



Christmas 2012

It's the time of the year one becomes excited by the rituals of Christmas and I have 'wrapped' and am now contemplating what's happened this year-educationally speaking, of course. With the change in Team to Sam, Tom and Zoe, comes enhanced area coverage, and greater learning opportunities from Cardiology in Frome, to Hips and Knees in Chippenham and First Fives in Bath.

Reflecting on the year, the evening multi-speaker events have been rated highly. One very deliberate direction is to provide opportunities to learn about problems of the very elderly with complex co-morbidity, and we had our first Frail, Elderly and Falling afternoon event introducing to all of us new Consultants in COE who also specialise in orthopaedics. The COE section is now one of the biggest 'chapters' on our website (see http://www.bathgped.org/about_us.htm) where you will find many relevant topics from the Vitamin D story to an up to date summary on Stroke care locally. Next year we are collaborating with Avon & Wilts Cancer Service: the Primary Care Cancer Risk Assessment Tool will be introduced by its author, but we will focus on the care of our elderly patients with cancer too. At the recent Facing the Future Together meeting we had equal numbers of GPs to Consultants. At the recent 'Facing the Future Together' meeting, for the first time we had equal numbers of GPs to Consultants. We discussed how we can deal with the Urgent Care Crisis together. Education, it seems to me, often leads to enhanced communication and understanding and I am so pleased we are in a position to initiate collaboration.

We will always aim to keep you up to date. Our programme evolves with new topics (watch out for 'Medically Unexplained Symptoms' in 2013) but we will always cover the essentials, too, aiming to cover areas of the curriculum every 2 years. A member has recently written to me appreciative of local ENT Guidelines that were introduced at an evening meeting. If you haven't had a look at 'RUH for Clinicians' for some time, do - there are many referral templates, patient information leaflets written by Consultant colleagues and the all-important telephone advice lines for many specialties now. They have come as a result of discussions at meetings of how we can work more effectively with our local RUH colleagues.

I wish I could end the year telling you all about the improved, as in falling, meeting DNA rate, but alas, I cannot. It's so disappointing when 7 out of 27 don't turn up, as was the case for our annual Skin Club. This is rude and selfish and I am very sorry to those of you who were on the waiting list. We will do all we can to create fairness.

We plan to send you a questionnaire in 2013, to allow us to listen to you, and tell us what you like about BGPert and what you would like us to consider.

It was our last Educator planning meeting of the year on Wednesday 12th December; time to turn the page to 2013, one of the most significant years ever for Primary Care, as we evolve into CCGs.

We wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2013,

from Nicole and the BGPert team