

Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists' Association

The HCPA consists of chartered specialist physiotherapists with an interest in the physiotherapy management of people with Haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. This group was initially established to provide support and networking opportunities for individuals in the field and to help others new to the specialty. Over the years it has developed to become an exciting forum for new ideas and ways of working, enabling research and promotion of physiotherapy as key component in the MDT management of Haemophilia.

HCPA Education/ Continuing Professional Development

The annual Physiotherapy educational meeting and HCPA AGM, funded by an educational grant from Bayer Healthcare, were held in Birmingham in February 2015. In its ninth year, it continues to be a full and productive programme, with over 40 physios attending the meeting. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of this meeting in 2016 will allow the group to reflect on the advances made in this specialty of physiotherapy, and to encourage all of us to continue to advance the quality of care for patients and the academic achievements of the group as a whole.

Following attendee feedback from the previous year's meeting the agenda for the meeting included sessions on research and publications, and 'Challenges in Haemophilia'. This session included medical and physio management of those with inhibitors, as well as a lively session about the issues around the foot and ankle in patients with haemophilia.

The successful 'free paper' session from last year was continued at this meeting, with excellent submissions and participation from those chosen to present a synopsis of their work. The presentations were judged independently and Hannah Harbidge was awarded the CPD bursary for her work on 'The impact of regional paediatric haemophilia MDT outreach clinics'. She was able to use this bursary to fund her attendance at the WFH MSK conference in Belfast in May 2015.

The 14th WFH MSK congress was held in Belfast in May 2015. The location of the conference meant that UK physios were able to attend in high numbers. The group also had significant participation in the congress. One member was invited to present in the free paper session, 2 members were invited to present in the main congress sessions and 10 abstracts from physios around the UK were also chosen to be presented as posters. This marks a major step forward for the HCPA group in showcasing to others the excellent work of physios in haemophilia care in the UK.

Haemophilia Physiotherapists continue to be represented on a national level in both the UKHCDO Outcome measures working party and Musculoskeletal Working Party, as well as advising on patient education information programmes by Industry providers. The HCPA is also a represented member of the National CRG for Haemophilia. Another important point of note is the inclusion of UK physio representation on the newly formed EAHAD Physio subgroup.

Paul McLaughlin
Chairman, Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists' Association

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