

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 2014. In its eighth year, it continues to be a full and productive programme, with upwards of 40 physios attending the 2014 meeting.

In keeping with the aim of education and promoting clinical excellence, this year's meeting focused on a 'Back to Basics' education programme. The emphasis was a review of haemostasis and laboratory investigations, and the day-to-day clinical applications of such. The topics generated questions and deliberations around how this may affect what we do as therapists, as well as thought provoking issues concerning exercise, sport, injury and the future with long acting products.

As well as the lectures, Dr David Stephenson and Steven Classey facilitated a practical review of real time Ultrasound (USS) for joint assessment. This has been prompted by the ongoing discussions in general Haemophilia care about how practicable the use of ultrasound may be, as well as concerns from some physios about training, time to assess and implications for scope of practice. In the next few years it is anticipated that some therapists will initiate pilot projects in their centres into the use of ultrasound, and we await these results with interest.

A new addition to the meeting format this year was to include a 'free paper' session. This was primarily to encourage and support individuals to write an abstract, submit it for review and be then offered the opportunity to present their work to the group. The presentations were judged independently and the winner received a CPD bursary award (to attend an MSK/Haemophilia related course/conference). This year's winner was PhD student Luke Suckling who used the award to attend the WFH world conference in Melbourne. Out of the 5 presentations, 2 have gone on to be accepted for publication in Haemophilia journal. The session proved to be resounding success and the same format will be planned for next year's meeting – with the aim of encouraging abstracts to be submitted for the WFH MSK conference in Belfast.

Paul McLaughlin
Chairman, Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapist's Association
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