Welcome

Welcome to the March 2015 issue of NewWave. The first GI Physiology Service has now obtained UKAS/IQIPS accreditation and Lynne Smith has now been awarded her MBE. Please read on for further details.

I am sure you will all join us in congratulating Lynne Smith who has been awarded an MBE for services to Healthcare Science. The investiture was at Buckingham Palace and the award was given to her by Prince Charles. Lynne explains further:

Saturday morning 10th May 2014; Tim had nipped out to the barbers and I was alone in the kitchen rummaging through the post hoping for something exciting to appear. One envelope looked distinctly official and was addressed to me. I looked again and it had the Cabinet Office logo stamped on the front. Heart thumping I thought I had been signed up for some sort of official duty (yes AGIP can do these things so beware), or had done something seriously seriously wrong. Funny how you
can develop a guilt complex in those few moments…I put the envelope down and left it a few seconds and then could not bear the suspense - it was a very formal letter from Richard Tilbrook, Ceremonial Officer, saying the Prime Minister was to submit my name to the Queen to approve that I be appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2014 Birthday Honours list. To say I jumped up and down does not quite convey just how I jumped around the house – it was not an elegant sight I can tell you and with hindsight it was a kindness to others that I was alone! I must have put the letter down three times and then started checking the envelope and letter for evidence of some prank (my family and friends can be that cruel).

Tim walked through the door with his new haircut, to a speechless Lynne (unusual) and I have to say he looked worried. I waved the envelope at him still speechless expecting him to know the complete contents. He was equally speechless when he read the contents, I then realised that you are sworn to secrecy until there is an official announcement in the London Gazette on June 14th. You then await a date for the investiture, which can be anytime within 7 months of the announcement.

I cannot tell you how difficult that was (I am petrified they will take it back after confessing this). Over the next few weeks you are sent the most amazing paperwork from the palace all of which deserve its own place, framed and on a wall. Importantly this included a very special parking permit for entry into Buckingham Palace. I received congratulatory letters and e-mails from so many people and all were thoughtful and very unexpected. I could not stop smiling, then crying – you can imagine the scene. Two very special BSG friends took me out, spoilt me and baked me an MBE cake that Mary Berry would have been very envious of.

Now the important bit – the outfit, well that was a story in itself. Three outfits including shoes later, still no date and it was the end of summer and everything seemed a little inappropriate for the climate…so then we had to start shopping again! Tim started looking at me strangely when I got my wear out of some of my finery for a curry at our local Tandoori.

I finally got the date – a week or so before Christmas. You may invite three guests and I asked Tim, my daughter Sally and my wonderful friend Kay. You have to understand the importance of an understanding partner, a daughter who is almost as daft as I and a friend who has the patience of a saint and the accessories wardrobe to die for.

The day arrived and we dressed accordingly and awaited the pre-ordered taxi…and waited…it was getting close to 10am. Tim was not his calmest and Sally started running up and down outside the hotel looking for taxis – you can envisage a scene from only Fools and Horses when she almost flagged down a plumber’s transit van. We finally arrived in a taxi, just before 10 and we just could not stop grinning. We drove through the gates and there were people in their best clothes, carriages in the quadrangle, soldiers and palace officials trying to keep us in order and the best of all Christmas trees covered with crown shaped baubles all around the palace. It really was magical.

The outfit, with matching accessories was definitely in place at the start, however scarves, handbags etc. are removed and kept safe, in the end leaving me looking distinctly
uncoordinated - but who cared. Everything was organised with military precision even down to the extremely tall soldier in full military dress giving lessons on how to curtsey. I met some of the most amazing people, from all walks of life who had really made a difference to their community, their country and to their services. We all felt very humbled when a husband and wife, who fostered disabled children, both received their award together with all the children they had cared for occupying the front two rows of the visitors area. There was not a dry eye to be seen.

I received my award from Prince Charles and despite video evidence to the contrary I cannot remember speaking and cannot remember having the award pinned on my chest! I managed to cross the room guided by “invisible hands” to my seat and watched everyone receive their awards. The whole event was so special, the initial letter, the lead up and the excitement of the actual day were wonderful. Each time I think of it, it makes me smile.

I just want to thank AGIP so much for putting me forward for my award (well I think it was AGIP!). I love my job – seeing my team at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals blossom into fantastic GI scientists and providing an exceptional service is satisfaction enough. To see how far AGIP and GI physiology have developed over recent years and to think that we are recognised as the scientists and professionals we always knew we were, is more icing the cake. But the 11th December 2014 really was my day and I am just so grateful to those that helped me enjoy it.

Lynne Smith MBE

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**Rectal Function**  
Royal College of Surgeons of England, London  
Wednesday 15th April 2015

**Speakers include:** Mr Andrew Williams, Dr Anton Emmanuel, Prof Charles Knowles, Mr Steve Brown, Miss Sophie Pilkington, Mr Tom Dudding

This day will provide a comprehensive guide interpreting the results of your HRM and rectal function. The course is ideal for physicians & Surgeons interested in lower GI conditions, GI physiologists including trainees and nurse practitioners.

Please contact us on 01494 721820 or email rachel@ardmorehealthcare.com for further information. Please note that places are limited so don't delay, contact us today for a registration form.

Sponsored by:
Proposed Association of GI Physiology Handbook

The Association Handbook has been reviewed and is due to go before the membership at the AGM in June 2015 for final ratification. The Handbook and the new application forms will be sent to the membership through the “email forum” by the end of March 2015. Please take this opportunity to read through the handbook and comment on any aspects that should be brought to the attention of the Council before the AGM. This can be done by emailing comments to the Education Secretary, Barbara Unsworth at Barbara.Unsworth@srft.nhs.uk The Handbook and the new application forms will be posted on the BSG web page as from 1st October 2015.

Accreditation Update.

Please note that the new requirements for Accreditation as an Independent Healthcare Professional in GI Physiology come into effect on 1st October 2015. Form 5 will be sent round the membership via the “email forum” before the end of March. The new criteria will be the same for all applicants irrespective of training pathway and will be at a level equivalent to those exiting the new STP course plus one year’s additional experience.

All members currently registered as Accredited Independent Practitioners will be automatically grandparented. Anyone who has allowed Accreditation status to lapse or who has not yet applied is advised to do so before 1st October 2015.

Update on Equivalence as Consultant Clinical Scientist.

The National School of Healthcare Science has opened applications to formal Higher Specialist Scientific Training for candidates wishing to apply for Consultant Clinical Scientist posts. It is our understanding that the AHCS will introduce an Equivalence pathway for Clinical Scientists already working at Consultant Clinical Scientist level. The successful applicant will be given a Certificate of Equivalence which can then be used to apply for a vacancy as a Consultant Clinical Scientist. (This is not the same as having a post assessed and established as a Consultant Clinical Scientist post)

This process has not opened yet but we would advise anyone interested in applying to ensure that they have a portfolio of evidence that attests to work at this level. This is an equivalence pathway and an experiential pathway to this level may be more valid than a post graduate degree.

It is assumed that the application process will include an interview and that the knowledge assessed at this phase will be found in the learning outcomes of the formal HSST pathway.

GastroCycle fundraiser – Please consider supporting our colleague!

Following on from the success of last year’s GastroCycle fundraiser, the BSG is again linking up with the gut and liver disease charity Core to organise a cycle event coinciding with the DDF conference. Participants have the chance to raise money for the charity cycling a one day route between Cambridge and London. AGIP member Andres Vales (GI Physiologist, The Functional Gut Clinic) will be taking part and needs your help to reach his target!

If you’d like to donate then please visit his fundraising page:
http://www.doitforcharity.com/AndresV
Background to the Biofeedback development

The mcompass System, with the Biofeedback therapy software, was recently selected by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Pelvic Floor Disorders Network to be used in the CAPABLE study (Controlling Anal incontinence by Performing Anal exercises with Biofeedback or Loperamide). The goal of this randomised placebo-controlled trial, involving seven research institutions, is to learn more about medication and pelvic muscle training treatments for faecal incontinence (accidental bowel leakage). Specifically, this study will compare Pelvic muscle training with drug treatments for faecal incontinence to see if one treatment or both together are better than usual care at improving this condition. The team at Medspira learned a lot about what is necessary for both the clinicians and patients relating to anorectal manometry and biofeedback using manometry.

For further information and evaluation contact:
email: sales@synmed.co.uk  Telephone: 01992 782570
SynMed Ltd, Synmed House, 7 The Pavilion Business Centre, 6 Kinetic Crescent, Innova Park, Enfield EN3 7FJ
Congratulations to ‘The Functional Gut Clinic’, the first GI Physiology Service to obtain UKAS/IQIPS accreditation:

IQIPS: Setting standards for quality

In 2014, the Functional Gut Clinic became the first gastrointestinal organisation to be accredited under the Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS) programme sponsored by Professor Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer for England and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). Accreditation is delivered and managed by The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The IQIPS programme has been developed to improve, promote and recognise good quality practice across eight physiological disciplines within the IQIPS programme including gastrointestinal physiology.

The RCP also develops and maintains the IQIPS standards supported by an expert group of healthcare scientists, patients, doctors and other healthcare professionals who are involved in physiological services. These standards describe a good physiological service provider with the capability to ensure that all patients consistently receive high quality diagnosis and care, delivered by competent staff working in safe environments.

UKAS is the National Accreditation Body (NAB) for the UK. Its role is to assess certification, inspection, testing and calibration services to international standards. As such, UKAS has been contracted by the RCP to deliver accreditation assessment and accreditation services for the IQIPS programme.

One of the chief aims of the IQIPS programme is to raise the profile of physiological services across organisations, with commissioners and patients alike. At the same time, IQIPS seeks to validate and recognise success as well as drive up quality, by aspiring towards excellence and the sharing of good practice in physiological services. This has been particularly important to the gastrointestinal specialism, as Consultant Clinical Director Dr Anthony Hobson highlights. “The services provided by the Functional Gut Clinic and other GI Physiology services are complementary to conventional GI diagnostics and add value to the patient and Doctor experience. Therefore, it is very important to make sure we are performing to the highest standards. We are very proud of becoming the first GI Physiology Service to obtain the UKAS/IQIPS standard and will wear it as a badge of honour.”

Internal organisational benefits

In addition to reassuring patients by demonstrating competence, the process of becoming accredited by IQIPS can also bring many benefits to the organisation itself. These include the streamlining and improving of practices, as Dr Hobson continues: “The IQIPS process gave us the opportunity to open ourselves up to a thorough inspection, receive valuable and constructive input from the IQIPS team on how we could make our service even better, and then implement these improvements.”

Despite the intricacy and robust nature of the assessment process, Dr Hobson believes that reaching the IQIPS standard is an achievable and worthwhile prospect other healthcare organisations should aspire too. “The process may seem daunting at first but the support available from the IQIPS team is never far away and at the end of the process you can feel proud that what you are doing is meeting
Dr Hobson is encouraging peers to consider IQIPS accreditation as he believes it will ensure that standards of clinical practice are up to date throughout the industry. He said. “At some centres where accreditation is not high on the agenda the standards of operation may be lower. By going through, and hopefully achieving IQIPS accreditation, more centres will be able to improve and update their practices, raising standards across the board. Meeting the highest possible standards is something we should all aim for as professionals and as a discipline.”

**Forthcoming Events:**

We hope to publicise forthcoming meetings and educational events. We would like to invite interested parties to contact the NewWave editor (warren.jackson@hey.nhs.uk) to have the details included in future NewWave publications.

**2015:**

18th March 2015   New technology in GI Physiology: What, When and How?
IPEM's office, Fairmount House, York

For further details go to:  
http://www.ipem.ac.uk/ConferencesEvents/ForthcomingConferences/EventDetails.aspx?dateid=309

15th April 2015   Rectal Function
Royal College of Surgeons of England, London

Email rachel@ardmorehealthcare.com for further information

**PLEASE SEE ADVERT IN THIS ISSUE OF NEWWAVE**

19th - 24th April 2015   International GI Motility and Function Working Group Ascona II Conference
Swiss Institute for Technology Conference Centre, Monte Verita Ascona, Switzerland


17th - 19th May 2015   Digestive Disease Week (DDW)
Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC

Registration opens 14th January 2015. For further details go to:  
http://www.ddw.org/
22nd - 25th June 2015  Digestive Disorders Federation (DDF) Meeting
ExCeL, London

This meeting will consist of five Societies and Associations who have come together in a combined conference to replace their Annual Meetings for 2015, including the British Society of Gastroenterology.

Registration is open (deadline for early bird rate 20th March 2015). For further details go to:
http://www.ddf2015.org.uk/

24th - 28th Oct 2015  United European Gastroenterology (UEG) Week
Fira de Barcelona, Barcelona

Registration opens January 2015. Abstract submission opens 10th December 2014 (deadline 30th April 2015). For further details go to:
https://www.ueg.eu/week/