observer from MHRA (Clinical Director, Devices)
Celina Cundy	Observer from MHRA (Senior Medical Device Specialist - Biosciences & Implants Unit)
Dr Christopher Brittain	Observer from MHRA (Senior Medical Advisor)

New Council Members ~ Biographies

Dr Derick Todd

Current Post: Consultant Electrophysiologist, The Cardiothoracic Centre, Liverpool
Qualifications: BSc. (Hons); MB. ChB. (Hons); MRCP (UK); MD

I graduated from The University of Edinburgh in 1991. Following house jobs and SHO jobs in Edinburgh, I moved to a SpR post in cardiology based in Leicester. During my cardiology training I spent 2 years in Manchester doing research into atrial fibrillation. This was the subject of my MD and most of my publications. I completed my training in Electrophysiology in Canada, before taking up a consultant post in Liverpool in 2003. My current post involves tertiary management of all arrhythmia problems with a focus on ablation and device therapy.

Outside of work, and when family life allows, I enjoy a wide range of sports and regularly play squash, tennis and golf.

Donna Elliott-Rotgans

Current Post: Cardiology Service Manager, The Heart Hospital, London

I have worked as a Cardiac Physiologist for 17 years. I completed my undergraduate training and initial post-graduate training in Auckland, New Zealand, before coming to the UK in 1997. Since then I have worked at a senior level in two private hospitals and three large tertiary centres in London, including 5 years at Band 7 and one head of department position. I managed the Cardiac Cath Labs at The Heart Hospital, UCLH NHS Foundation Trust for 2 years before taking up my current post as Cardiology Services Manager, also at The Heart Hospital.

I have many years experience in all aspects of cardiac rhythm management including device implantation and follow-up, assisting in EP/RFA and 3D mapping systems. I have also participated in various research projects, both internal and external industry studies. My experience in education includes local programmes within the various Trusts I have worked in, lecturing for Westminster College, examining for SCST and corporate-led training courses.

My current role extends to management of all healthcare professionals including medical staff. I am also responsible for service delivery and compliance with the 18-week target, procurement of all cardiology consumables, and commissioning of cardiology services at a local and national level.

I look forward to working with you all to help facilitate and improve the treatment for patients arrhythmias throughout the UK.

Emma Shepherd (nee Coleman)

Current Post: Chief Cardiac Clinical Physiologist in Cardiac Rhythm Management, Belfast City Hospital.

I have been in my current role of Chief Cardiac Clinical Physiologist in cardiac rhythm management at the Belfast city hospital for 2 years, and have always been heavily involved with device patients since I graduated from the University of Ulster with BSc Hons in Clinical Physiology. I successfully completed the HRUK (BPEG) exam, followed by the NASPE exam in device management and have been heavily involved in the development of device remote monitoring clinics. I have presented at professional society meetings including the Arrhythmia Alliance Physiologist Day on the subject of EP Guidelines for Cardiac Physiologists. I also hold the

BSE exam which gives me an added advantage working with CRT device patients. I currently sit on the Northern Ireland advisory group for EP/Devices as I believe the development of services at local and regional is paramount in developing patient care.

Nicola Meldrum

Current Post: ICD Nurse Specialist, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

I have been a cardiac nurse for 14 years, both in cardiac medicine and surgery, with a particular focus on Coronary Care. I became the first ICD Nurse Specialist at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford in January 2004 and have recently been joined by a second nurse specialist in the past few months. I am particularly interested in developing integration between disciplines, in particular Electrophysiologists, Cardiac Physiologists and Arrhythmia/ICD Nurse Specialists. By taking on a technical role in ICD patient follow up and implant support, I feel strongly that traditional role boundaries can be crossed, optimising team skills and improving patient care. I am passionate about education, both for health care professionals and patients. I sit on the executive committee of the Arrhythmia Alliance, which strives to improve patient awareness, support, education and treatment. I am very keen to become an effective voice for Nurse Specialists within cardiac rhythm management who I believe are becoming an increasingly important part of this specialty.

Heart Rhythm Congress 2008

Heart Rhythm Congress 2008 19-22 October 2008, Hilton Birmingham Metropole

Have You Registered?

HRC brings together all those with an interest in arrhythmias. It offers an exciting educational opportunity for members of the medical, allied professional and industry communities to increase their own and others' knowledge of heart rhythm disorders, and does this in an open, interactive environment. The congress boasts a full programme of scientific sessions along with training courses, patient group conferences, live cases, industry sessions, and PCT meetings, with a trade exhibition running throughout.

This year's sessions include:

Sunday 19th October HRUK Certificate of Accreditation Training – Core Section

Monday 20th October Complex Devices • Genetics • Live Cases • Heart Rhythm Trainees
• Basic Sciences • HRUK Certificate of Accreditation Training - Devices

Tuesday 21st October Advanced Pacing • VT Storms • Allied Professionals • Primary Care Trusts • Syncope • Paediatric Electrophysiology • Oral Abstracts • Young Investigator Prize • Posters

Wednesday 22nd October Workforce Planning • Arrhythmia Surgery • AFA Science • Hands-on Devices • Cases & Traces • HRUK Certificate of Accreditation Training – Electrophysiology

Patients' Day is Monday 20th October and will include meetings for Arrhythmia Alliance, STARS, Atrial Fibrillation Association and SADS UK

To register and get full details, including the draft agenda, please visit:

www.heartrhythmcongress.com

Suggest A Session For Heart Rhythm Congress 2009!

The Arrhythmia Alliance and Heart Rhythm UK have already begun planning for Heart Rhythm Congress 2009 and we value your feedback. Nick Linker, Programme Director, HRC 2009, Richard Schilling, Scientific Director, HRC 2009 and the Business Committee welcome proposals for sessions from the cardiac arrhythmia community. Your proposed session should include the following suggestions:

Session title
List of chairs and potential speakers
Presentation titles, and
Brief description of the topical content for the session.

Please submit your proposals electronically to congress@heartrhythmcharity.org.uk

Heart Rhythm Congress – Invite To Tender For Live Cases 2009

We would like to invite applications to host the live cases for Heart Rhythm Congress 2009. Hosting this prestigious event will be a great opportunity to showcase your centre and operators.

This will be cost neutral to your centre (other than the normal clinical costs associated with the procedures). In order to make this even as interesting to the audience at HRC and as cost effective as possible we ask prospective centres to meet a number of minimum requirements:

- 1) Live cases will take place over a full day during which two labs should be available to perform EP cases in
- 2) The host centre should be prepared to accept guest operators of high standing agreed by them and HRC committee
- 3) The host centre should be prepared to accept the video conferencing company and technicians who we contract to broadcast the live cases
- 3) Some video broadcasting facilities should be in already place in the EP labs (ceiling cameras and connections for EP/X-ray and other display screens)
- 4) The host centre should be prepared to agree a case schedule with HRC committee and sponsors.

We do hope you will be interested in this exciting opportunity for your centre to broadcast to our delegates who we anticipate will exceed 2000 in 2009. Please contact us by email to let us know of your interest. It would be very helpful if you could give us an idea of what facilities you have available.

Trudie Lobban
Chair
HRC Business Committee

trudie@stars.org.uk

HRUK Certificate Of Accreditation

We are in the process of reviewing and revising the syllabus and logbooks for the HRUK Certificate of Accreditation. The examination committee met during the BCS meeting in Manchester and discussed revision of the Certificate to make it more relevant to physiologists, nurses and SpRs. The new syllabus will be available early Autumn, prior to HRC 2008. The next HRUK examination will take place in the Spring of 2009 and the provisional date is 20th February 2009. The date has been changed to allow those who attend the HRUK course at HRC 2008 time for further study following this meeting. We are also in discussion with EHRA about the possibility of developing a European certificate.

The following successful candidates have recently received their certificates and had their logbooks returned:

Karen Bain	Jackie Maclachlan
Trudy Bainbridge	Karen Morris
Michael Baker	Lynsey Parkes
Janine Burgess	Elizabeth Robinson
David Gemmell	Hayley Robinson
John Hutchinson	Andrew Sargeant
Nicola Latch	Claire Warren

The following successful candidates will receive their certificates and have their logbooks returned to them before the end of September:

Barbara Bishop	Janine Parker
Ruadhri McGourty	Nadine Sanderson
Nina Moran	Claire Swift
Neil Ness	Ross Ward

If you have not yet received confirmation of your results, please do bear with us, and you will be informed as soon as possible. If you have any further enquiries, please contact Azeem Ahmad, Affiliates Coordinator, Tel: 020 7692 5415, Email: hruk@bcs.com

HRUK are also running pre-exam courses during Heart Rhythm Congress (as mentioned earlier on page 6, so do sign up soon!

But just to summarise:

Sunday 19th October 2008

- HRUK Certificate of Accreditation Training – Core Section

Monday 20th October 2008

- HRUK Certificate of Accreditation Training – Devices

Wednesday 22nd October 2008

- HRUK Certificate of Accreditation Training – Electrophysiology

Provisional date for HRUK Certificate of Accreditation examination – 20th February 2009

Nick Linker
Chair of the Examination Committee

HRUK Research Supported Studies

We would like to offer HRUK's support, endorsement, encouragement to any research studies where you feel we could be helpful. Finding the time for academic studies in our busy clinical lives is difficult enough. If HRUK could be of assistance in endorsing a proposed study, or in disseminating a proposal throughout the membership please let us know.

We are delighted to support a study proposed by Dominic Abrams, Consultant Cardiologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who is planning a study comparing amiodarone and catheter ablation for the treatment of atrial arrhythmias in adult congenital heart disease. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Dominic (Tel: 020 7601 7810, email: d.abrams@gmul.ac.uk)

Edward Rowland

MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Active Implantable Device Technology Management)

This course has been developed by University staff and HRUK members to enable science graduates to become Health Care Scientists who are able to take responsibility for monitoring and managing Active Implantable Devices in situ. It sits within the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice programme which was originally designed in response to local and national agendas regarding role re-design to alleviate pressures on medical staff.

Applicants will normally have a minimum 2.2 class honours degree in a science subject. Applicants with other qualifications and experience may be considered if they can provide evidence of their ability to study at Masters level and a sound science background, and their previous qualifications are considered commensurate with the full CAMS level III criteria.

The structure of the course:

	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Active Implantable Device technology)
Year 1	Evidence Based Practice
Term 1	20 credits
Terms 2 & 3	Active implantable device science and technology 20 credits
	Clinical application of AID science and technology 20 credits
Year 2	Designing research projects
Term 1	20 credits
Terms 2 & 3	AID Therapy 20 credits
	AID service development 20 credits
Exit	<i>PgD Advanced Clinical Practice</i>
Year 3	Dissertation
	60 credits
Exit	<i>MSc Advanced Clinical Practice</i>

As you can see from the above diagram, it is possible to complete the course in 2-3 years. It is also possible to take longer than this if necessary because of work and other commitments.

How the course is delivered:

Apart from a short placement in the AID therapy module, the course takes place on/via the internet. All participants are expected to have an up to date multi media computer with a broadband connection. The University uses the market leader system for delivering online education, Blackboard. This enables academic and support staff to work with students on the internet. The course has a general website with material that explains the course as a whole along with discussion areas for the course participants to communicate. This site also has guides for the use of University resources for online students.

Each module also has its own website. These contain a range of learning materials such as audio visual presentations, texts, journal articles and links to other relevant online material. This material is designed for you to work in a structured way through the content. We see this as important and helpful for students working from a distance as it can compensate for not having the discipline that goes with a schedule of conventional face to face sessions. Interspersed through these materials are activities for you to complete. These use specialist tools that test your progress and give you feedback on your learning. These are monitored by the course team to ensure you are maintaining your progress. Each module site has discussion areas for ongoing conversation about the topics covered.

For further information, please contact:

Linda Nelson, Pathway Leader
School of Health and Social Care
Tel: 01642 384 964
Email: linda.nelson@tees.ac.uk

For an application form, please contact:

School of Health and Social Care
Tel: 01642 384 176
Email: sohscadmissions@tees.ac.uk

Liz Holey
Deputy Dean
School of Health and Social Care
University of Teesside
<http://www.tees.ac.uk/schools/SOH/>

Charles Lobban



We were deeply shocked to hear of the sudden death of Charles Lobban on 3rd April 2008. Once again, sudden cardiac death had claimed as a victim one of the most dedicated and tireless workers in the battle against the condition.

Charles Lobban was born in Aberdeenshire in 1950 and graduated from Aberdeen University in 1972. He pursued a career in banking, becoming a manager in various branches of Lloyds bank in Warwickshire. He retired from banking in 2000 to concentrate on working as a full-time volunteer for his wife's medical charities.

Charles was the rock upon which Trudie built her highly successful charities – first STARS in 1993, then the Arrhythmia Alliance in 2004. Throughout those fifteen years he supported her work and provided the financial acumen that was to contribute to their success. Heart Rhythm UK owes Charles a debt of gratitude for the enormous amount of work that he contributed *pro bono* to the Heart Rhythm Congresses in 2006 and 2007. Few of us are aware how precarious a venture the first Congress was in 2006, and without the contribution that Charles made it is doubtful that the congress and our Society would be on the firm financial footing that they currently enjoy.

The arrhythmia community in the United Kingdom has lost a valuable asset and a delightful friend. We offer our sincere condolences to Trudie and to their daughters, Charlotte and Francesca.

Derek Connelly

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 18th September 2008

- Serious Cardiac Arrhythmias With Medicines: A Population Perspective, Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, London
http://www.dsru.org/symposia_consensus.html

Friday 10th – Saturday 11th October 2008

- Cardiac Risk in the Young International Conferences on Young Sudden Cardiac Death, The Cavendish Conference Centre, London
<http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/conferences.htm>

Sunday 19th – Wednesday 22nd October 2008

- Heart Rhythm Congress 2008, Hilton Birmingham Metropole
<http://www.heartrhythmcongress.com/>

Monday 1st – Wednesday 3rd June 2009

- British Cardiovascular Society Annual Scientific Conference 2009, London ExCel. Further details will be made available on the BCS website in early 2009
http://www.bcs.com/pages/page_conference.asp?PageID=363

Welcome To New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new and returning Members, who have joined HRUK/BPEG in recent months.

Justin Adams
Richard Bradley
Sarah Collitt
Dr Homeyra Douglas

Deana Gowman
Racheal James
Dr Shahnaz Jamil-Copley
Dr Oliver Lomas

Dr Steve Murray
Amanda Reid
Lianne Roberts
Diane Saunders

HRUK Contact Details

If you know of a colleague who would like to join HRUK, please contact Azeem Ahmad now at hruk@bcs.com or alternatively, point them in the direction of the application form which can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.hruk.org.uk/html/membership.html>

If you wish to contact HRUK on any matter please write, email or telephone:

Azeem Ahmad, Affiliates Coordinator, HRUK Administration, British Cardiovascular Society
9 Fitzroy Square, London, W1T 5HW

Email: hruk@bcs.com, Direct Tel: 020 7692 5415, General Tel: 020 7383 3887,
Fax: 020 7388 0903

Just a reminder, if your contact details (esp. email as most communications from HRUK are carried out electronically) have changed, it is important to inform HRUK as soon as possible, so we can amend your records on our central membership database, to ensure that you still receive communications from us.