BSACI 2011 Annual Meeting
Celebrating a Century of Progress in Allergy

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Every day we make advances in treating respiratory allergic diseases, improving the quality of life of patients

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The autumn nights are drawing in and suddenly our diaries are overflowing and summertime languor has been replaced by frenetic productivity. This conference issue of *Allergy Update* celebrates the success of the Annual Meeting. For 4 days in July, Nottingham was invaded by the hundreds of delegates at the biggest and best annual meeting yet. Adam Fox as Meetings Secretary along with Nasreen Khan and the rest of the organising committee and Fiona and the team from BSACI, can be truly proud of their efforts. Adam’s conference report is on p8-10 and Jan Chantrell gives a nurses perspective on the meeting on p11. The Primary Care Day which runs in parallel with the main meeting was well attended. Read Liz Angier’s feedback on p12.

A *Century of Progress in Allergy* was the theme of the meeting and the EAACI conference this year also celebrated 100 years of Immunotherapy. Bill Frankland, who worked with some of the earliest pioneers of allergy, was presented with the Noon award for a life dedicated to immunotherapy during the opening ceremony of the conference in Istanbul. Tony Frew was awarded the Charles Blackley Award for the Promotion of Allergy as a Specialty in Europe.

Clinical and Experimental Allergy published a special Centenary edition on Immunotherapy in September 2011. Congratulations to Andrew Wardlaw who continues to take CEA from strength to strength and has recently been reappointed for a further term as Editor.

Amidst the centenary celebrations we received the sad news of the passing of a co-founder and former editor of CEA, Dr William ‘Bill’ Parish. His obituary is on p6.

As we go to press, we have the result of a closely contested election of the new BSACI President Elect. Congratulations to Tony Frew who will succeed Glenis Scadding as President in July 2012.
Dear Members,

It was a great pleasure to see so many of you in person in Nottingham, at what I think was the best BSACI Annual Meeting yet. Thanks to Adam Fox, Nasreen Khan and the meetings committee, the programme was excellent. Kenes provided expert help in many ways, not least transferring registration and abstract submission online - and the result was a marked increase in attendance - thankfully without loss of the warm interaction between friends and colleagues. Next year’s meeting is already being planned, so please let us know of your comments, ideas and suggestions – preferably via the website www.bsaci.org or by emailing info@bsaci.org

The move into our new office went well - not surprising since Fiona et al had already moved four times in 2 years and are well versed in the art - and the place looks terrific with plenty of space and light. In fact we have spare capacity and so are hoping to rent out some desk space and there is also a separate boardroom available for rent when not in BSACI use for Executive, Council, SOCC, planning meetings etc.

The work at BSACI continues apace. We are looking to the future with an emphasis on education and training. In the next 12 months we will help with 20 local meetings designed for primary care education, rather than the six initially envisaged - thanks to the generosity of our sponsors Mead Johnson Nutrition and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). An extra training day for Allergy and Immunology trainees has been added in Southampton and it is hoped that the whole of the allergy curriculum will be covered by the 2 year series of meetings.

Like the Jesuits (“Give me a child before he is seven and I will show you the man”), I believe in getting in early and last year Council approved my suggestion of medical student BSACI membership at reduced rates. It is vitally important to attract new doctors into allergy, yet with so little allergy training in medical schools, this is not easy. Students who are interested, often those who are undertaking projects with an allergy consultant, are most welcome to be considered for membership and should be encouraged to consider attending the annual meeting, even for a day. Membership is also available at reduced rates to those undertaking an Allergy MSc. It is interesting to note that the Royal College of Physicians is following our example in encouraging medical students to join them.

One reason given for not choosing allergy as a career is uncertainty regarding its future. Commissioning allergy services is not straightforward, as those of us who attended the relevant annual meeting lectures found. A working party, to be led by Tony Frew, has been set up by Andrew Wardlaw, chairman of the Joint Committee on Immunology & Allergy - a body representing both Royal Colleges of Physicians and Pathologists. BSACI will work through this and will also give support to the initiatives of the National Allergy Strategy Group (NASG) which intends to provide a reminder to GPs of all the multiple manifestations of allergic disease. The NASG held a Parliamentary meeting in June on inhalant allergies at which I spoke and more recently a meeting of young people with severe allergies, finding out their major problems and needs.

The election for the post of President Elect took place and the ballot papers were counted in the BSACI office by myself and Nicola Brathwaite on Friday September 16th. Congratulations to Tony Frew who becomes President Elect and takes up post with immediate effect. Tony was elected from a field of three excellent candidates willing to give their time and energy to the Society. The Society is run by many people who are enormously dedicated and whom I thank most heartily on your behalf - there is no room for a roll call, but their names appear in Allergy Update and on our website.

Finally, on behalf of Moises Calderon and myself, I would like to thank all those of you who responded to my email and completed the rhinitis control questionnaire. The results are being analysed and we hope to be able to let you know them before long.

With all good wishes for a productive and successful Autumn.
Farewell to Professor Tak Lee

It is with heavy hearts, but sincere hopes and aspirations for the future that we say goodbye to our dear friend and colleague Professor Tak Lee. He has recently announced his retirement from King’s College London School of Medicine and Guy’s Hospital where he has been a stalwart of the institution for many years.

Space does not permit a full elaboration of his achievements. He was instrumental in building the largest NHS allergy service in the UK at Guy’s and St. Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust which the Department of Health has identified as a centre of excellence. Unusually he has been awarded both of the BSACI’s greatest accolades, namely the Jack Pepys Lectureship (2000) for his scientific contributions (over 400 manuscripts) and the William Frankland Medal (2008) for his outstanding services to clinical allergy. When he was president of the BSACI (1996-1999) and later as chairman of the Joint Committee for Immunology and Allergy for the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Pathologists (2000-2004), he helped to highlight the national deficiencies in NHS allergy services and steered an agenda to establish clinical allergy as an evidence based discipline. His most recent triumph was the creation in 2005 of the Medical Research Council and Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma. Uniquely, this was research collaboration between two major asthma research centres in two colleges of the University of London and the leading UK Asthma charity. Under his inspiring leadership the Centre has earned an international reputation, addressing key unresolved questions in asthma research and promoting translational progression. In September 2007 the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee commended the Centre as “a striking example of effective collaboration”. An International Advisory Board reported in 2010 that the Centre “is unique worldwide”. Since founding the Centre Tak has doubled the numbers of the senior faculty, thereby increasing much needed critical mass and leveraging new research income in the region of £100m. In addition the Centre has seen a four fold rise in the numbers of PhD students. As Asthma UK Professor since 1988 and vice president of the charity he chaired the first two national consultations on asthma research strategy in 2002 and 2007, which informed research priorities internationally. He has played a central role in fund raising to support Asthma UK’s research ambitions.

On a personal note, I have worked alongside Tak in his team for the past 12 years and have known him both as a friend and research colleague for many more. I believe that all those who know him admire him for his unique and relentless research vision. He has stood up for the Division of Asthma, Allergy and Lung Biology within King’s College and raised the achievements of the Division to heights second to none. He is tirelessly supportive of his colleagues, from the humble to the exalted. Despite his chronic illness which has plagued him now for many years, I have never once heard him voice a single complaint. I am sure that we all wish him well in his next new adventure, which is to set up a new clinical facility in his native Hong Kong. If I know Tak, this is not the last time by any means that he will be making the headlines. It is said that no person is irreplaceable, but Tak surely comes close.
A testing time for trainees

Wednesday-afternoon stragglers at this year's BSACI conference may have come upon a room of bowed heads, intense thought and feverish writing. This was not, as might have been the impression, an early attempt at writing the 2012 President's after-dinner speech, but 3 trainees taking the first-ever Allergy knowledge-based assessment (KBA).

Over recent years dramatic changes to specialty training have taken place. Curricula now specifically list the knowledge, behaviour and skills expected of trainees and also means of assessing their acquisition. Knowledge is traditionally assessed using exams and specialty trainees enrolling from 2007 onwards have been required to pass a Specialist Certificate Examination before gaining their CCT. Exit exams are feasible in large specialties, but in Allergy (along with a handful of others) they are impracticable: small cohorts make validity and reliability of exams difficult to determine and costs are prohibitive.

Enter the KBA. Superficially it resembles an exam with 12 short answer questions (mapped to the 2010 Allergy curriculum) to be completed in 2 hours under exam conditions, but there is no pass or fail and as a formative assessment its purpose is to feedback to the trainee (and the ARCP panel) about where future learning should be directed. This should be happening shortly to our guinea pigs who I thank wholeheartedly for their participation (and feedback).

Writing questions is more difficult than answering them - I promise – so thanks to all contributors and to the markers. Allergy KBA's will be held annually and details of the 2012 assessment will be available shortly.

Obituary: Dr William Everett Parish 1928-2011

It is with sadness that we record the death of Dr William (“Bill”) Parish who co-founded Clinical and Experimental Allergy (formerly Clinical Allergy) with Professor Jack Pepys in 1971. From 1971-1979 Bill was Assistant Editor to Professor Jack Pepys and was then co-editor with Dr James Kerr from 1980 to 1984. Bill Parish was an astute, imaginative and meticulous scientist who made several important contributions to the field of allergy, inflammation and allergic diseases. He also published widely in the field of toxicology and dermatology. He will be particularly remembered for his important work on human IgG-sensitising antibodies, seminal studies on mechanisms of eosinophil infiltration and pursuance of the milk-induced anaphylaxis hypothesis, with Robin Coombs and Andrew Walls, of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Bill Parish obtained his veterinary qualifications from Liverpool University in 1953 and after a time with the Ministry of Agriculture proceeded to a PhD in the Dept of Pathology at the University of Cambridge where he published widely with Robin Coombs on mechanisms of anaphylaxis. In 1963 Bill joined the Lister Institute for Preventive Medicine as a Senior Scientist and was to remain there, after the takeover by Unilever, until his retirement in 2010. From 1974 to 1989 Bill was head of the Toxicology Department at Unilever with a laboratory staff of over 200. In 1983 Bill Parish was awarded the Gold Medal of the Foundation for Allergy Research for Europe.

Bill was a lover of the great outdoors, cross country running, climbing, and hill walking. He was always ready to help young scientists with his ready smile and cheerful disposition. He will be greatly missed by family, friends and colleagues. A.B.Kay, July 2011

Good luck and best wishes to CEA editorial assistant

The picture shows Jennifer Mitchell with Andy Wardlaw (the present editor of the Journal) and Barry Kay (former Co-Editor) at Jennifer's retirement party on Friday 30th September 2011. Jennifer was the Editorial Assistant to Clinical and Experimental Allergy since 1983, first part-time and then full time. Her ability to get through a massive workload (cheerfully) is legendary!
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Partnership for life
The 2011 BSACI annual meeting took place on July 11-13th at the East Midlands Conference Centre (EMCC) in Nottingham. This was the first meeting for 2 years following on from the highly successful EAACI annual congress held in London last year. It was thus very gratifying to see the meeting grow significantly in size despite the break, which reflects the continuing growth of the society over the last few years. In all there were almost 564 delegates, a 42% rise on 2009. Interestingly, we saw a particular growth amongst overseas delegates, with 32 attendees from around the world as well as the 14 invited speakers from Europe and the US. We also had a large number of junior members who were again able to take advantage of free registration.

The 2011 meeting was also the first for some years to involve organisational input from an external agency. After a tendering process the BSACI had selected Kenes, a global medical conferencing company. Their involvement allowed us access to a number of technologies that would otherwise have been outside the reach of a small organisation such as the BSACI. As a result we were able to offer online registration and abstract submission from a purpose built meeting website. We are very keen to hear your feedback on these changes so that we can ensure they meet the needs of our members in the future.
The theme of the meeting was ‘Celebrating 100 years of progress in Allergy’, in recognition of the centenary of the first landmark publications on the efficacy of allergen desensitisation. This reflective strand to the meeting included sessions such as ‘100 years of histamine’, convened by Martin Church, which gave us the opportunity to reflect on both historical achievements as well as recent advances. However, the focus of our celebration took place on Monday evening. A fascinating lecture on the ‘A Modern History of Allergy – the forgotten giants’ by Prof Jonathan Brostoff which brought to life the many characters who have been central to advances in the science of allergy, with the audience members who knew them exchanging anecdotes. This was followed by a showing of the documentary film ‘Bill Frankland – a life in allergy’ which was made by Dr Sophie Farooque. This provided a further fascinating insight into the history of allergy.

Bill Frankland and Dr Harry Morrow Brown were guests of honour at the event and, as the film concluded, they were invited to reflect on their careers by Prof John Warner. Dr Morrow Brown was also awarded honorary membership of the BSACI by Dr Glenis Scadding.

Another positive aspect of this year’s meeting was sponsorship income, which achieved record levels, over 30% higher than previous years. We are hugely grateful to all our sponsors, without whose generous support the meeting simply would not be possible.

Prior to the meeting, the growth in delegate numbers, sponsors and abstracts had meant that we were very close to capacity in the current venue. Over the course of the meeting, the council and executive had numerous discussions over the future venue of the meeting. A variety of larger venues were discussed whilst the virtues of EMCC, which coped better than expected with the larger meeting, were also considered. It was finally decided that the meeting should remain at EMCC for 2012, but with a view to booking a different, larger venue for the 2013 meeting.

The planning process for the scientific programme for 2012 is already underway and the programme committee would very much value your ideas for what you would like to see included. Please contact us and let us know your thoughts at Fiona@bsaci.org.

We very much hope you enjoyed the meeting if you were able to attend and that you will be able to join us next year on 2nd - 4th July, at EMCC. Please save the date!
Barry Kay Award Winners 2011

Basic science

1st: Generation of a high affinity Phl p 7-specific IgG4 antibody
Louisa James, King’s College London (pictured)

2nd: Human lung macrophages as a cellular model of Aspirin hypersensitivity
Sarah E Jackson, University of Southampton

Clinical

1st: The effect of Corticosteroid particle size on real world asthma outcomes: a UK observational study
David Price, University of Aberdeen

2nd: Steroid refractory asthma patients express lower levels of the Immunodulatory Transcription Fact FoxP3 and have lower levels of serum vitamin D
Alexandra M Nanzer, King’s College London (pictured)

Paediatrics

1st: The antibody response to peanut Oral Immunotherapy (OIT) is dynamic and individualized
Brian Vickery, Duke University School of Medicine (pictured)

2nd: To what extent can social cognition models explains adherence to self care behaviours amongst adolescents with food allergy
Christina Jones, Brighton and Sussex School of Medicine

President’s Dinner at Prestwold Hall, Loughborough

Bill Frankland and Pamela Ewan enjoying a drink in the library.

Time for dinner: Dr Glenis Scadding delivers her after dinner speech.

Enjoying the scenery: Guests mingle in the grounds of Prestwold Hall.
Nurses in Allergy - Feedback from the BSACI Annual Meeting

It was great to see so many nurses at the annual meeting this year. For those of you that were able to attend our ‘Networking drop in session’ on Monday night - it was great to see you and, as nurses are renowned for their ‘communication skills’, there were lots of new acquaintances formed. This will be held each year, so if you missed it this year, please look out for us next year and put a face to that name!

For those unable to attend this year, the Committee of the Nurses in Allergy Group has pulled together some of the learning and thought provoking points that they felt they would like to share:

- One thing that inspired me to look into a bit more is sensitisation through the skin barrier. A whole morning of dermatology for the allergist was really interesting. Northwest nurses group and it is on the national agenda. The speakers highlighted some of the pitfalls in setting up transition clinics and intend to set up a national website for adolescents moving to adult services. At Alder Hey they are conducting a Delphi exercise as a preliminary to setting up their service. Great Ormond Street has a lot of information on the internet already. I have a Facebook support group for parents of allergic children and another for adolescents with asthma which works really well, but I don’t yet have one for adolescents with food allergy, although I am considering it after those sessions. It sounds as though transition hit the spot with everyone - I really enjoyed these sessions and agree that a national website would be an excellent resource. It was nice to have a speaker who is a nurse, although I think this was the only one of the conference.

- I enjoyed the component resolved diagnostics sessions by Adnan Custovic. This is an area that is expanding and I particularly liked the fact that our agreed 3mm x 3mm skin tests and 0.35kU/l blood tests indicating positive sensitisation could be challenged. He is quite right in asking the question - who says 3x3 is positive and should we be accounting for gender and age when we look at the specific IgE levels?

- This made me think: Quite often it seems that baseline measurements are based not on science, but on an expert’s opinion. I understand that all these limits were made many years ago by the founding scientists discovering allergy and trying to find ways to relieve symptoms. Histamine was discovered 100 years ago by Dale. Did you know that we rely on the natural surge of histamine in our brains to get us up in the morning and to reinforce learning and memory (so who wants it suppressed)? It was interesting to learn that Levocetirizine and Desloratadine are now considered not third, but second generation antihistamines as there is no significant difference in clinical use. Despite this I learned that it is better to recommend up-dosing of Levocetirizine than Cetirizine for urticaria as there are less component parts to be first-pass metabolized. First generation antihistamines were strongly discouraged except at night.

- The Bill Frankland video and reflection of 100 years and the first administration of pollen immunotherapy was very enlightening - everyone seemed to try treatments out on themselves first! No red tape regulation then.

I think this year’s conference was one of the best yet (apart from the lack of seating at lunchtimes) and it was great to see everyone.

Any comments or suggestions please get in touch.
Janet.chantrell@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
The most recent event involving the Primary Care Committee was the Primary Care Day at the BSACI Annual Meeting, which was a great success. Hopefully this is now embedded as part of the annual BSACI conference, which provides an opportunity for specialists and generalists to network and debate important issues in allergy care. I particularly enjoyed the variety of sessions and the opportunity to share ideas with a multidisciplinary audience. We shall continue to include topics on primary care of interest and relevance to the wider programme next year. We will discuss this at the next planning meeting at which Helen Smith will represent us. I always look forward to this meeting as there is a friendly, enthusiastic and supportive atmosphere, which is a great tonic in what is now quite a difficult time in the NHS. The ability to understand and value each other’s contributions as professionals, across all the disciplines, to pave the way for better allergy services, is especially important at the moment. We were pleased to see a number of abstracts at the conference related to primary care and, on Helen Smith’s suggestion, may try to organise a walking tour of them for those interested, so please keep sending them in.

I am getting a number of enquiries from GPs wishing to set up allergy services and requesting advice on how to liaise with their local commissioning groups. The time is right to define this, and Tony Frew will be collating a report on commissioning with the JCIA group. We look forward to contributing, with an emphasis on practical and user friendly information for commissioning groups.

With the rapid pace of change in the NHS and relentless release of reports, an understandable human response might be to run for the hills; however there is the opportunity to engage and help shape the changes. The primary care group has steadily been working on a number of different projects. We welcome Lisa Waddell, a community dietician, and Matt Doyle, a GP from Cambridge, as new members of the committee. Both of them have served on NICE guideline committees. Many thanks to Jo Walsh for her wide ranging contributions to the NASG, guidelines and committees. Jo has also produced a number of educational webcasts about allergy, a great way to get the message across. Thanks to Trevor Brown, Dermot Ryan, Mark Levy, Jenny Willington, Sue Clark, Steve Holmes and Richard Turner for their contributions to guidelines, committees, reports and panels. We were fortunate to have Sam Walker, our previous chair’s, input into our last meeting.

Prof Aziz Sheikh and Prof Helen Smith continue their work as Allergy champions at the RCGP. Recent activities, in conjunction with the Clinical Innovation and Research Unit (CIRC) at the RCGP, include a national survey on the assessment of the training support needs of vocational training schemes for GPs. Aziz also has a recent paper in the ‘Ten minute consultation’ section of the BMJ on Measles Mumps and Rubella vaccination.

We are also looking at an affiliation with the CIRC unit at the RCGP and the primary care group, which has been agreed in principle, again subject to minor alterations, which will enable closer working with the RCGP and other primary care groups. We are exploring possible projects with the Primary Care Respiratory Society as well.

For the next Update report, I hope to ask individual members of the Primary Care Committee to write short sections about their work in their regions, to reflect the growing variety of experience across the country and their thoughts on the current situations we are all facing.
The last few months have been busy for the Standards of Care Committee culminating in the successful publication of the latest BSACI guidelines. Many of you will have seen the centenary issue of Clinical and Experimental Allergy, published in September 2011, in which guidelines on “Immunotherapy for allergic rhinitis” and separately the “Diagnosis and management of hymenoptera venom allergy” were published. These are two important guidelines for the Society as they inform on the highly specialist practice of all forms of Immunotherapy currently undertaken in the UK and provide essential reading for all allergists. I am grateful to Pia Huber who has contributed extensively to both guidelines and continues to be an invaluable asset to the Society.

The allergic rhinitis Immunotherapy guidelines had an enduring gestation with considerable individual contributions from the authors, but owe much to the coordinating skills of Sam Walker and Steve Durham’s encyclopaedic knowledge on the subject. A special feature of the guideline is the extensive review of UK practice undertaken by Stephen Till and also sections on sublingual immunotherapy, novel approaches and future directions for immunotherapy. The Hymenoptera guidelines provide a really good read with colour photographs of the relevant venomous insects and clear guidance on who should undergo venom immunotherapy. I would like to thank all the authors, in particular Thirumala Krishna, the lead author, who worked tirelessly on the project and Pam Ewan whose experience of venom allergy has allowed us to produce world-class guidance on this challenging subject.

The next guidelines at an advanced stage of development include ‘Beta-lactam allergy’; ‘Prescribing an adrenaline autoinjector’ and ‘Nut allergy’ and BSACI members will have an opportunity to comment and contribute via the website prior to publication.

We plan to carry out a number of national BSACI audits including re-audit of venom allergy to see how the latest guideline has influenced practice. I would encourage all BSACI members to take part, not only because audit has become an integral part of revalidation, but also because it provides an important mode of communication for BSACI members underpinning future guidelines.

Dietitians Group Update

The Food Allergy and Intolerance Support Group (FAISG) now have more than 150 members. The group recently had a restructuring of their committee with Dr Carina Venter taking over as chair and Mary Feeney as co-chair. FAISG are still actively involved in producing and peer-reviewing diet sheets for adults and children with food allergies and intolerances – some of the final copies should be available soon. A number of FAISG members were involved in the BSACI Annual Meeting chairing meetings (Isabel Skypala) and presenting at food allergy/poster sessions. It was particularly good to notice an increase number of posters presented by dietitians at this meeting, dealing with issues such as food challenges and management of multiple food allergies.

The number of FAISG members involved in the International Network for Diet and Nutrition in Allergy (INDANA) has also increased. Kate Grimshaw presented on behalf of this group at the EAACI meeting in June 2011 covering the topic of Weaning Practices across Europe – and found the one thing we all have in common is that carrot is always the first vegetable to be introduced! Other INDANA presentations at EAACI included Infant Feeding Intentions and Opinions across Europe, Global Differences and Similarities in Dietary Management of Food Allergy and Practical Management of Food Allergies.

The information regarding dietitians on the BSACI website has recently been updated, please visit the dietitians section at www.bsaci.org.
The 2011 BSACI Annual Meeting once again gave the trainees an opportunity to receive lectures from experts in the various fields of allergy and to present scientific/clinical posters. Guy Scadding, Specialist Registrar at the Royal Brompton Hospital, was involved in teaching for the Rhinitis GSK Satellite Symposium. This interactive group session looked at different cases that presented to an ENT/Allergy clinic, how they were investigated and managed. Our case for discussion was Wegener’s Granulomatosis, which taught us about the pearls and pitfalls when faced with unusual case presentations. I would also like to thank those who contributed to the interesting Adult Allergy Grand Round session which covered cases including Cutaneous Mastocytosis, Wheat-dependant Exercise-induced Anaphylaxis and the rare (for the UK) non-specific Lipid Transfer Protein allergy.

Our recent training days in May were a first for combined teaching to both Allergy and Immunology trainees. Organised through the BSACI and Association of Clinical Pathologists, a mixture of topics including complement disorders and treatment options for C1 Inhibitor Deficiency were covered over two days. Of particular note was an excellent run through of the recently published BSACI immunotherapy guidelines for Rhinitis and Hymenoptera Venom Allergy by Dr Stephen Durham and Dr Thirumala Krishna. We look forward to our next training days this year in Southampton and London.

NASG Youth Forum

The first meeting of the new NASG Youth Forum was held at the end of July and attended by 10 young people aged 11 to 21 all living with food allergies. The aim of the group is to involve young people with the campaigning work of the NASG and to ensure we are representing them accurately when looking at how allergy affects quality of life.

All the young people understand the severity of their allergies and agree that there are areas of their lives which are affected. However 6 out of the 10 believe their parents to be more anxious than they are when dealing with the allergy.

All stated that they carry their adrenaline auto-injector at all times (and all had it with them during the meeting). 4 out of the 10 did admit that if they were sure they were not eating then they may not carry the adrenaline, but felt that they were responsible enough to make this risk assessment for themselves. 3 out of 10 had been carrying their adrenaline since primary school with the remaining 7 starting to be responsible for their medication when starting secondary school. When considering how their allergy affects their lives on a day to day basis it was a particular area of annoyance when food manufacturers change recipes and/or labeling. All told me that they check labels when looking at food with 7 out of 10 reading the actual ingredients. Food labeling is an area which affects their quality of life; they feel many products are unsafe for them to eat. However they all felt that this was something they just got on with and accepted and that they didn’t feel it consumed their life. The group felt that maybe their parents were more worried than they were about them missing out of certain foods, such as birthday cakes and Easter eggs.

According to the group the most important areas for improvement are:

• Education of the wider community as to the severity of allergy
• Improvement within the health service and the education of doctors
• More awareness of what actually happens to the allergic person when they have a reaction
• Greater awareness within schools

For more information on the youth forum contact Mandy East mandy@nasguk.org and please support the NASG Youth Forum Facebook page.
Nurses in Allergy

Hello Everyone! For this issue I would like to keep you up to date with our activities as a committee and to feedback some of what the committee felt to be either thought provoking or learning points from the BSACI conference – you will find the conference feedback on page 11.

So what have we been up to? We met again in July and, for those of you that are already members of the Nurses in Allergy group, you will know that it came to light at the re-formation of the group that we are not a formal committee of the BSACI. We are an affiliated group, which means that the BSACI supports our work and that we have a seat on Council and the Executive where we are able to comment and suggest items/issues, but we are not allowed to vote. This means that, when it counts, nurses do not have a voice. One of the reasons for this is that our members are not all paid members of the BSACI. A questionnaire was sent to get a feel for what you want and how you feel about becoming a member the main group to enable us to go forward with becoming a formal BSACI committee. We currently have 55 members of whom 16 returned a completed questionnaire. Of the 5 who completed the questionnaire who are not yet members, 4 are willing to become members. If you have not had your say please contact Deb Marriage for a questionnaire or myself (email opposite).

In relation to membership the question was also raised regarding what we actually get for our money? Currently you would have access to BSACI guidelines, 6 monthly Allergy Update magazines, reduction in cost to attend courses / conferences. The areas the committee are working on are: looking at different ways of keeping the busy HCP up to date, increasing the volume of standard operating procedures (SOPS) and developing a bank of competencies that you can access. Allergy nursing teams are developing and moving forward and many teams have different bandings emerging. We all know that we should be providing competencies differentiating our roles, but it is often difficult to pull this type of work together whilst keeping up with clinical pressures.

Any comments or suggestions please get in touch.
Janet.chantrell@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Deb.Marriage@UHBristol.nhs.uk

Clinical Immunology Committee News

The Immunology clinical session at the Nottingham summer meeting was well attended with good feedback of form and content. The Clinical Immunology Committee eagerly awaits formal introduction of the IT-based (RCP hosted) accreditation scheme. It is hoped this will improve standards of care nationally and will highlight areas where allergy services are inadequate.

Dr Unsworth will stand down as Chair of the BSACI Immunology Committee at the end of 2011 to be succeeded by Dr Philip Dore, Consultant Immunologist from Hull. The new junior rep is Dr Phil Bright - 3rd year trainee in Bristol.

The BSACI wishes to thank Dr Unsworth (Joe) for his hard work as Chair of the Clinical Immunology Committee.

Contribute to the Mastocytosis Registry

The mastocytosis registry is an anonymous data-base of UK cases of both systemic and cutaneous cases in adults and children.

The aim is to gain information on the epidemiology and management of mastocytosis and its varied symptomatology in the UK.

If you have any cases, please consider contributing to the registry by contacting Dr Bethan Myers at: bethan.myers@ulh.nhs.uk
I had the pleasure of attending this year’s EAACI congress in Istanbul from 11-15 June 2011. The theme of the meeting ‘Bridging Science and Culture’ was reflected in the location of the host city bridging the boundary between Europe and Asia. Over 7900 delegates from around the world had the difficult task of choosing sessions from the scientific programme and, at the same time managing to squeeze in a little sight-seeing time in this historic and magnificent city.

The opening plenary was ‘One Hundred Years of Allergy, Immunotherapy and Asthma Treatment’ and Prof Stephen Durham gave a masterful presentation of the first 100 years of Immunotherapy. The 100 year anniversary of the first published scientific paper on Immunotherapy by Noon was an underlying theme of the scientific programme. Dr Bill Frankland was honoured with the Noon award for lifetime service to immunotherapy and received the award in person at the opening ceremony. It is an amazing privilege to have a living link to the founding years of our specialty.

Prof Tony Frew was awarded the Charles Blackley Award for the Promotion of Allergy as a Specialty in Europe. Scientific highlights were numerous. As well as excellent sessions on all aspects of immunotherapy, molecular allergology has moved from the laboratory and into clinical practice and several sessions focussed on this. ‘Tolerance’ remains a hot topic with interesting updates oral tolerance induction to peanuts and other foods. The role of disrupted skin and lung barrier function in the development of allergic disease was a theme of several presentations.

Dr Nicola Brathwaite, Consultant Paediatric Allergist, Kings College Hospital

BSACI have had a very active year in the media. Many press releases have been sent out by the Communications Committee and Glenis and Adam Fox have been interviewed on TV, radio and in newspapers.

The main media exposure came from the 18 page feature in Raconteur on Allergy which BSACI contributed to in The Times on June 2nd and on June 10th BSACI sent a release out on ‘100 years of Immunotherapy’ when the first paper on allergen specific immunotherapy was published in The Lancet of Dr Leonard Noon’s experiments on hay fever patients.

In the run up to the 2011 Annual Meeting BSACI sent out three press releases on abstracts which had been submitted to the meeting, these were:

• “Steroid refractory asthma patients express lower levels of the immunomodulatory transcription factor FoxP3 and have lower levels of serum vitamin D” Author: Alexandra Nanzer
• “Filaggrin loss-of-function mutations are associated with early onset eczema, eczema severity, and transepidermal water loss at three months of age” Author: Tom Marrs
• “Evidence of desensitization in a study of sublingual immunotherapy for peanut allergy” Author: Edwin Kim

We had calls from Channel 4, Daily Mail and The Times on the above abstracts.

Overall BSACI will continue raise allergy awareness whenever we can, so please do keep sending us information you feel should be covered in the media and we will endeavour to publicise them.

Media activity

BSACI Travel Fellowships

BSACI offer up to £1,000 to attend international meetings.

To be eligible those applying must send the BSACI a copy of the accepted abstract.

Applicants should indicate which scientific meeting they wish to attend together with:

• A brief curriculum vitae
• A supporting letter from their Head of Department confirming attendance at the relevant meeting is appropriate.

Successful applicants are required to submit a brief report of their attendance at the meeting, within 3 months of attending.

Further details, including submission deadlines for specific meetings, can be found on www.bsaci.org or by calling the BSACI Office on 0207 501 3910.

Fiona Rayner, BSACI • Chief Executive

Thanks to Alan Stern for the photograph.
New BSACI London Office

How time flies! Since the last Update when we had just bought the office the Society has now been in its new office for just over three months. You will recall we bought the office in Battersea Park, London in April and moved in around the end of June, when all the redecorating had been completed.

The main purpose of buying an office was to house BSACI staff and run the operations of the Society on a more secure basis. As a small society we were always vulnerable when renting space in premises which were never our own.

With interest rates being so low, putting money into a property was a sensible option and as luck would have it, we withdrew money from our investment portfolio just before some of shares fell.

We thought we’d share this internal picture of the office with you, if you are in the neighbourhood do stop by and say hello.

We also have four or five desk spaces to rent, so if you know anyone who maybe interested in renting desk space from us please ask them to email Fiona@bsaci.org or telephone Fiona directly on 0207 501 3911. We have a boardroom which can be used by those renting free of charge, we also hire the meeting room out for external meetings.

Fiona Rayner, BSACI - Chief Executive

Launch of Wiley Job listings site

Wiley-Blackwell has launched Wiley Job Network www.wileyjobnetwork.com a full service job board which builds on their strong connection with professionals, researchers and academics. The network, comprised of eleven specialized career sites, will deliver high quality job opportunities from a wide range of employers in the corporate, academic, government and not for profit sectors.

The considerable traffic and subject diversity of Wiley Online Library are the key components of the business model behind Wiley Job Network. The job board will tap into the breadth of Wiley Online Library content to display job advertisements for open positions directly to millions of potential job seekers using its products and services.

Job listings from Wiley Job Network will display relevant subject categories on Wiley Online Library and a “Job Widget” mapping new job listings to relevant subjects within Wiley Online Library will automatically generate these listings. The job listings will appear on Journal Homepages, Early View pages, Issue pages, Tables of Contents pages, Article abstract pages and Article full text HTML pages.

Revenue attributable to job listings that appear on Clinical & Experimental Allergy within Wiley Online Library will generate royalties for BSACI. So if you have any vacancies please do either contact me directly or visit the website directly.

Fiona Rayner
BSACI Chief Executive
Noticeboard

BSACI Allergy Training Days for Trainees

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>FACILITATOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24 October 2011</td>
<td>Southampton General Hospital</td>
<td>Dr Arshad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16 December 2011</td>
<td>St Mary’s Hospital, London</td>
<td>Dr Claudia Gore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7 February 2012</td>
<td>Royal National Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, London</td>
<td>Dr Glenis Scadding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 May 2012</td>
<td>Northern General Hospital, Sheffield</td>
<td>Dr William Egner</td>
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DIARY DATES

See www.bsaci.org for further details, meetings and courses

Meetings

4-8 December 2011
World Allergy Organisation Meeting
Cancun, Mexico

7-9 December 2011
BTS Winter Meeting
London, UK

2-6 March 2012
AAAAI 2012
Orlando Florida

12-25 March 2012
Pan America Allergy Society Annual Meeting – PAAS Spring Training course & Seminar
Dallas, Texas

18-21 March 2012
World Immune regulation Meeting V
Davos, Switzerland

11-14 April 2012
EACCI – Focused meeting: Drug Hypersensitivity
Munich, Germany

21-24 April 2012
V World Asthma and COPD forum
New York, USA

25-28 April 2012
World Conference of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group
Edinburgh, UK

The BSACI Office

The BSACI Office is at: BSACI, Studio 16, Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG
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Research Officer: Pia Huber  Pia@bsaci.org
Temporary Administrator: Ruvimbo Nyandoro  Ruvimbo@bsaci.org

www.bsaci.org

Ruvimbo Nyandoro - Temporary Administrator and Schola Muhoro with her son Nathan who is 2 years old and Fiona Rayner, holding Schola’s new offspring - Eden Olivia Muhoro and our very own Treasurer Robin Gore. All perched on a very small sofa in the new BSACI Head Office.
Prescribing Information
(Please refer to the full Summary of Product Characteristics before prescribing)

Avamys® Nasal Spray Suspension (Fluticasone furoate 27.5 micrograms metered spray)

Uses: Treatment of symptoms of allergic rhinitis in adults and children aged 6 years and over.

Dosage and Administration:
For intranasal use only.

Adults: Two sprays per nostril once daily (total daily dose, 110 micrograms). Once symptoms controlled, use maintenance dose of one spray per nostril once daily (total daily dose, 55 micrograms). Reduce to lowest dose at which effective control of symptoms is maintained.

Children aged 6 to 11 years: One spray per nostril once daily (total daily dose, 55 micrograms). If patient is not adequately responding, increase daily dose to 110 micrograms (two sprays per nostril, once daily) and reduce back down to 55 microgram daily dose once control is achieved.

Contraindication:
Hypersensitivity to active substance or excipients.

Side Effects:
Systemic effects of nasal corticosteroids may occur, particularly when prescribed at high doses for prolonged periods. Very common: epistaxis. Epistaxis was generally mild to moderate, with incidences in adults and adolescents higher in long-term use (more than 6 weeks). Common: nasal ulceration. Rare: hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis, angioedema, rash, and urticaria.

Precautions:
Treatment with higher than recommended doses of nasal corticosteroids may result in clinically significant adrenal suppression. Consider additional systemic corticosteroid cover during periods of stress or elective surgery. Caution when prescribing concurrently with other corticosteroids. Growth retardation has been reported in children receiving some nasal corticosteroids at licensed doses. Monitor height of children.

Pregnancy and Lactation:
No adequate data available. Recommended nasal doses result in minimal systemic exposure. It is unknown if fluticasone furoate nasal spray is excreted in breast milk. Only use if the expected benefits to the mother outweigh the possible risks to the foetus or child. Drug interactions: Caution is recommended when co-administering with inhibitors of the cytochrome P450 3A4 system, e.g. ketoconazole and ritonavir.

Presentation and Basic NHS cost:
Avamys Nasal Spray Suspension: 120 sprays: £6.44

Marketing Authorisation Number:
EU/1/07/434/003

Legal category:
POM.

PL holder:
Glaxo Group Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex, UB6 0NN, United Kingdom.

Last date of revision:
January 2010.

Reference:

Date of preparation: March 2011 UK/FF/0088/11

Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at www.yellowcard.gov.uk. Adverse events should also be reported to GlaxoSmithKline on 0800 221 441

Not actual size
You can count on Aptamil infant formula

Breastmilk

Aptamil

Cow & Gate

HiPP

SMA


IMPORTANT NOTICE: Breastfeeding is best for babies. Infant formula is suitable from birth when babies are not breastfed. It is recommended that all formula milks be used on the advice of a doctor, midwife, health visitor, public health nurse, dietitian, pharmacist or other professional responsible for maternal and child care.