

# South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter



## ACB SW&W Scientific Meeting: 'Trace Elements', 6<sup>th</sup> October

This meeting has been jointly organised with the Supra-Regional Service for Trace Elements who are providing speakers from across the country. The day offers an exciting and varied program on the analysis, interpretation and management of trace elements.

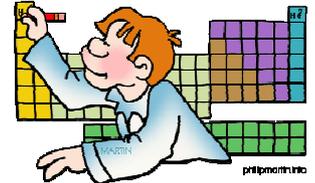
**Date: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Venue: The Oake Manor Golf Club, Taunton, TA4 1BA**

Further information is available via the ACB regionals meetings page  
And via clicking this link

[www.acb.org.uk/docs/default-source/meetings/regional-meetings/acb-sww-regional-meeting--20171006-programme.pdf](http://www.acb.org.uk/docs/default-source/meetings/regional-meetings/acb-sww-regional-meeting--20171006-programme.pdf)

**Registration and payment is now via the ACB office directly.** £10 for ACB members & £20 for non-members. **Please note registration will close on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September so do contact the ACB office asap.** Registration will not be available on the day of the meeting.



## All Things Audit!

Audit is an important tool in our workplace and the committee would like to encourage our members to take part in audits and to share the findings with the region. After all you may have done an audit that may be extremely useful to another laboratory within the region or spark an idea for a regional audit.

- ❖ **Mary Stapleton (Barnstaple)- is our new regional audit lead**
- ❖ Mary is currently putting together a **regional audit on Sweat Testing**. Please look out for and complete the online survey. The audit will be presented at the Spring regional meeting.
- ❖ Do you have an idea for a regional audit or would like to take part in putting one together? Then please do contact Mary at [mary.stapleton@nhs.net](mailto:mary.stapleton@nhs.net)
- ❖ **Spring 2018 ACB SW&W Scientific Meeting:**
  - ❖ We will be having a half day dedicated to audit in which we hope to have local, regional and national audits presented.
  - ❖ We really would encourage all members within the region to consider presenting their audits at the meeting.
  - ❖ So thinking of doing an audit? Go for it and present it to the region in the springtime!
- ❖ **Audit area on the SW&W Website:** Did you know we have an new audit area on our own website. Please do send in your audits so we can start to populate this page and share ideas. [www.acb.org.uk/whatweare/structure/what\\_we\\_are\\_regions/South\\_West\\_Wessex\\_region/audit](http://www.acb.org.uk/whatweare/structure/what_we_are_regions/South_West_Wessex_region/audit)

## Proposal For A 'Regional Meet & Greet' Evening

Currently the trainees organise days within the region to cover topics important to their studies as well as aiding them to meet fellow trainees within our large region and to offer support. The committee would like to once a year extend this day by adding an evening meal to be attended by trainees and also any non-trainees too (any grade) to help with regional networking. To make this practical we propose a trainees day followed by a 'Regional Meet & Greet' evening to be held the day before the spring regional scientific meeting.



## Ideas For SW&W Regional Scientific Meetings Topics

What topics do you want to see in upcoming regional meetings? Is there a hot topic we should consider covering at the Spring 2018 scientific meeting?

Anna and Angie would love to hear you ideas so please email

[anna.barton3@nhs.net](mailto:anna.barton3@nhs.net) and [angelacooper5@nhs.net](mailto:angelacooper5@nhs.net)

# South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter



## ACB SW&W Committee Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> September, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

A summary of the key issues discussed are as follows

### ❖ **Changes to the committee:**

- ❖ Becky Hopkins (BRI) has stepped down as Trainee Rep and we have welcomed to the post and to the committee new member Daniel Isemede (Torbay).
- ❖ We have welcomed to the post and to the committee new member Janina Mazurkiewicz (Poole) as Wessex Regional Tutor.
- ❖ Nicola Pullan (Bath) has stepped down as Webmaster and Becky Hopkins (BRI) has taken over the position.
- ❖ Angela Mallard (Truro) has stepped down as FCS Rep and we have welcomed to the post and to the committee new member Oliver Clifford-Mobley (BRI).

### ❖ **ACB Council Report:**

- ❖ There is concern over the falling ACB membership. Trainees and other pathology groups to be encouraged to join.
- ❖ ACB were found to be poor at equality, diversity and inclusion. Suggestions have been proposed to rectify this including; increasing awareness & transparency, better recording of data, support for childcare & flexible working and changing the image the ACB presents in its own publications e.g. ACB News and also in the media/social media.
- ❖ The UK continues to have a strong input into IFCC and EFLM workings groups.
- ❖ New document on communicating critical results is due publication.
- ❖ Continued concerns over workforce planning and training, with alternative routes to trainees being considered. Manchester is now the only provider of the MSc.
- ❖ FRCPath exams are now tax deductible for medics. The college is applying to HMRC for Clinical Scientists to be able to do the same.

### ❖ **Tutors Report:**

- ❖ Two STPs start this year- Ellen Bealing (Southmead) and Chelsey Walsh (Gloucester).
- ❖ FRCPath Part 1 exam is moving to a 3 hour multiple choice paper (negative marking NOT used) using knowledge and applied knowledge.
- ❖ E-Learning page to be added to the ACB website including links to resources provided by the ELFLM and IFCC. The committee also suggested the AACC Trainees Council resources too should be added.
- ❖ An ACB statistics day is being planned.

❖ **Trainees Rep Report:** No report as new to the post. Daniel did tell us about the SW Trainees Network day due to be held in the spring, and requested that the committee put money towards the catering. Due to the opportunities this day creates the donation was approved.

❖ **FCS Rep Report:** No report as new to the post. The NHSI plans for the SW was discussed.

❖ **Treasurer Report:** We have a healthy regional fund thanks to the sponsorship that has been secured for the regional meetings. £350 approved for the SW Trainees Network day.

### ❖ **Meeting Secretary/Scientific Meetings:**

- ❖ *Autumn meeting- 'Trace Metals' Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October*, Taunton Golf Club
- ❖ Spring 2018- Audit morning and are looking for ideas for the afternoon session

❖ **Clinical Practice Report:** Working groups are working on guidance on reflex and reflective requesting practise within the laboratory, and are continuing their work on Adjusted Calcium. A publication is expected to appear soon from the working group on treating hypomagnesaemia, with work on guidance on its investigation to now begin.

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