Dear Member

Welcome to the latest EDTNA/ERCA newsletter.

The EDTNA/ERCA UK Seminar took place at the Ashford International Hotel on Sunday 13th and Monday 14th October. Nearly one-hundred delegates and speakers attended the event and a wide variety of subjects was covered.

The Seminar opened with a brief retrospective – including a clip from the first ever edition of Tomorrow’s World; broadcast in the programme showed the then cutting-edge dialysis that the NHS was beginning to undertake. Interestingly a key barrier to service improvement then, as now was lack of money! Dr. Paul Stevens, past president of the BRS then gave a glimpse of the future, speaking on the way renal service provision will change in light of new NICE guidelines, the end of NHS KidneyCare and new commissioning arrangements since the advent of Clinical and Specialist Commissioning Groups. The first session concluded with a talk on the new commissioning arrangements from Nicky Bentley of NHS England and a presentation on the need for nursing leadership in renal teams from Karen Jenkins; EDTNA/ERCA CKD Consultant and co-editor to the new Oxford Handbook of Renal Nursing.

The second session focussed on developments in CKD, began with an inspiring, and thought provoking talk on patient-led education from Professor Paula Ormandy of Salford University. Often we think we are giving patients choice and allowing them to take the lead when we talk of ‘shared care’ but often we remain firmly in control! Following this challenge Sian Fothergill and Christine Head from East Kent Hospitals spoke about their innovative approach to pre-dialysis education, where patients visit ‘pods’ in small groups of two or three to be told about different aspects of renal care. The approach enables far greater individualisation than more conventional lecture type formats. Cristina Vasilica, a PhD student from Salford then presented her abstract on the increasing use of social media in patient education and the session closed with Clare Nottage from Guy’s telling the meeting about a programme that uses Smartphone apps to engage young adult renal patients with their care.

The final session of the first day focussed mainly on transplantation and began with Agimol Pradeep, another Salford PhD student speaking on her excellent and productive work encouraging increased levels of organ donation among South Asian populations in the UK. For this excellent piece of work, Agimol won the best oral abstract prize at the seminar. Consultant Nephrologist Dr. Chris Farmer then rose from his sick bed to co-present work carried out with the University of Kent to investigate ways to reduce the nephrotoxic effect of cyclosporin. The Transplant
programme concluded with Melody reeves from Leicester presenting her abstract on education for patients on the transplant register. The final session of the first day focussed on developments in vascular access and was presented by Diaverum lead nurse for the UK Janet Cowperthwaite.

After the closure of the final session Paula Ormandy and Caroline Judge, a renal matron from East Kent, judged the poster competition. The winning poster, from an excellent selection was presented by Claire Licence from Morriston Hospital, Swansea and focussed on the development of a nocturnal home haemodialysis programme in Swansea. To end the final day we feasted and chatted our way through the gala dinner before retiring – though some delegates also found time to use the hotel’s leisure facilities!

Day two opened with a session focussed on developments in dialysis and an inspiring valedictory for PD from Maxine Keddo of Kings College Hospital, London. Consultant nephrologist Dr. Jenny Cross from the Royal Free then continued the PD theme with a talk on how we can reverse the long-term decline in PD patient numbers. Paula Debling, home therapies sister from East Kent then introduced Rhys Hills, a patient who has switched to nocturnal home haemodialysis who told us powerfully how his health and quality of life have improved since switching to this mode of treatment. Finally, Angela Summers from Manchester told us about the need for greater surveillance for encapsulating peritoneal sclerosis in long-term PD patients. This rare but extremely serious complication of PD is little understood by many even in the renal care setting and prognosis can be vastly improved if the condition is picked up early.

Karen Jenkins and Dr. Andrew Thorns, a palliative care consultant then spoke about supportive care and end-of-life care for renal patients. Karen told the seminar about the Kent programme of supportive care for deteriorating or ‘at risk’ patients to try and reduce the chances of patients with problems ‘slipping through the net’. Dr. Thorns then led an interactive session considering the care needs of renal patients nearing the end-of-life.

Dr Nicola Thomas, editor of the Journal of Renal Care then led a workshop on quality improvement, which gave delegates the opportunity to discuss some thorny issues they might be facing – many of which, perhaps inevitably seemed to focus on transport!

The final session of the seminar was concerned with encouraging patient autonomy and began with an excellent practical demonstration of the use of Skype to communicate with home dialysis patients in North Wales. The session was presented by Sarah Hirst-Williams from Ysbyty Gwynedd and included a live Skype link-up with one of her patients – who proceeded to entertain us with his rendition of ‘Tiptoe through the tulips’ on ukulele and kazoo! I then spoke about the development of shared care HD programmes in Kent and Yorkshire before the final session on choice and decision making among patients choosing home therapies from Lina Johansson of Imperial College Hospital, London.

It was gratifying to see so many at the seminar this year, in what we all know are challenging economic times. I am extremely grateful for the support received from the BKPA and from industry partners including Janssen Cilag and L.IN.C who exhibited and sponsored delegates and Fresenius, Gambro and Diaverum who sponsored delegates and Oxford University Press who provided the abstract and poster prizes. Thanks also to all at The International Hotel for providing such a great venue and dealing extremely quickly with any problems that did arise. Sincere thanks are also
due to Karen Jenkins, Caroline Judge and Professor Paula Ormandy who helped with chairing sessions and poster marking and last, but far from least my partner Dave who helped wonderfully with all the pre and post seminar admin, and did an excellent job of manning reception and troubleshooting during the seminar itself. He’s a star!

Planning is already underway for next year’s seminar and it is hoped that this year’s success can be built on. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered then please let me know. I will also, of course be sending out a call for abstracts in due course so if you have a project or innovation that you want to share I would like to hear of that too!

Planning is of course also at an advanced stage for UK Kidney Week in Glasgow from Tuesday April 29th to Friday May 2nd. This is a joint conference of the British Renal Society and the Renal Association. EDTNA/ERCA will once again have a badged session, this year focussed on dry weight assessment and once again we will have a stand in the exhibition area – so if you’re going to the conference please come and visit us.

If you have any issues or queries related to the EDTNA/ERCA then please do not hesitate to contact me, and if you know of colleagues who might be interested in joining but might need more information, then again I will be happy to discuss membership with them and point them in the right direction.

Best Wishes,

Marissa
EDTNA/ERCA UK Seminar 2013 – Pictures

The Seminar in full swing.

Best oral abstract winner, Agimol Pradeep with Marissa.

Best poster winner, Claire Licence with Marissa and Paula Ormandy.