



Palliative Care Research Society

Newsletter

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PCRS Annual Scientific Meeting

Abstract submission for our annual scientific meeting opened on Monday 2nd April until Friday 15th June. Full details of abstract submission are on our website at www.pcrs.org.uk. The focus of the meeting is 'End-of-Life Research', and our keynote speaker is Professor Irene Higginson. The meeting is being held at St Anne's College, Oxford on Thursday 13th September 2007. Further information about registration for the conference is again on the website.

Membership fees

Can we please remind you that the membership fee for the PCRS has gone up from £20 to £30? This still represents excellent value for money, particularly as you can re-coup some or all of this fee in reduced admission rates to PCRS or EAPC conferences. Standing orders to the society can be easily amended on-line or by telephone with your bank or building society. Unfortunately we are not allowed to do this for you. Alternatively, you can send the monies to our treasurer, Dr Gunn Grande, The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, The University of Manchester, Coupland 3, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL or contact her at gunn.grande@manchester.ac.uk

Forthcoming conferences

**The 10th EAPC Congress will be held in: Budapest, Hungary
Thursday 7th June - Saturday 9th June 2007**

This biennial European palliative care conference is unique in being truly multi-professional in terms of delegates and scientific program. All palliative care professionals are welcome to this exciting combination of relevant research, evidence based knowledge, policy and public health issues. This is the first EAPC Congress in Eastern Europe, and is a great opportunity to update yourself on the evidence base of palliative care, get inspired in your clinical work, and research and meet and discuss with colleagues from all over Europe and the world.

Further details are available from: <http://www.eapcnet.org/Budapest2007/>
Abstract submission is already closed

**The Help the Hospices conference will be held in Harrogate, UK
2nd October – 4th October 2007**

The Help the Hospices 2007 conference is aimed at those working in or with hospices. The conference will focus on delivering person centered services, maintaining healthy organizations, and securing hospices' role in the wider health economy. Abstract submission opened on the 15th January, and will close on the 20th April 2007. Submission is welcomed from both those wishing to present scientific abstracts and those which reflect hospices' tradition of innovative thinking and best practice.

Abstract submission and further information is on-line at
www.helpthehospices.org.uk/education/



Conference 2007 : 'New Partnerships, New Perspectives'

Sunday 7th – Tuesday 9th October 2007. Thistle Hotel, Bristol, UK.

The focus will be on partnership with health care professionals working in the community setting, and Tuesday will be devoted to exploring and debating the many shared areas of interest as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

Attending whole conference £275, one day attendance (Mon or Tues) £120, Sunday attendance £66. Depending on days attended fees include refreshments and six month membership of the BLS for non-members. A 10% Discount is available on the conference fees & hotel rates if booked before the 31st May 2007.

Abstracts are welcome on any aspect of lymphoedema, or related fields, that may inform practice, research or education. If you are undertaking any audits, surveys or research please consider submitting an abstract for a presentation or poster. The BLS Conference Application form and the Abstract Submission form are available from the BLS office.
Email: admin@blsac.demon.co.uk



The 7th Palliative Care Congress

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
29 April – 1 May 2008

Full details including the Conference programme are available on their website:

www.pccongress.org.uk

Call for papers:

Call: Friday 25th May 2007

Close: Friday 12th October 2007

Registration will be available from August 2007

Tel: +44 (0)23 8058 2549

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PCRS website

Have you checked out the PCRS website recently. This is where you'll find information about the PCRS such as our constitution and strategy, details of abstract submission, archived newsletters and useful links. Make sure you've bookmarked it at www.pcrs.org.uk!

Forthcoming seminars and study days



Social and Psychological Aspects of Dying in Old Age
ESRC Seminar Series: February 2007-May 2008

A series of four seminars, funded by the ESRC, is being held over a period of 18 months during 2007 and 2008. The aim of the series is to develop new thinking about the processes of dying in old age drawing on a range of social science disciplines including geography, psychology, sociology and gerontology and older people themselves.

Seminar Programme	Location	Date
Seminar 1 <i>Places where Dying in Old Age Occurs</i>	Lancaster	14 February 2007
Seminar 2 <i>Processes of Dying in Old Age</i>	Nottingham	5 July 2007
Seminar 3 <i>Priorities for Older People Facing Death in Old Age</i>	Southampton	1 November 2007
Seminar 4 <i>Planning for Death in Old Age</i>	Edinburgh	May 2008

The first seminar was held in Lancaster in February and was attended by 45 participants. We plan to build on the issues and questions raised at the next seminar in being held in Nottingham on July 5th 2007. This seminar series is being organised and hosted by:

Dr Katherine Froggatt, International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University,
Professor Sheila Payne, International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University,
Professor Jane Seymour, School of Nursing, University of Nottingham and Professor Julia

Addington-Hall, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Southampton. All organisers are core members of the Cancer Experiences Collaborative (see www.ceco.org.uk)

For further information about the seminars or to book a place, please contact Katherine Froggatt on k.froggatt@lancaster.ac.uk or telephone 01524 593309.

APM study days

In October 2007, two study days are planned:

"Appraising Literature in Palliative Care" on Thursday 18th October 2007 and **"Getting Started in Palliative Care Research"** on Friday 19th October 2007. These are designed as a high quality introduction to research for specialist registrars, but will also be very suitable for other palliative care professionals. All are welcome to attend, and there will be a combination of presentations and workshops to get you thinking about the practicalities and realities of research. The days will be held in Newport, Wales, and can be attended either singly or together - further details and booking contacts will be available shortly on the Association for Palliative Medicine website at <http://www.palliative-medicine.org/> and also on the PCRS website.

PCRS Conference – Challenges of spiritual care: Theory and Practice

Nearly 60 people attended our latest PCRS conference in London on the 17th of January, focusing on spiritual care. The feedback from the conference was very positive, with particularly positive comments made about the quality of the speakers. The philosophical presentations in the morning were particularly challenging and interesting.

Typical comments from the delegates:

"I enjoyed the day enormously, very stimulating"

"Excellent day – thank you"

"Lively speakers, good content stimulating deeper thought and reflection"

"Let's have another similar conference"

Don't let your abstract let you down!

Once again the PCRS committee are about to go through the interesting, challenging and sometimes painful process of reviewing anonymised abstracts for the PCRS one day scientific meeting. However, we know from previous conferences that we are sometimes left with a feeling that an abstract did not do full justice to the work described. However, we can only judge the merit and quality of the research on the basis what was actually stated in the abstract. If you have an excellent study, but the abstract is poorly structured and/or lacks sufficient detail to convince the reader of the study's merits, it will not be accepted for oral or poster presentation. We therefore wanted to mention some of the things we felt let authors down last time, to help you this time around!

- When assessing abstracts, we looked for originality, relevance to palliative care and clarity of presentation. However, the abstract background did not always make it clear why the study was important to palliative care or that it stated something new. If the study was similar to previous work, it was not always stated why there was a good case for repeating previous work and what was added.

- Abstracts at times appeared hurriedly written with a resulting lack of conciseness and coherence. Lack of coherence was exemplified in the title not reflecting the aims of the study, the method and results not corresponding with the study aims, or the conclusions not following from the results. This leaves assessors worried about authors' ability to present a good, consistent paper about the work.
- Some abstracts gave too little information on the study methods and/or analysis to enable us to judge the likely soundness of the results presented. Often there was also a lack of information on sample selection or size, which again raised concerns about accepting a presentation that may have results of questionable value or generalisability.
- Finally, as we were evaluating abstracts for a scientific meeting of a research society we were unable to give a high score to abstracts that mainly appeared to describe an initiative or service without having a clear component of evaluation or assessment.

Writing a good abstract is hard, as you are asked to be highly informative, clear and structured in the space of 250 words. However, it is worth taking a bit more time over those 250 words and to use the word limit to the full.

Joining the PCRS

The society is easy to join, with full details and an on-line form on the website at www.pcrs.org.uk. Membership costs just £30 per year and benefits include:

- Reduced registration fees for some of the conferences organised, or jointly organised by the PCRS (note: individuals who are considering attending at least one such conference during the year will often find it economically advantageous to join the PCRS simply in order to benefit from the reduced conference fee). Note: this does not apply to every conference.
- Access to a list of members' contact details and research interests to facilitate multi-professional and multi-centre research initiatives.
- PCRS newsletters.
- Reduced subscription fees to the journal 'Mortality'.

Contact Details:

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