

# ACB Wales

[HTTP://WWW.ACBWALES.ORG.UK](http://www.acbwales.org.uk)

NOVEMBER 2005

## *Forthcoming Meetings*



*Tuesday and  
Wednesday  
7th and 8th  
November  
2005*

*ACB Wales  
Region  
Autumn  
Scientific  
Meeting*

*7th to 8th  
November  
2005*

*Imperial  
Hotel  
Llandudno  
Topics include  
Immunology  
Renal NSF  
Pharmacogenomics*

## *RAMBLINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/ REGIONAL MEMBER ON COUNCIL*

Probably, no definitely, the most significant memory of the last Council meeting was that it was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, as you will have gathered from ACB News. I arrived in Euston for the meeting at 9.30am after an unusually good journey and a superb Virgin (train company that is!) breakfast to find that access to the underground was blocked. We were told that there were power supply problems so I proceeded to walk in the direction of the City hoping to pick up a taxi or maybe get on an underground train a bit further in the direction of Tooley street. Those of you that know London will be aware that this route takes you via Tavistock Square. As I was entering the square there was a bang and a rush of air from the opposite end from which I was. Unaware of the significance of this event I carried on my journey, eventually reaching Tooley street in time for the meeting. The rest of the events and the significance of the bang are now history. A slightly depleted Council proceeded and finished early because of problems for people returning home. I wasn't too bothered as I was staying in London that night with my sons. Two other Council members were in other parts of the Square at the same time and mercifully were uninjured. The rest of this article will be boringly familiar to a lot of you.

The events of significance being discussed at Council are largely similar to those affecting us here in Wales. That is A4C and Modernisation. I will briefly try to update you on the significant issues affecting us locally with regard to Pathology Modernisation. Our Federation representative – Graham – has a much better grasp of A4C issues than I have.

There is a Pathology Modernisation Advisory Forum, chaired by the Velindre Trust Chief Executive, considering all issues pertaining to this such as manpower, transport, benchmarking, rationalisation etc and importantly Information Technology. Ian Mc Dowell and I sit on this group so the Biochemistry view is well represented. Brent Varley, the Diagnostics DGM from Gwent, has been seconded to help take modernisation issues forward and is working closely with us on the Advisory groups and is

visiting all labs in Wales.

I Chair the Laboratory Services Informatics group. IT is seen as critical to take the Modernisation agenda forward and the main aims of the initiative are to replace current systems, provide better connectivity with other systems eg GPs than we have now and develop common data sets. We are now working very closely with Informing Health Care to achieve these aims. Gethin Roberts and Geoff Lloyd are also on this group representing Biochemistry.

There are also reviews of Secondary Care provision in North Wales, a feasibility study for South East Wales and a review of services in South West Wales being undertaken. Our profession is well represented on all of these initiatives.

For further information go to the HOWIS website at : [www.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.wales.nhs.uk) and search under Pathology Modernisation. Also, all the issues are discussed at the Specialised Standing Advisory Committee for Clinical Chemistry, Chaired by Ian McDowell with representation from all the Trusts in Wales. Information should be available to you on these issues from your Trust's representative.

Finally, I would like to add that I do n't think anyone should feel threatened by these initiatives. In order to provide the services required by patients and the Government with the funding available we have to change the way we do things. Laboratory services are seen as critical to this process and the future need for Biochemists (Scientific and Medical) will be great and the future looks very bright.

Dr Keith Griffiths  
ACB Chairman / ACB Council representative  
November 2005



### *New Audit Group Secretary*

Following his appointment in Macclesfield, David Olleskey has relinquished the post of secretary to the All Wales Clinical Biochemistry Audit group. His place has been taken by Steve Davis of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

The group continues its usual high level of activity with the afternoon of the Autumn Meeting being given over to audit reports once again.

This year's presentations will include the report of the survey carried out earlier this year on methods for determining adjusted calcium values, and the final draft standards for the investigation of suspected pheochromocytoma.

Anyone who has a suggestion for future audits within Wales should contact Steve in the first instance on [stephen.davis@pr-tr.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:stephen.davis@pr-tr.wales.nhs.uk) or 01443 443 357

### *The Quest for Modernisation*

The Annual General Meeting of the Wales Region of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry will be held in conjunction with the Spring Scientific meeting. Further details to follow, or contact Dr Catherine Bailey ([catherine.bailey@gwent.wales.nhs.uk](mailto:catherine.bailey@gwent.wales.nhs.uk)). Details will be posted on the Wales Region website at <http://www.acbwales.org.uk>.

## *News from the Region*

*Congratulations to the following who have been successful in recent examinations:*

#### MRCPath Pt 1

Dr Louise Ward - Swansea

Dr John Geen - Merthyr Tydfil

#### PhD

Dr Peter Hudson - Wrexham

Dr Sian Hancock - Swansea

#### Goodbye to -

Dr Damien Griffin who has left Swansea and returned to his native Cork.

Dr David Olleskey who has taken up a Consultant Chemical Pathologist post in Macclesfield

#### New Appointments -

continues. Keith has mentioned the drive for modernisation of pathology services in his column on page one. The North Wales Secondary Care Review is also underway tasked with looking at the most efficient and effective means of delivering secondary care to the population of North Wales.

Suggestions to date include maintaining the status quo, pairing Ystbyty Gwynedd with Ystbyty Glan Clwyd, and Wrexham Maelor with the Countess of Chester hospitals. The favoured option being spoken of at the moment centralises specialist services on individual hospitals, eg, orthopaedics, oncology etc. under the three-hub, twin-hub and single-hub proposals.

Diagnostics is included in this review and presumably the final arrangements for ourselves will depend on how the clinical specialities are distributed.

Dr Tony Avades - Cardiff  
Miss Rachel Still - Swansea  
Dr John Doran has been appointed Consultant Chemical Pathologist at Morriston Hospital, Swansea. Originally from Wales, John trained in Cardiff and has family connections in the area. His interests include diabetes, lipids and metabolic disorders.

Congratulations to Catherine Bailey (nee Davies) on her marriage to Russell in September

Please send any items for future Newsletters to:

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