

South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter



Editor Anna Barton

ACB SW&W Scientific Meeting, 6th March, 2017

The Spring meeting will be held on the **6th March** at the **Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital** in the **Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Centre (POEC) lecture room**. The theme for the meeting will be **“Pregnancy & Screening”**.

The program will cover:

- ❖ Fertility Team, Peninsula Reproductive Centre: *Fertility & Fertility Techniques*
- ❖ Professor Neil Avent, Plymouth University: *Non-invasive Pre-natal Testing*
- ❖ Midwife Bea Knight, RD&E: *Gestational Diabetes*
- ❖ Professor Kevin Spencer, King George Hospital: *Pre-eclampsia & Biochemical Markers*
- ❖ Dr Wayne Thomas, Derriford Hospital: *Rhesus D*
- ❖ Dr Tim McDonald, RD&E: *Neonatal Diabetes Screening*
- ❖ Dr Helena Kemp, Southmead Hospital: *Newborn Screening Update*.



The ACB SW&W AGM will be held in the morning and we encourage all SW&W ACB members to attend to have your say in the region.

Registration is open and further information (including directions & parking etc.) can be found on the ACB regional meetings website. Please encourage your colleagues, particularly trainees, to attend. BMS and other staff are also very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

http://www.acb.org.uk/whatwedo/events/regional_meetings.aspx

South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter

Our regional newsletter was praised at the latest ACB Council meeting as an innovative way of spreading regional and national news across the region, as well as news from the regional Committee meetings and regional meeting dates. All regions are now being encouraged to create their own newsletter.



SW&W Regional Scientific Meeting Registration Fees To Be Reduced!



Our registration fees have changed little over the last few years (£30 for members). After discussion at the SW&W Committee **we are proposing that registration for ACB members will become £10 and £20 for Non-Members, from the 6th October meeting**. Registration fees will be regularly reviewed and may be subject to change in order to ensure meeting costs are covered. We hope these reductions will encourage more people to attend.

ACB SW&W Regional Committee: Vacant Position- Microbiologist

We were very happy to welcome Kristen as our new Immunologist representative. However, we are still keen to welcome a Microbiologist. Do you know of anyone that maybe interested? The ACB is expanding its membership and we would like to reflect this on our Committee.

Save The Date!

Autumn SW&W Scientific Meeting, Friday 6th October, 2017.

To be held at the Taunton Golf course and is being jointly organised with the SAS Trace Metals laboratory network.



ACB SW&W Website: Click on the hyperlink below to access our SW&W.

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

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ACB SW&W Committee Meeting: 26th January 2017, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

A summary of the key issues discussed are as follows

- ❖ **New Members:** We welcomed to the Committee Mary Stapleton (North Devon) who will be taking the Audit post, and Kristen Lilly (Plymouth) as our new Immunologist representative.
- ❖ **ACB Council Report:**
 - ❖ The ACB are creating a new CPD module for anyone to use.
 - ❖ The role out of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP) is being rushed, often not thought through and in the majority of cases without Pathology consultation. Even the chair (Dr Gwyn McCreanor) was not aware of the plans for Pathology for her area. The FCS are currently writing a paper on the matter.
 - ❖ UKAS standards require proof of competency for all staff. Cases for comment is a good example, however the current program would collapse with increased membership.
 - ❖ Finance director (Dr William Marshall) would like to see a reduction & standardisation of regional meeting registration fees for members and non-members across the country. He has asked regional committees to report back on what they think is possible.
 - ❖ All regions are being encouraged to create regional newsletters. The 'South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter' was highly praised and was shown to the committee as a example template that other regions could follow.
 - ❖ The workforce review survey had a 50% submission rate. Approximately 40% Head of Department Chemical Pathologists are due to retire in the next 5 years, possibly resulting in more Clinical Biochemists taking up the role.
 - ❖ Jonathan Berg has retired from the ACB News. It will now be bi-monthly (even months) and may move to an electronic only format.
 - ❖ The ACB are in the process of re-vamping the Grade A Trainees' log.
 - ❖ Bioinformatics is underused in Laboratory Medicine. A Spotlight meeting is being organised and there has been a proposal to have in the future 'Bioinformatics STPs'.
 - ❖ Need to encourage all trainees to become members of the ACB.
- ❖ **Tutors Report:**
 - ❖ There maybe changes afoot in the funding of the MSc for the trainees. 2017 intake of trainees is covered, however this may change in 2018.
 - ❖ 18 STP posts are available for the Autumn 2017 intake. Interviews later in the year.
 - ❖ FRCPath Part 1- From Autumn 2018 the essays will be replaced by MCQ testing a broader knowledge base. This would align us to exam formats used by other Colleges.
 - ❖ The College is negotiating with HMRC for tax rebate on exams.
 - ❖ Trainees (not completed FRCPath) can now claim NUS discounts.
- ❖ **Trainees Rep Report:**
 - ❖ Suggested changes to the current format of the Trainees' award. Only a prize to be given to the winner and to re-branded e.g. "Trainee Presentations Session".
- ❖ **FCS Rep:** Angela attended the national FCS meeting in September.
- ❖ **Workforce:** All STPs trained in the regional are successfully applying for jobs
- ❖ **Meeting Secretary/Scientific Meetings:**
 - ❖ **Spring meeting- Monday 6th March**, Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
 - ❖ **Autumn meeting- Friday 6th October**, Taunton Golf Club
 - ❖ The registration fee for meetings was discussed and agreed to be reduced to £10 for ACB members, and £20 for Non-Members.

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