

Chairman's Report

Welcome Edinburgh and the 2014 Annual General Meeting of UKHCDO which this year is held in association with the joint scientific meeting between BSHT, UKHCDO and the UK Platelet Group. I hope many of you are able to attend the scientific meeting and I wish to thank Henry Watson and the scientific committee representing all three organisations for producing an excellent programme.

UKHCDO has been very active in the last year, particularly through the working parties. The recently reformed working parties have gathered or maintained momentum with several guidelines published or in development. Brief highlights will be presented at the meeting and more comprehensive descriptions of activity are presented in the Annual Report.

The Advisory Committee has agreed that UKHCDO should set up a Clinical Study Group to lead on the academic aspect of Haemophilia Care and Prof Mike Laffan has agreed to chair this group. He will present the membership and goals of the group. UKHCDO will provide initial funding for the CSG.

UKHCDO will also set up a Haemophilia Therapy Task Force to assess and advise on issues such as options for delivering high quality and cost effective prophylaxis. Another important role of this group will be to assess new therapeutic products and their potential place in UK Haemophilia practice.

With regards to Commissioning, UKHCDO continues to work closely with NHS England through the Clinical Reference Group (CRG) for Haemophilia. In collaboration with the CRG and the Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU), we have been very successful in securing another national contract for factor concentrates and, in so doing, have achieved very significant savings for the NHS. Despite this successful joint venture, the environment of NHS England Specialised Commissioning remains very turbulent and difficult to negotiate. Our main dialogue with NHS England is through our engagement with the CRG and it is a major advantage that this group largely consists of clinicians who are also members of UKHCDO. The financial crisis facing the NHS has led to constant reorganization and change of focus of Specialised Commissioning. While quality of care remains an important issue for the CRG, the drive to make financial savings has become a priority. Despite significant savings made with the National Contract for Therapeutic Products, we remain under pressure to achieve further savings. In the face of such pressure, informed bodies such as UKHCDO, HNA and the Haemophilia Society must engage with this process to safeguard haemophilia services in the UK.

In a constantly changing NHS landscape, the long experience of UKHCDO in leading Haemophilia care is particularly valuable and important. Underpinning much of what we do and have achieved is the National Haemophilia Database (NHD). We must continue to support NHD and to help secure funding for future work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank NHD staff, in particular Lynne Dewhurst, Sarah Rooney and Ben Palmer. I wish to thank Charles Hay in particular for his key role in directing the work of NHD on behalf of UKHCDO.

Finally, I wish to thank my colleagues on the Executive of UKHCDO, David Keeling, Ri Liesner and Mike Laffan. We have worked well together and their wisdom and advice has been invaluable.

I welcome your participation in the AGM and hope that you enjoy the scientific meeting.

Dr Gerry Dolan
Chairman, UKHCDO
Nottingham, October 2014