

ABCD Chairs' Report – Spring 2024

2024 is already promising to be a fantastic year for ABCD members with new programmes, events, and activities. The executive meets on a weekly basis, and we 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!

I am delighted to announce that we have extended associate membership to all healthcare professionals who represent the multidisciplinary team that is essential to the care of all people with diabetes. Associate members receive all the benefits of membership except voting rights at the AGM which helps to ensure our purpose, goals and ambitions remain led **by** and **for** consultant diabetologists. This last issue has been debated repeatedly over the years and each time we always come back to our core membership.

In this, my first year, as chair of the committee and ABCD Executive we have strengthened our governance and reporting responsibilities.

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 been able to successfully award two research grants totalling £50,000; the first to Gordon Sloan at the University of Sheffield who will be investigating the efficacy of cerebral bioenergetics as a biomarker for neuropathic pain in diabetic peripheral neuropathy, and the second to Lauren Quinn at the University of Birmingham who will be testing the acceptability of adult screening for type 1 diabetes.

We also introduced an exciting new “Dragons Den” style research grant programme where researchers presented their proposals to a panel of experts, and we were delighted to award a total of £20,000 between Emma Johns at NHS Glasgow and Clyde for her project on hybrid closed loop systems to prevent recurrent DKA in high risk people with diabetes, and Oluwaseun Anyiam at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton for their project exploring if high intensity interval training can improve maintenance of type 2 diabetes remission. I'd like to thank all those who applied for grants and to especially thank all those involved in the review of the applications which was a huge commitment led by Susan Wong and the research committee. Please feel free to apply when the initiative is launched again later this year

2024 has kicked off with a number of events already. Our extremely popular and well respected Diabetes Update programme was held in January. This three-day meeting for SpRs provided a fantastic opportunity for networking and learning. Delegate feedback has been excellent. I am very grateful to all those who contributed their time and expertise in developing this important programme. Later in the year the dates for 2025 will be announced, so please let your trainees know to look out for them.

We've also delivered an event to support those looking to achieve CESR (Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration - now known as the portfolio pathway) in diabetes and endocrinology and two diabetes technology network educators meetings. We have a packed programme for the rest of the year including our annual conference for DTN and ABCD on the 4th and 5th September – make sure

you save the date for this important event. Check out our events pages for more information on regional and national ABCD and DTN meetings - <https://abcd.care/events>.

In addition to our in-person events we are also running a quarterly webinar programme, the first of which was held on the 8th February covering the topic of Diabetes and Ramadan – with Holy Month approaching if you missed this webinar you can still view it and help support your patients to prepare by visiting <https://abcd.care/resource/current/demand-webinar-diabetes-and-ramadan>. I am also delighted to announce that we will shortly be supplementing our webinar programme with a new Podcast channel featuring regular podcasts with experts in the field discussing the topics that matter to you.

I'm thrilled to let you know that the British Journal of Diabetes has been accepted for membership by the Committee of Publishing Ethics (COPE) – this is a big step forward in our preparations for PubMed application. Marie-France Kong and Chris Walton have been working very hard behind the scenes to get this done. From our next issue, all journal articles will be published under a Creative Commons licence ensuring we truly operate an open access Journal.

Our education programme continues, and we are delighted to host the Joint British Diabetes Societies for Inpatient Care Group and the Obesity Management Collaborative as well as the Diabetes Technology Network.

With membership numbers touching 800 we have 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 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.

As chair of the ABCD committee 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, Eli Lilly, Sanofi, A Menarini Farmaceutica Internazionale SRL, Abbott Laboratories Ltd, Dexcom, GlucoRx Limited, Insulet International Ltd, Ypsomed Ltd, A. Menrini 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.