

SRR Presidents Report July 2013 – Nottingham

Well what can I say? Other than a very warm Welcome to Nottingham!
I am proud and honoured to host this first one day summer meeting here at the University and delighted that so many of you have journeyed far and wide to be here.

Special thanks to Patricia Dziunka our superb Secretariat for coordinating everything and bringing it to fruition – without whom it simply wouldn't have happened.

First One day Summer Meeting

In this, the first one day Summer meeting we have tried to accommodate two themes – dementia and vocational rehabilitation in the hope of shared learning between these different fields of rehabilitation research. We have also introduced a reduced payment option for those only wanting to join us for half a day – in the hope of attracting more local clinicians. Early feedback suggests this may have worked. We had a record number of abstract submissions – although many of these were last minute! And 20 new members have joined the society in the past 6 months.

Engaging members and attract new people to SRR meetings.

- **Rehabilitation Research School**

Following the success of our first Rehabilitation Research School in partnership with the NIHR Research Development Service South West held in Bath, a second Rehab research School is planned to piggyback onto the Winter meeting in London on 4 February. This time the focus will be engaging in rehabilitation research in underdeveloped countries. More details to follow.

- **'Distinguished Scholar' award**

We have had our first nomination for the new 'Distinguished Scholar' award which was discussed at Council. Our chosen nominee will be invited to present at the forthcoming Winter meeting. This is an annual award which hopes to attract cutting edge rehabilitation research findings to be presented (first) to SRR. Members can nominate a distinguished scholar to Council (see the web for details).

An update on the new website

The development work has been approved in principal by Council and two proposals and estimates are being considered. A sub group from Council will meet later today to progress these.

We continue with our work behind the Scenes **to promote the work of the Society** and to ensure that rehabilitation is very much on the research agenda. We continue to have representation on the Stroke Forum planning committee, the EFRR and various NICE guideline development groups not to mention numerous funding bodies.

We thank those who sent comments in in response to the NICE stroke rehabilitation guidelines. I know the end product isn't the document that the stroke community were hoping for. Those disenchanting with the end product might want to consider liking the various responses submitted to the BMJ by some of our members by clicking the link <http://www.bmj.com/content/346/bmj.f3615?tab=responses>

More recently we were approached to comment on RCP Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness (PDOC) Guidelines, which we did.

We also do our best to respond to invited consultations from NICE but sometimes have difficulty in knowing which of our members have expertise in some of the diverse topic areas. I know that many SRR members comment on drafts in an individual or institutional capacity all the time. It would be useful to bring some of these views into collective responses. However, currently 'electronic engagement' with our members is quite poor and I'm unclear how best we can do this without inundating members with requests. I welcome your suggestions?

Nice are planning to pilot rapid updates of aspects of its clinical guidelines that need updating as identified through a review process and are seeking to recruit a standing advisory committee to assist. They are currently recruiting for lay members for the standing committee. Details of the role and how to apply are on the NICE website. And deadline for applications is 5pm on 10 July 2013.

On the electronic and online note

Our web presence and following is slowly growing but this is everybody's job not just our PRO and Central Secretariat! We are starting to tweet – but only have 14 followers at present – we need lots of #ff and retweeting to get this going. (Andrew Bateman may wish to say more about this?) and our Facebook likes have increased from 40 in January to 93. A flurry of activity and some pictures following the Winter meeting in February worked well to engage members – but more please!!

What can you do?

Invite your rehab friends on Facebook to like the Society.

On LinkedIn, we have 34 followers - an increase from 26 in January 2013. The discussions page contains information on events and opportunities which may be of interest for our membership. It also has some 'live' commenting at conferences, but not many people continue the 'discussions'.

Coverage and write up of our conferences in ACNR (and other relevant magazines) seems to be a valuable activity worth pursuing. Perhaps one of the members here today would be willing to write up this meeting?

Stroke Forum- Council member (Dr Sarah Tyson) has been working with the Stroke Forum Committee to promote rehabilitation research in the scientific programme. A number of Council members have volunteered to review abstracts.

EFRR – Update

Dr Nigel Harris has been working with the European Forum for Rehabilitation Research to develop their scientific programme for the next meeting in Istanbul, Turkey in September meeting. EFRR have recently issued a call for Council members.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Winter 2014: London; Feb 5th 'Palliative Care and the UK Rehabilitation Outcomes Framework'. Dr Steve Ashford

Summer 2014: Glasgow SALT, Community Engagement and the Arts, Professor Marion Brady and Dr Frederike van Wike

Winter 2015: Manchester, Dr Sarah Tyson

Summer 2015: TBC – suggestions Newcastle, Southampton and Birmingham. Members approached at the AGM for volunteers