

ABCD Chairs' Report – Autumn 2024

2024 is proving to be a fantastic year for ABCD members with new programmes, events, and activities. The executive continues to meet on a weekly basis to actively discuss and plan any aspects of work that could, would, and should impact on ABCD members. We have our fingers in lots of pies and do our best to advocate on your behalf at every opportunity!

This year, the ABCD Executive has also focused on strengthening our governance and reporting responsibilities and our work with contractors.

Externally, we have been working to strengthen and enhance our relationships with partner organisations such as DUK and YDEF as well as our representation on national bodies.

In collaboration with our parent charity, Diabetes Care Trust, we have once again offered our members the opportunity to apply for research grants up to the value of £50,000. Unfortunately, despite much promotion, we have only received one application this year which is going through the stringent review process of our Research Grant Review Committee with the decision on whether or not this application will be awarded the funding to be made later on in the year.

We are delighted to once again be administering our “Dragons Den” style research grant programme for a second year. This programme provides researchers with the opportunity to present their proposals to a panel of experts with a chance to win. The deadline for applications is Friday 4th October. Please consider applying or encourage any colleagues to do so. Further information can be found here: <https://abcd.care/dragons-den>.

To date, in 2024 we have successfully hosted a number of national, regional and training events including:

- ABCD Diabetes Update
- ABCD CESR Application Support and Development Workshop
- ABCD Midlands Regional meeting
- ABCD DTN- UK Educators days in Manchester and London

We are looking forward to delivering our annual conference for DTN and ABCD on the 4th and 5th September.

Later in the year the dates for 2025 will be announced, so please let your trainees know to look out for them. Confirmed events on the calendar so far include:

- ABCD Diabetes Update, 29th – 31st January 2025
- 7th Joint ABCD UKKA meeting, 12th February 2025

In addition to our in-person events we are also hosting a quarterly webinar programme which was launched in February 2024. To date, topics have included: [Diabetes and Ramadan](#) and [Re:Mission study – learning from staff and service user insights from the NHS Low Calorie Diet pilot](#). If you missed these webinars members can still view them online at <https://abcd.care/resource/current/demand-webinar-diabetes-and-ramadan>.

Our third webinar of the year will take place on Thursday 3rd October and will cover *Screening for and managing early type 1 diabetes*. As screening initiatives are being set up internationally, and with the availability of clinical coding for presymptomatic type 1 diabetes (T1D), an increasing number of people are being identified with T1D before they need insulin treatment. These people need careful support and care, and it falls on us in secondary care to provide this. This session will outline the different screening initiatives around the UK, the approaches to managing early T1D and to support learning we will review some case histories. You can register for this webinar using this link: <https://abcd.care/events/webinar-screening-and-managing-early-type-1-diabetes>

The final webinar of 2024 is scheduled to take place on 5th December and will focus on the ABCD Audits.

We have also launched our new regular podcast series (ABCD Inspire Podcast) featuring regular podcasts, chaired by Dr Petra Hanson and featuring experts in the field discussing topics that matter to them and our members. Podcasts are being released monthly and we have released three so far including:

- [Dr Emma Wilmot](#) In this podcast Emma shares how her own personal circumstances and experiences inspired her journey into the field of diabetes, how that journey has progressed throughout her career and parenthood, the challenges that she has had to overcome trying to create a balanced lifestyle, and what exciting research projects she is currently focussed on.
- [Professor Parth Narendran](#) In this podcast Parth shares his updates on autoimmunity in diabetes, his current research projects and how research has given him new opportunities
- [Dr Hermione Price](#) – In this podcast Hermione shares her interests in diabetes and research and her experiences of how to get research funded, getting the right supervisor and what to prioritise

We have recorded three further podcasts with Prash Vas, Mark Evans, and me, and these will be launched soon. If you have any ideas of topics for future webinars or podcasts, please do get in touch.

Now that the British Journal of Diabetes has been accepted for membership by the Committee of Publishing Ethics (COPE) Editor Marie-France Kong and Deputy Editor Chris Walton are working hard on securing articles for our application to PubMed. We are also inviting expressions of interest for the role of BJD Editor when Marie France steps down – contact us for more information at info@abcd.care.

Our education programme continues, through our hosted organisations including the [Joint British Diabetes Societies for Inpatient Care Group](#) and the [Obesity Management Collaborative](#) as well as the [Diabetes Technology Network](#). We have excellent educational content in multimedia format.

This year's ABCD Consultant Programme (CDP) will be taking place from 4th – 18th October at the Novotel in Birmingham. For more information, please visit <https://abcd.care/events/abcd-consultant-development-programme-cdp-2024>

As I look back on the year my thoughts also turn to our plans for 2025 which include delivering the 3rd year of the Diabetes Update programme (29-31 January 2025, Holywell Park, Loughborough) , the

Joint ABCD and UKKA meeting (12 Feb 2025 Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport), our annual conference, continuing with the educational programme, extending activities internationally, continued collaboration with DUK and PCDS on workforce strategy and a structured review of our lifelong learning programme for members.

With over 800 members ABCD has a strong, vibrant, and active membership and a powerful voice representing diabetes specialists and the patients for whom we care. There is always room for growth, however, and it is important that we are welcoming and inclusive in our membership. I continue to urge all members to act as ambassadors for the organisation and welcome and encourage those who have yet to join to consider signing up. We are working with international partner organisations from around the world who have expressed an interest in associating and affiliating with us. If you have links with national organisations in different parts of the world, who you think might like to talk to us about how ABCD can help them (or equally how they can help us!), then get in touch.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sympathies to the family of Melissa Cull who sadly passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. Melissa had worked with Bob Ryder for many years supporting the data entry for ABCD audits.

Finally, as always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our corporate sponsors of both ABCD and DTN without whom none of these programmes and supporting activities would be possible. Sponsors include: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim Eli Lilly, Sanofi, A Menarini Farmaceutica Internazionale SRL, Abbott Laboratories Ltd, Dexcom, GlucoRx Limited, Insulet International Ltd, Ypsomed Ltd, A. Menarini Diagnostics, Air Liquide Healthcare Ltd, Medtronic, Medtrum Ltd and Roche Diabetes Care.

As always, if you think of things that you feel ABCD should be doing, then please let us know. We are your organisation, and we represent and advocate for you.

I look forward to seeing you all at this year's conference.

Ketan Dhatariya,

Chair ABCD, Norwich.