

# South West & Wessex Regional Newsletter



## SW&W ACB Regional Scientific Meeting, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March

The next scientific meeting will be held at the **Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital** in the RILD building, in seminar rooms 8 & 9. We have some excellent and well known speakers attending from across country and the program includes-

### ❖ **Regional SW&W AGM**

#### ❖ **Audits:**

- ❖ **National audits** on contaminated samples and Calprotectin, a **regional audit** on CF Sweat Testing, and **local audits** too.

#### ❖ **Inflammatory Bowel Disease:**

- ❖ Update on PANTS (personalised anti-TNF alpha use in Crohn's disease study) and using Calprotectin in Primary Care.

#### ❖ **Prescribing Healthcare Scientists**

#### ❖ **Regional 'Meet & Greet'**

- ❖ We are piloting the 'meet and greet' to allow all attendees to have more time to network with colleagues from across our vast region.



**Registration is open, with the full program and further information available on the ACB website.** Due to the afternoon session being of interest to non-Biochemists e.g. Gastroenterologists & CCG (Devon & Cornwall have shown interest), we have for this meeting only, created a half-day registration option. **Registration closes Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**



## Call For Local Audits To Be Presented At Regional Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March

**We need members to come forward with local audits that they could present** at the local audit session as part of our scientific meeting. Please email [anna.barton3@nhs.net](mailto:anna.barton3@nhs.net) and [angelacooper5@nhs.net](mailto:angelacooper5@nhs.net) with your audit topic.

## ACB SW&W Scientific Meetings Survey Report

As SW&W meetings organisers we wanted to scope opinion from across the region to help in the future planning of meetings. This autumn we created a 10-question survey which was sent out via the ACB office, and was completed by 35 regional members.

- ❖ **Respondents:** 27% Principal, 24% Consultants, 19% Senior, 14% STP/Trainee
- ❖ **Meeting location:** Two questions assessed both the easiest & the hardest locations to travel to. Overall Exeter and Taunton came out as the most convenient locations.
- ❖ **Most important thing:** The program and travelling time were most valued by members
- ❖ **Attendance prevention:** The topic of the day, long day/travelling and staffing at the laboratory were the top three things that prevented respondents from attending.
- ❖ **Trust support:** Trusts do reimburse registration & travelling expenses (63-66%), and had little restrictions on attendance (57%). Accommodation was less well covered (43%).
- ❖ **Who attends:** Even mix across the grades for scientists. Medics less well represented.
- ❖ **Attendance at other regional meetings:** 20% regularly attended non-SW&W meetings.
- ❖ **Future topics & improvements:** Genetics, cross-laboratory discipline topics (e.g. Immunology, Genetics, Microbiology), cross-discipline speakers (i.e. non-laboratory).

**Thank you to those that took the time to respond.**

## FCS Briefing 15, October 2017

<http://acb.org.uk/docs/default-source/committees/fcs/briefings/fcs-pension-briefing-15---inflation-retire-and-return-and-scams.pdf>

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## ACB SW&W Committee Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

A summary of the key issues discussed are as follows

### ❖ **ACB Council Report:**

- ❖ No minutes provided from the meeting.
- ❖ Council keen on getting younger members into leadership roles.

### ❖ **Tutors Report:**

- ❖ E-portfolio being produced for the 2018 intake to replace the OLAT.
- ❖ Still waiting on the announcement of the 2018 STP intake nationally & locally.
- ❖ Three STPs started in 2017- Chelsea Walsh (Gloucester), Eileen Wood (Poole) and Ellen Bealing (Southmead Hospital). Four HSST posts have been created nationally in Clinical Biochemistry, two are in Gloucester.
- ❖ After 4 years as regional SW tutor Tim is considering stepping down.

### ❖ **Trainees Rep Report:** Daniel not present but report submitted.

### ❖ **Treasurer Report:**

- ❖ Thanks to great sponsorship support from various companies, the last few meetings have all produced a small profit for the region. This included the Taunton meeting despite a reduced registration fee and a more expensive location than normal. We will continue the £10 member registration fee to encourage continued attendance.
- ❖ We would like to create a formalised way for regional members to apply for a bursary from the region to help utilise this regional money & support our members. We need to look into a set criteria for acceptance and the bursary cost limits etc. More to follow.

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

- ❖ **Autumn meeting 2017- 'Trace Metals':** A very successful meeting was held jointly with the SAS Trace Elements network who provided speakers and the very stimulating program. Over 50 people registered for the day from all over the country and further information can be found by reading an article published in December's ACB News.
- ❖ **UPCOMING Spring meeting, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March- AGM, Audit & More:** We have some excellent local and external speakers presenting, as well as interest from Gastro Cons and CCG staff to attend the meeting. See first page for more information.
- ❖ **SW&W Meetings Survey:** See summary on previous page. Using the feedback provided, the Autumn 2018 meeting will be on Genetics and held at Taunton.

### ❖ **Clinical Practice Report:**

- ❖ No minutes provided from the meeting, however this group maybe disbanded or merged with the scientific group.

### ❖ **Webmaster:** Not present, though have reported they've been unable to perform their duties as the ACB have not granted them access rights, therefore regional website is very out-of-date. Since the meeting our webmaster has informed us they now have editing access.

### ❖ **Immunologist Rep:** The first Immunology STPs (index cohort) are 4 years into their 5-year course & the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort started in 2017. Kristen Lilly (our rep) has taken up the one HSST post this year. In the SW we now have 3 Medical & 3 Clinical Scientist Immunology Consultants.

**The minutes from this meeting and the newsletter will be made available on the SW&W regional website.**

## We Need A New South-West Regional Tutor

As Tim is stepping down as tutor we are looking for another person to take over his role. If you are interested please contact Tim via email at [timothy.mcdonald@nhs.net](mailto:timothy.mcdonald@nhs.net) for information on the role and to put forward your name. **Thank you to Tim for all your hard work over the years.**

