

Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists' Association

The Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists' Association (HCPA) consists of chartered specialist physiotherapists with an interest in the physiotherapy management of people with haemophilia and allied bleeding disorders. The group aims to define, promote and encourage best practice for physiotherapy within haemophilia care, providing professional leadership and directing national physiotherapy policy. The group has a strong focus on research, with a dedicated core research team who encourage, facilitate and drive research and development. The HCPA provides an exciting forum to promote the exchange of ideas between those working in the specialism of haemophilia, and to promote and facilitate continuous professional development and educational opportunities for its members.

The HCPA has now developed a Constitution which was agreed and adopted this year. This outlines the objectives of the group, as well as defining membership, executive committee and finance details. The UK Standards of Care for Physiotherapy both for Adults and for Children have been reviewed and updated. These key documents have helped inform the Standards being developed as part of the Peer Review process and are available, along with the Constitution, via the UKHCDO website.

The HCPA continues to be represented in the UKHCDO Musculoskeletal Working Party and in the National CRG for Haemophilia. Furthermore, we are also pleased to be represented in the new UKHCDO Data Analysis Group, the Data Management Working Party and within the Peer Review Working Party. On an International level, the HCPA is represented in the EAHAD Physiotherapy committee.

The annual HCPA educational meeting and AGM, funded by an educational grant from Bayer Healthcare, was held in Birmingham in March 2017. Following feedback from members, two additional sessions were added this year; a research proposal, publication and guideline development workshop and a Haemophilia 101 session. The agenda for the main educational meeting also reflected attendee feedback from the previous year, with invited speakers from across the UK and from Canada. Topics included rehabilitation, falls, physiology in a growing child, and service development. Our Key Note Speaker was Dr Susie Shapiro who spoke about the impact of new therapies on the role of the physiotherapist. The 'free paper' session had excellent submissions and participation from those chosen to present a synopsis of their work. The presentations were judged independently and Stephanie Taylor from Oxford was awarded the CPD bursary for her presentation on her observational cross-sectional study looking at activity in PWH.

The HCPA South meeting, held in October 2016, looked at models of service development, advances in haemostatic pharmacology, elderly care, adolescence and adherence, and orthopaedic management of the elbow. The HCPA North meeting, held in September 2017, and looked at the development of national guidelines post major musculoskeletal bleed, normal paediatric development and ankle rehabilitation.

The 10th Annual Congress of EAHAD, held in Paris, France in February 2017, had strong participation from HCPA members, with four poster presentations, one being selected for the top 10 SLAM presentations, as well as participation from four members within the pre-meeting session and main programme. In May 2017, the 15th WFH MSK Congress was held in Seoul, Korea. Two HCPA members presented in the main programme, and four abstracts were accepted as poster presentations.

The HCPA continues to be recognised for its expertise and research on an international level and is an excellent example of how physiotherapy for rare diseases should work in a modern NHS care model.

Anna Wells,
Chair, Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists Association
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