

South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter



By Anna Barton

What is the role of the regional ACB Committee?

The committee has a wide range of roles within our region, including:

- Reporting back from ACB Council meetings held in London
- Discussing issues raised in these meetings or locally by members
- Discussing future plans for the region including the impact of guidelines or future restructuring
- Organising the regional ACB meetings
- Organising regional and local audits (ideas welcome!)
- Looking after the trainees within the region
- And much more....

We meet 3-4 times a year and have representatives from across the region, scientific and medical, from trainees to consultants. ***So whether you are a trainee or have been in the profession for a while and want the chance to be active within your region, to shape its future, then please do join us!***

The SW&W Regional Committee needs you!

We are looking for regional ACB members to apply for the roles of-

- ❖ Committee Chair
 - Includes attendance at ACB Council meetings in London
- ❖ Committee Secretary
 - Keeps committee minutes & communicates with all the members
- ❖ Ordinary Member (2 posts)
 - A great starting post to learn about the committee & region
- ❖ Federation of Clinical Scientists Representative for the South-West
 - FCS training can be organised



Adverts for these positions, including full information on each role and details on how to apply will come out via the ACB office. Current members can also be contacted to discuss further. Many of the roles are only held for a few years and so there is plenty of opportunity to move within the Committee trying each role that may suit you. So please apply and bring your knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

Future SW&W regional meetings

15th March, 2016: Cardiovascular and Nutrition

A joint meeting with Wales & will also include the **SW&W AGM**

Location- The Holiday Inn, Filton, Bristol



18th November, 2016: Metabolic Bone Disease & ACB Trainees' Award

Location- Derriford Health & Leisure Centre, Derriford Road, Plymouth

****ACB Trainees' Awards are open to anyone who has not completed the FRCPath. The talks can be on audit, clinical cases or a project. A date for submission of abstracts will be released later in the year.****



6th March, 2017: Pregnancy and Newborns (+ SW&W AGM)

Location- RILD, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital

Next regional trainees' day: 4th March, 2016 (RILD, RD&E Hospital)

Topics: Part 1 and Part 2 examination questions & information

If anyone is willing to help out at this or future trainee days or can donate any good cases/talks/questions, please contact Angie Cooper (angelacooper5@nhs.net). Thank you.

South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter



By Anna Barton

SW&W ACB Committee Meeting: 22nd January, Bristol Royal Infirmary

A summary of the key issues discussed are as follows

❖ **Training**

- Mrs Rebecca Hopkins (trainee rep) asked that all trainees to register with her so that she is able to help and support them, as well as report their progress more easily
- Clinical Chemistry at Truro have offered to take a trainee from the September 2016 intake
- Dr Angie Cooper explained the program of trainee days she is holding and has suggested the ACB need to reduce the fees for trainees in order to increase membership
- The residential training courses will be disbanded. The Committee will look into this further, including what replacements is being offered or possible ?national ?regional
- There is confusion over national curriculum to fulfil an 'acceptable training programme' including a work-based assessment (WBA) structure on the back of the introduction of the new HSST programme. Feedback from Council suggests the FRCPath exams are still considered the gold standard for acceptable criteria/programme fulfilment
- Miss Anna Barton and Dr Moya O'Doherty have fully completed the FRCPath

❖ **Scientific Meetings**

- Thank you to Dr Aabha Sharma & Dr Mathangi Balasubramani for organizing our scientific meetings for the last three years.
- Miss Anna Barton (Truro) and Dr Angie Cooper (Plymouth) have volunteered to take over the roles of meetings secretary/treasurer and have started planning future dates
- There is a worry about the poor attendance at regional meetings, it is hoped advertising future dates as soon as possible will help
- It was suggested that a Trainees' Award session should be held soon as the previous one was held in 2014. These awards are a great opportunity for trainees to attend and present their work

❖ **Audits**

- Mrs Liz Burgess is very busy and so any help in the proposing, co-ordinating, conducting and reporting of audits would be much appreciated, particularly from any trainees
- Audits suggestions proposed were: TnT service, Laboratory communication with GPs & Minimum testing intervals employed with the region

❖ **SW&W Website** Dr Nicola Pullan (webmaster)- *click hyper-link below*

- www.acb.org.uk/whatweare/structure/what_we_are_regions/South_West_Wessex_region.aspx

❖ **Other**

- The ACB is again considering changing its name to reflect all laboratory disciplines
- Chair, Committee Secretary, Ordinary Members (x2) & FCS Representative all need to go to advert. We particularly would like to gain new members as the Committee has shrunk
- Improving communication with the region was discussed. Some members have found newsletters useful to communicate to laboratory users. Anna Barton offered to create a newsletter to include meeting dates, plus latest regional and Committee news etc.

The full minutes will be uploaded to the SW&W regional website.

Next meeting: 21st June 2016, 12:00-15:00, RILD conference room at RD&E Hospital



New SW&W ACB regional website

The regional web site has now been fully updated. It will be a great resource for finding out what is happening within the region including all meetings and training days, plus the latest news from the Committee.