



## 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

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"Quote from Kel Palmer".

The annual BSG meeting, held in Birmingham, was clearly a great success. Attendance (approximately 2000) was greater than that at last year's Glasgow meeting, despite our fears that moves to an entirely electronic registration process might have had an adverse effect upon numbers. The standard of research presentations was encouragingly good, State of the Art lectures were outstanding, the postgraduate course and clinical symposia again proved to be enjoyable and educational, and stimulated lively debate. There were one or two glitches, the poster marquee was cramped and succumbed to the Birmingham gales and attendance on the last afternoon was rather dismal. Adam Harris must be congratulated for his attempts to re-vitalize the plenary session (although attendance at the Sir Arthur Hurst lecture was again disappointing).

These are subjective personal observations and we need to derive feedback from our membership about the quality, duration and content of our annual meeting. In addition we need to determine why some members do not attend (is the meeting irrelevant, too expensive, are there too many other pressures, etc etc?). We will therefore be asking you to complete a questionnaire seeking your opinions and helping us to develop ever better future meetings.

The business meeting endorsed radical changes in the structure of our Council, creation of a Board of Trustees, change in tenure of the President and supported the appointment of our Chief Executive. These changes have the potential to make our Society more effective in influencing health policy, delivering education and reacting to the needs of our membership. They are a product of Mike Farthing's vision and the

## **Walk for CORE!**

**10th May 2008**

CORE are participating in 'Just Walk' with the aim of people raising money with their feet.

The 10th May is designed to offer enthusiastic walkers the chance to experience a breathtaking walk over the picturesque South Downs and generate valuable funds for CORE-Fighting gut and liver disease. You, and possibly your friends, can choose to participate in a gentle 20km walk or a whopping 60km or pretty much any distance in between.

Once you have paid a small registration fee, all the money you raise will go to CORE. So, whether you raise £100 or £10,000, CORE will get it all. So, please get your boots on and come and join us, we really need your support!

To request an information pack about this event please call Chloe Wicks on 020 7486 0341 or e-mail [chloe@corecharity.org.uk](mailto:chloe@corecharity.org.uk)

## **ASNGME YOUNG INVESTIGATOR MEETING**

ASNEMGE is holding a Young Investigator Meeting (YIM) on

BSG has clearly benefited from a President who has made a great contribution to the practice of UK gastroenterology.

Dr Kel Palmer  
President

**For the first time this year's meeting was webcast. Highlights from the meeting are currently being edited and will soon be available in the members' section of the BSG website.**

## **GUT WEEK 2008 TIME TO GET THE GUT BETTER RECOGNITION**

Everyday newspapers, magazines and internet sites are full of health related issues encouraging members of the public to look after various organs. Often by both consumers and journalists alike, one vital area of the body is all too frequently overlooked – the gut. Functional, it plays its part, but it's not always considered something we can do much about – let alone look after it?

In 1999, the first Gut Week was launched to raise public awareness of the importance of digestive health. In those passing years, over 110,000 people have used the Gut Week helpline or information packs to be more proactive about digestive health and seek help where appropriate.

Key to the success is regional and local newspapers, and that's where you can play a part. We want to be able to share the expertise and work that you are doing in your community with a wider group – not just those that are current patients, but ones who could be in the future.

Being able to speak to someone, an expert in the area is key to a journalist and it may also be we have a case study to share to really explain how vital good gut health is and also how people have addressed their own problems and sought help.

It may be that all is asked of you is a quick twenty minute phone interview to a local newspaper to explain the importance of gut health – some may be free and happy to do more – but we would arrange any interview at your convenience and are conscious of how busy you are.

If you would like to find out more or are happy to lend your support please contact Judith Mann, Gut Week press liaison on 020 8842 7600 or [jmann@yakult.co.uk](mailto:jmann@yakult.co.uk)

Many thanks  
Gut Week Team

Please note: While the campaign is underwritten by Yakult, the campaign is supported by Core and The Gut Trust and no one is asked to promote

December 14-16, 2007 in Ferrara, Italy.

More information is available at [www.asnemge.org](http://www.asnemge.org) and a flyer for the event is available on the [BSG website](#).

Their target audience comprises clinical trainees in gastroenterology who have started to become interested in research but are at a pre-research phase. In addition, individuals who have done no more than one year of a higher research degree would be very suitable.

The maximum age is 35 and we prefer those who are 30 or younger.

Registration for this course is free of charge and we are happy to announce that 2 nights hotel will be covered by ASNEMGE. Travel expenses won't be reimbursed.

The deadline for applications is November 30, 2007.

## **A SCIENTIFIC MEETING TO CELEBRATE THE CAREER OF PROFESSOR ELWYN ELIAS**

Former BSG president Professor Elwyn Elias retired from clinical practice in January 2008. A scientific meeting to celebrate his career will comprise a day of lectures, presentations and case discussions in hepatology on Friday June 13th. The meeting will be held at the University of Birmingham medical school.

For more information [click here](#)

## **A NEW MSc IN PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION**

Yakult or probiotics in any way.

## **FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGICAL CARCINOGENESIS CONFERENCE**

This conference will be held between 31 August 2008 and 3 September 2008 at Keble College, Oxford University. It affords an opportunity for interdisciplinary discussions in a beautiful environment, to hear state of the science presentations and to meet future and present leaders in gastrointestinal oncology.

The BSG is keen to encourage young GI scientists to attend and is making several bursaries available that will cover registration and accommodation for those wishing to attend. Applications will be considered by the BSG Research Committee. Those interested should write a one-page application outlining why attendance at the meeting will benefit their research and send this to Ms Age Orgusaar at [aorgusaar@bsg.org.uk](mailto:aorgusaar@bsg.org.uk) by April 31st 2008.

The deadline for advance registration is 4th August 2008. Abstracts may be submitted for the Poster Session, but must be received no later than 10th July 2008.

For further information contact:

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## **NICE IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS TO INDEPENDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON THE USE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES**

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is recruiting new members to its independent advisory Appraisal Committee. The Appraisal Committee formulates recommendations for NICE on the use of drugs and devices in the NHS in England and Wales. The Institute is looking to recruit a range of committee members. Members of the Committee are drawn from the NHS, healthcare professionals, patients and carers, and the academic world.

## **LAUNCHED**

A new MSc in Clinical and Public Health Nutrition will be run at University College London and University College London Hospitals. It claims to break new ground 'by providing a synthesis of the two commonest forms of "malnutrition" in the developed world and in countries in transition - that is disease-related malnutrition and obesity'.

The course will provide health professionals, researchers and nutritionists working in the field of nutrition support and public health nutrition with an in-depth knowledge of how disease affects nutrition status and how nutrition support can improve health outcomes in the community and in care settings.

[Click here for further information](#)

## **WGO ISSUE 'STANDARDS FOR GASTROENTEROLOGICAL TRAINING: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO BASIC STANDARDS IN GASTROENTEROLOGY'**

The WGO Education & Training Committee has announced the publication of 'Standards in gastroenterology training: a comprehensive guide to basic standards in gastroenterology' This document is an important contribution to the mission of the WGO, which is 'To promote, to the general public and health care professionals alike, an awareness of the world wide prevalence and optimal care of digestive disorders through the provision of high quality, accessible and independent education and training.' The draft of

The Appraisal Committee considers and interprets evidence on the clinical and cost effectiveness of health technologies (pharmaceuticals, medical devices, surgical procedures, diagnostic procedures and health promotion interventions), and formulates recommendations for NICE on their use.

Individuals who are interested in joining the Appraisal Committee should log on to the Institute's website for information and an application pack.

Applications should be made by 31st March 2008.

[Click here for further information](#)

## **NICE IS ALSO LOOKING FOR TWO NEW NHS REPRESENTATIVES TO JOIN ITS APPEALS COMMITTEE**

NICE is recruiting two new NHS representatives to join its Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee has the restricted role of hearing appeals that fall within one or more of the three grounds upon which interested parties may appeal.

Essential criteria are: a medical degree, NHS employment, a broad understanding of the needs and experiences of what NHS patients and staff want from a publicly funded health service, an ability to draw out and articulate a balanced view on the issues arising from an appeal that are relevant to the clinical environment, an ability to weigh up competing arguments and make decisions (sometimes difficult ones) in meetings that are open to the public, the confidence to consider technical data relating to clinical and cost effectiveness, good communication and committee skills, time to attend and prepare for appeal panel meetings and communicate by email between meetings, an understanding and commitment to equality and diversity.

The time commitment is 'five half day or day long hearings', which are 'usually held in the London office'. The period of appointment is for three years in the first instance.

More information regarding these positions can be found on the [NICE website](#). For further queries please contact Michele Burbos 020 7045 2045

## **MP VISITS DERBY CITY HOSPITAL'S HEPATOLOGY SERVICES**

this document was prepared by Elena Fosman and Roque Sáenz and revised by Cihan Yurdaydin and Tadahiko Kozu.

The document is available on the WGO website: [Click Here](#)

## **THE CHANGING FACE OF HEPATOLOGY**

Professors Maggie Bassendine and Chris Day have organized a two day symposium on 'The changing face of hepatology', to be held on April 4th and 5th at Newcastle Civic Centre. Sessions will cover chronic liver disease and liver transplantation.

All enquiries regarding this forum or future Falk Forums should be directed to Mary Earp, on 01628 536600 or email: [earp@drfalkpharma.co.uk](mailto:earp@drfalkpharma.co.uk).

[Download Programme](#)

## **Endoscopy Associates Group's Newsletter**

The February issue of the Endoscopy Associates Group's newsletter is now available on the BSG website's home page: [www.bsg.org.uk](http://www.bsg.org.uk)



Bob Laxton toured Derby City Hospital's hepatology services as part of the Parliamentary Contact Programme organised for the BSG by Pepper Media. We arranged for Dr Jan Freeman of DCH to take Mr Laxton on a tour of the hospital in his capacity as co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hepatology and as Labour MP for Derby North.



Bob Laxton (Left) Jan Freeman (Right)

Derby City Hospital's Hepatology unit has 3 hepatologists and 4 hep nurses. They look after over 500 Hep C patients and their problems. They recently started a Drug Abuse Hep C clinic in the community, because they found patients felt safer being visited by health professionals in a community environment.

These patients, who often fail to attend in the hospital environment attend better in the community environment. DCH also takes its services to the local prisons where HCV is quite prevalent.

If you believe that you received this message in error and/or do not wish to receive further emails, please [click here](#).

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