

Palliative Care Research Society



A strategy for 2007 - 2008

1. Aims

1.1. Charitable objectives

The object of the PCRS is to promote research into all aspects of palliative care and to facilitate its dissemination. This will remain a clear vision for PCRS activity which is increasingly important within the UK research context.

1.2. Objectives for 2007-8:

- Building research capacity - through events focused on methods / methodology, masterclasses and 'meet the experts'.
- Engaging with academics and clinicians -
 - Strengthen links with all academic departments of palliative care
 - Enable clinical staff to engage with research in palliative care
- Working with professional organisations and interest groups – in role of 'information broker' to co-ordinate educational activity and maintain profile of palliative care research

2. Governance

2.1. Constitution

The PCRS is a registered charity (No. 1104701) and is governed by an executive committee of 12 members that include 3 trustees of the charity (chair, secretary and treasurer). An additional 2 members can be co-opted to the committee for specific roles (e.g. representative of Doyle Club).

2.2. Objectives for 2007-8:

- Ensure the Declaration of Trust (our primary reference document) is posted on our website and available to all members
- Compile list of current executive members and a succession planning chart of their terms of office
- Ensure annual Charity Commission report returned and annual indemnity insurance maintained
- Allocate administrative support tasks for trustees and identify roles for executive members

- Review size of executive committee, and frequency and mode of meetings in relation to expenses
- Review methods of representation of membership at AGM

3. Membership and finance

3.1. Current position

PCRS is open to those over 18 years of age that are interested in furthering the work of the society and who have paid the annual subscription fee. At Dec 1st 2006, account balance is approximately £16,500 with 127 members. Analysis of the membership reveals that 53% are medical, 31% nursing and 16% from other disciplines. PCRS must ensure that its activities engage with its constituency and are within budget if it is to continue as a key player in the UK palliative care scene.

3.2. Objectives for 2007-8:

- Establish on-line joining and renewal via website
- Increase representation of clinicians and senior academics within membership
- Explore moving some funds into interest-earning accounts
- Survey membership on research needs and/or prioritise specific options for events

4. Events

4.1. Previous activity

Each year, PCRS has held a research meeting that is either linked with the biennial palliative care congress or is a stand alone conference in intervening years. In addition, there have usually been two other events that focus on research methodology or specific symptom research.

4.2. Objectives for 2007-8:

- Continue 2 meetings per year
 - one focused on general research methodology and training
 - one focused on an aspect of palliative care that merits research
- Review need and purpose of annual research meeting when not linked to PCC – scope for linking with other annual research meetings
- Launch the Frances Sheldon Research Prize in 2007 (£100)
- Produce calendar of PCRS events and make available to membership through email and website
- Produce detailed report of each event for the AGM that includes content, attendance, finance (each event will be cost-neutral or profitable) and feedback

5. Communications

5.1. Previous activity

Communication with PCRS membership has traditionally been through a printed newsletter sent once or twice a year, an annual membership list and a basic website hosted on the St George's Hospital (London) server. For PCRS to expand membership, and engage with clinicians and academics alike, increased communication is vital.

5.2. Objectives for 2007-8:

- Produce frequent electronic bulletin detailing recent PCRS activities, future events, executive committee contacts via link to website
- Transfer website to dedicated Palliative Care Congress server and encourage use through emailed links, membership applications, events calendar, newsletter and abstract submission
- Identify role of information officer to communicate PCRS activity to webmaster

Mike Bennett
Chair of PCRS
January 2nd 2007