

# ANS THEwer

Monthly newsletter of The Association of Neurophysiological Scientists

## This month, at a glance:

- [Editor's Note](#)
- [Membership Renewals Now Due!](#)
- [ANS AGM Agenda](#)
- [ANS Scientific Meeting Programme - York](#)
- [RCCP Update \(reprinted\)](#)
- [Situations Vacant](#)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to February 2010. Is that love in the air or just the strange whiff of collodion?

This month's [ANSwer](#) brings the usual mix of information but is somewhat of an RCCP 'special'. In preparation for the forthcoming AGM, to be held as part of the York Scientific meeting, there comes the opportunity to nominate members to ANS Council. ANS council is an important part of our present and our future. If you would like to help shape decision making and the direction of our profession over the coming years,

why not put yourself forward. There are many 'limbs' to Council which may hold particular interest for you, from education to professional affairs, from administration to editing our various media. If you think you can help and have views to share, why not get in touch? Nomination forms are attached at the end of the newsletter.

The programme for the meeting has been updated and is again included in this edition along with a registration form which you'll need to complete and return to EBS.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### ANS Scientific Meetings for 2010

Spring 2010

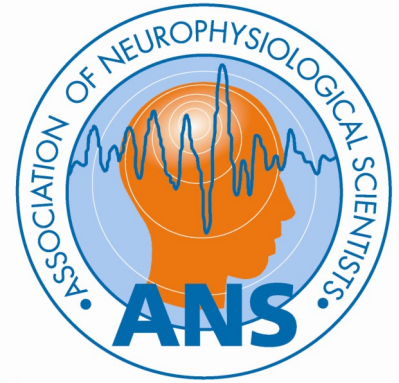
**Park Inn, York  
April 9th & 10th**

**Updated Programme inside!  
Registration form inside!**

### ANS Study Days for 2010

10th February 2010

Work Based Assessors training day



ISSUE 4:34

FEBRUARY 2010

### ANS Council & Representatives

**President:** Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield, CBE.

**Chair:** Evadne Cookman.

email: [evadne.cookman@ansuk.org](mailto:evadne.cookman@ansuk.org)

**Secretary:** Kelly St. Pier, Dept of Clinical Neurophysiology, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3JH.

email: [secretary@ansuk.org](mailto:secretary@ansuk.org)

**Vacancy Coordinator & ANS Business Administration:** ANS, Executive Business Support (EBS), City Wharf, Davidson Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9DZ. Phone 0845 519 4045, Fax 0121 355 2420.

email: [ebs@ansuk.org](mailto:ebs@ansuk.org)

**Treasurer:** Mary Boland, Dept Clinical Neurophysiology, 3rd Floor Central, 250 Euston Road, London. NW1 2PG.

email [mary.boland@uclh.nhs.uk](mailto:mary.boland@uclh.nhs.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Karene Taylor, Neurophysiology Dept, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Treliske, Truro, Cornwall. Phone 01872 252430.

email [karene.taylor@rcht.cornwall.nhs.uk](mailto:karene.taylor@rcht.cornwall.nhs.uk)

**Editor:** Darren Martin-Lamb, Dept of Clinical Neurophysiology, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester LE1 5WW. Phone 0116 2585621.

email [news@ansuk.org](mailto:news@ansuk.org)

**Distributor:** Jane Glover, Dept of Clinical Neurophysiology, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester LE1 5WW. Phone 0116 2585621.

email [cyrilina@hotmail.com](mailto:cyrilina@hotmail.com)

## ANS

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE!

Membership renewals are now due. If you have not received your renewal notice, never fear, yours is on it's way! If you do not receive yours by post soon, please contact Karene Taylor directly.

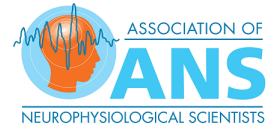
Costs for 2010/2011 remain the same as last year and are as follows :-

<b>Full Member</b>	<b>£45.00</b>
<b>Associate Member</b>	<b>£45.00</b>
<b>Student Member</b>	<b>£15.00</b>

Please note that all students who have passed their Part 1 exams are now eligible to pay Associate Member rates. All membership rates are published on the ANS website [www.ansuk.org](http://www.ansuk.org)



### **ANS Annual General Meeting Park Hotel York, 10th April 2010**



#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and matters arising.
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Report on Educational Affairs
6. Report on Professional Affairs
7. Report on Membership
8. JANS Editor's report
9. Report on International Affairs
10. Election of Council Members
11. Election of Accountants
12. Election of Bankers
13. Any other Business
14. Date of next meeting

## UPDATED PROGRAMME FOR ANS SPRING SCIENTIFIC MEETING AND AGM

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Park Inn – York**

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

12:30	Registration and Exhibition	
13:15	Welcome	Joanne Horrocks
13:20	MS – The future and new treatments	Dr Andrew Heald - York
14:00	ADEM – A case study	Debbie Clayton - York
14:30	Refreshments and Exhibition	
15:00	Carpal tunnel pathway	Dr Ian Smith - Leeds
15:30	'A Sensitive Man?'	Martyn Thompson - Halifax
16:00	TBC	Dr Sibte Hasan - York
16:40	Close	

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

9:00	Registration and Exhibition	
9:30	Illness perceptions associated with seizure disorders	Kimberly Whitehead - Sheffield
10:10	"Old Brain"	Dr Phil Duffey - York
10:50	Refreshments and Exhibition	
11:20	AGM	
12:15	Lunch and Exhibition	
13:15	TBC	Dr Shwe Tun – Halifax
13:55	MSC - update	
14:30	Case Study	L Smith – Hull
15:00	Close	

## ANS

### RCCP's Political Campaign for the Statutory Regulation of Clinical Physiologists

In these cold and dark winter days, I would like to start this update by wishing you all the very best for the New Year. As I'm sure you will agree, 2010 is likely to be a key year for our professions, with the process of regulation hopefully gathering pace and with Modernising Scientific Careers likely to make a significant impact on our educational and professional pathways.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the registrants who have been personally involved in the campaign. Your support and help in approaching local MPs has not only been a welcome contribution in our aim to speed up statutory regulation, but it has also been absolutely vital in ensuring that decision-makers in Westminster, Whitehall and in the devolved institutions understand the important role we play in patient care.

As ever, the RCCP will continue to represent its registrants to ensure that their voices are heard and to campaign on the urgent statutory regulation of clinical physiologists in the wider interest of patient safety.

As you will see from the sections below, the RCCP has not sat still in the last couple of months and has been working closely with registrants, Parliamentarians and officials at the Department of Health to raise the profile of clinical physiology and to speed up the process towards regulation.

Warm regards,

Anne Burge

Honorary Chair



### [RCCP RENEWALS](#)

All registrants will receive a letter shortly regarding the 2010 renewal.

### [CHANGE OF DETAILS](#)

Please remember to inform RCCP if any of your details change, such as a change address, workplace, email address or if you gain new qualifications.

### [Campaign update](#)

It is clear that the RCCP's campaign has driven statutory regulation for clinical physiologists significantly up the political agenda last year.

In July, the Department of Health published a joint statement by the four UK Health Departments which said that the regulation of clinical physiologists would be in place by 2011. This was a great achievement and the RCCP would like to greatly thank its members for their active engagement with Parliamentarians and officials. It is clear that the discussion has now moved away from *whether* regulation should be in place towards *when* regulation will be in place and *what* it should look like.

Since the publication of the statement in June, the RCCP has met with the Department of Health and the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) on a regular basis to discuss the progress towards a Section 60 order. Since the announcement, the RCCP has also become an active member of the steering group on regulation to define the terms of reference of the Section 60 order and the form in which regulation is likely to take place.

## ANS

The RCCP is very much committed to ensuring that statutory regulation is in place as soon as possible in the interests of patient safety. We will therefore continue to work with the Department of Health to ensure that registrant's views are considered during the consultation process.

However, we remain very concerned that, although a programme board and steering group are now in place, little more has happened and we are fearful that regulation will not happen as quickly as we were initially led to believe.

In our engagement with the Department of Health and interested Parliamentarians, we will therefore very much focus on ensuring that no delays occur to the statutory regulation so that regulation takes place as planned by autumn 2011. Any further delays are simply unacceptable.

### Call to Action!

Very shortly, a number of supportive MPs are planning to table an Early Day Motion (EDM) in the House of Commons. This motion puts on record the support for the regulation of clinical physiologists by a cross-party group of supporters.

As many of you have done last year, please encourage your local MP to sign this motion as soon as it is tabled because the more signatures a motion can accrue, the more likely an issue is to be taken seriously by the Government. Once the motion is tabled you will be able to find out further information on it (including its designated number) on the RCCP website.

When asking your MP to sign the motion we would also encourage you to update them on our progress towards regulation and the MSC programme given that they will have a particular interest in knowing how the MSC programme is progressing.

We will of course let you know as soon as the motion is tabled and will inform you of any suggested actions you could easily take to promote this motion with your local MP.

### Modernising Scientific Careers Programme

*The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce* Modernising Scientific Careers: The Next Steps (MSC) consultation closed in March 09. Since that date there has been little information released regarding the outcome of this consultation and we are still awaiting the publication of the Department's final policy proposal.

Yet, despite the absence of any clear detail as to impact of MSC on our professions, it is clear that the Department of Health is already fully geared up towards its implementation. It is also clear that MSC has caused a significant degree of anxiety amongst most of the professions involved, including our own.

RCCP registrants inform us that they have growing concerns about the implementation of MSC and the structural change imposed to the educational and career training pathways, as well as titles that accompany them. However, and given PBEC's role, the RCCP obviously has a clear interest in MSC, not in the least because of its impact on statutory regulation. We have therefore formally written to the CSO making clear our concerns around these issues and we are currently still awaiting a formal response.

We also understand that a number of registrants have independently been in contact with their local MP to share their concern around what appears to be a rushed implementation and it has been fed back to us that interest in Parliament is growing. We will therefore work with our Parliamentary supporters with a view to briefing them on this issue and the RCCP's position when asked to do so.

## **ANS**

Similarly, we also understand that the British Academy of Audiology recently tabled a petition on the No. 10 website which has already a large number of signatories. The petition states it wants to protect patients and the public by ensuring that the education and training of graduate audiologists recognises the need for greater specialisation in Audiology rather than more generic healthcare science.

The petition is a result of what the Academy believes to be a threat posed to their profession by the Department of Health-imposed generic Physiological Sciences programme and withdrawal of funding for the specialist Audiology programmes.

The petition has gained 1,743 signatories has now closed.

## **Healthcare Science Awareness Week 2010**

Healthcare Science Week 2010 will take place during National Science and Engineering week 12th -21st March 2010. The Department of Health is encouraging all health professionals to get involved in Healthcare Science Week to raise the profile of their professions to patients and other healthcare professionals.

The RCCP will be using Healthcare Science Awareness Week to promote the importance of statutory regulation of clinical physiologists and to promote and raise the profile of the important role undertaken by clinical physiologists.

## **NHS Bursary Scheme**

The RCCP submitted a response to the Department of Health's *Supporting Our Future NHS Workforce* consultation on the NHS Bursary Scheme. In its response, the RCCP made clear its support for the overall aims of the Bursary Scheme which supports 90,000 students who are currently completing NHS funded pre-registration healthcare education. However, we expressed our disappointment that the Bursary Scheme, despite providing funding for audiologists, does not include funding for the education of healthcare professionals from across the other four Clinical Physiology disciplines.

The RCCP strongly believes that the scheme should be applicable to all disciplines as the discrepancy between the disciplines has never been fair. The restructure of the scheme provides an ample opportunity to address this point.

Although it has been claimed that the MSC programme would address the discrepancies between the professions, we are currently in the dark as to how this would be addressed.

## **Political Engagement**

The RCCP will continue to update its Parliamentary supporters both in Westminster and in the devolved institutions on the progress made toward regulation.

In addition, the RCCP will continue to engage with the Conservative Party which, certainly based on current polling, is very likely to form the next Government. A clear message of support from the Conservative Health team around the need for urgent regulation for the profession will therefore be a key campaigning objective of the RCCP

## **ANS**

in the next few months.

### *Parliamentary Reception*

The RCCP is looking to host a parliamentary reception in the House of Commons in July and will be inviting a broad range of supporters including healthcare professionals, the relevant Minister, the CSO, Parliamentarians and other stakeholders from across the four nations. The event will be an important profile raising exercise for our profession used to raise awareness and communicate with parliamentarians, officials and registrants as to the progress made towards statutory regulation.

A Parliamentary reception is also an excellent way to thank Parliamentarians and other decision makers for their support, whilst providing a useful tool in engaging with the media and raising the profile of clinical physiologists.

We will of course keep you updated in future RCCP newsletters/updates as to the finer details of the event.

### *General Election*

Whilst the political environment is likely to change significantly following a general election in the coming months the RCCP will be campaigning strongly to ensure that all the main political parties are aware of the importance of statutory regulation for our individual professions.

There has been growing speculation that a general election will take place in March, although this is unlikely given that Prime Minister Gordon Brown at this stage does not believe there is a clear imperative to call an early general election. With a general election needing to take place before 3rd June 2010 and the polls forecasting only the second administration change in the UK for 31 years the RCCP campaign will be continuing to place pressure on those responsible to ensure regulation is in place for clinical physiologists as soon as possible.

## **RCCP 2010 fee level**

It is clear that 2010 is going to be important year for the RCCP and for clinical physiologists more generally. Although we now have a clear commitment from the Health Minister that regulation will be in place for our profession, registrants will know that we have been in this position before.

Although we have no doubt that the Department of Health is committed to taking forward regulation by 2011, it is important that the RCCP continues its active involvement in this process until a transfer of the voluntary register finally takes place. Indeed, we will be stepping up our involvement through participating and attending a number of stakeholder groups and by being an active member of the Healthcare Science Regulation Steering Group, whilst ensuring that we continue to have the support from all relevant stakeholders.

As registrants will know, the RCCP solely relies on the voluntary activities of its members and the board, who are more motivated than ever to see regulation in place within a realistic timeframe. However, as a result of the ongoing delays and as the RCCP has stepped up its campaign and membership at an all time high, the running and administration costs have increased exponentially.

Importantly, employers now see RCCP registration as ensuring they employ a quality workforce which demonstrates all the competencies required by HPC to practice. However, this process inevitably means that there have been registrants brought to our attention who have failed to maintain these high standards of practice and who are or have been subject to the RCCP complaints procedure. Although these procedures are time consuming and expensive they ensure safety of our patients and colleagues. Regrettably, we therefore will have to increase the registration fees this year. The new fee will be £40 per year from May 2010. This is the first time in many years we have increased fees and we understand the implications for our members. We very much hope you continue to see the benefit of registering with the RCCP and as Chair of the RCCP can promise you my utmost and continuing

---

## ANS

commitment to seeing through the process towards statutory regulation. Regulation which had been promised for almost six years, but which, provided we keep the pressure on and engage, is closer than ever.

Although we understand the implications for our members, we very much hope you continue to see the benefit of registering with the RCCP and as Chair of the RCCP, I can promise you my utmost and continuing commitment to seeing through the process towards statutory regulation.

## SITUATIONS VACANT A.N.S. DOES NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENT OF ANY ADVERTISEMENTS FEATURED HERE

### Southend-on-Sea

#### Senior Clinical Physiologist

#### Band 6 or 7

Southend-on-Sea is famous for having the longest pier in the world – 1.3 miles long. Only 50 minutes away with two rail links into London (to London Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street), the town is within easy reach of the capital's airports, Stanstead Airport as well as the regional Southend Airport.

The second largest employer in town is Southend University Hospital, with roughly 4,000 staff. The hospital, which last year celebrated its 75th anniversary, has been rated "Excellent" by the Healthcare Commission for both its quality of service and the way it manages its finances.

We are looking for a Clinical Physiologist Band 6 or 7 – depending on qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be able to work on their own as well as part of a team. He/she will be required to relate sensitively to patients of all age groups, backgrounds and abilities.

Further professional development is strongly encouraged.

The department is small and friendly, providing a pleasant environment for patients and staff. We perform a range of Neurophysiological investigations including EEGs (routine and sleep deprived), EPs and assist with NCS and EMG clinics. The department is busy and sees adults and children- both In patients and Out patients.

These patients have a range of Neurological, Psychiatric and general disorders.

[www.southend.nhs.uk/recruitment/vacancies](http://www.southend.nhs.uk/recruitment/vacancies) :

Senior Neurophysiology Technician – Search Ref: 159-2009t

**Closing Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**For informal enquiries and further information on these posts please contact the following:**

Jenny Cumbers – 01702 385305

**ANS**

**Neurophysiology Technologist  
(Two Positions)**

*BC Children's Hospital*

*Vancouver, BC CANADA*

**Temporary Full Time Positions**

**April 1, 2010 – April 2011  
(possibility of extending)**

Vancouver, (British Columbia), Canada is a city like no other. This is an opportunity to share in Vancouver's awe inspiring scenery and exciting lifestyle, while enjoying the challenge and excitement of working in this leading-edge Neurophysiological Department.

These exciting opportunities are available for two enthusiastic self-starters to experience work abroad in a cutting edge North American Neurophysiology Department.

You will join our friendly team of 11 technologists, a Director of Neurophysiology, two Consultant Neurophysiologists, an Epileptologist, and three Secretaries.

You will perform a range of tests on children, neonates and some adults. These include Video EEGs, NCVs, Evoked Potentials, and Intra-operative Monitoring.

Candidates should have a minimum of ECNE Board Part 1/BSc Hons in Clinical Physiology (Neurophysiology) or equivalent and be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa. This entails being under 30yrs of age and passing a medical exam. Technologists interested in immigrating to Canada in the future may consider taking the Canadian EEG Registration Exam (C.B.R.E.T., Inc.). Working with us would fulfill the Work Placement in Canada requirement for exam eligibility.

Staff benefits include: a four day work week, flexible work schedule, educational development and a great work environment in a newly built cutting edge department.

For further information about this position please contact Donna Wood at [dwood@cw.bc.ca](mailto:dwood@cw.bc.ca) or call 1-604 875-2124.

To apply on-line or for more information on all that the PHSA has to offer, please visit: <http://careers.phsa.ca>. For more information about the B.C. Children's Hospital, please visit the website at: [www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca).

**PLEASE GET IN TOUCH** if you have any comments or would like to submit articles for the newsletter. Likewise, if you're thinking about sending something in **then do it**, we'd love to hear from you and can offer you advice or support.

**CONTACT** [news@ansuk.org](mailto:news@ansuk.org)