

Launch update



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This month's *Bulletin* piece from the HSRC is the first since our formal launch in March, and contains updates on a number of important activities and events, including the UK Perioperative Clinical Research Forum, National Audit Projects, and the European Surgical Outcomes Study.

HSRC launch event

The HSRC was formally launched on Wednesday, 16 March 2011 at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, coinciding with the 18th 'birthday' of the RCoA, being exactly 18 years to the day after the grant of a Royal Charter to the Royal College of Anaesthetists. Dr Pete Nightingale made a short speech to an audience of invited guests and delegates at the RCoA anniversary meeting.

HSRC website

The new HSRC website was launched on 5 May alongside the redeveloped NIAA website. The site will contain details of HSR studies, audits and events, as well as links to valuable resources in the area. For example, we are building up a library of links to important national and international audits in surgery, critical care, peri-operative medicine and pain.

We are also developing a list of contacts within clinical departments, who are happy to serve as a conduit for information about research and audit opportunities, and to provide information about the host hospital. Interested parties can contact us at hsrc@rcoa.ac.uk.

Strategy and terms of reference

Amongst the other resources posted on the website are the HSRC strategy and terms of reference. The strategy has benefited greatly from input from both the councils of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the AAGBI, as well as others who have kindly read and contributed to it. We welcome your views on these and other HSRC documents and activities. The HSRC will only thrive with the support and engagement of practising clinicians and researchers around the UK. Please contact us through the website or email if you have suggestions or comments.

UK Perioperative Clinical Research Forum (UKPCRF)

The second UKPCRF took place in Manchester on 28 March 2011. Dr Dan Conway chaired this excellent and well-attended meeting. The audience heard presentations by speakers from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, NHS Innovations, and the UK Clinical Research Network National Specialty Group as well as the Hip Fracture Anaesthesia Network (HFaN) and Emergency Laparotomy Network (ELN). The 'Research Prioritisation Workshops', organised by Dr Simon Howell, provided valuable insights into this important process.

The next UKPCRF will be held at the Royal College of Anaesthetists in March 2012, and will be organised by Dr Rupert Pearse.

European Surgical Outcomes Study (EuSOS) update

Recruitment and data input for this UK led multicentre European study, under the direction of Dr Rupert Pearse, are now almost complete. Data checks will take some time as more than 30,000 cases are anticipated, and more than 20,000 have been received already. The contribution from both Great Britain and Ireland has been fantastic. 125 centres (105 in the UK and 20 in Ireland) have submitted data on more than 8,000 patients constituting more than 20% of the EuSOS dataset. Of these, 7,000 were from the UK and a further 1,000 were from Ireland. We should be proud of this contribution which will ensure that the findings of EuSOS will be relevant to our practice. Furthermore, the British and Irish datasets will, in themselves, be a valuable asset for research in peri-operative care. The HSRC provided administrative support for EuSOS within the UK. Further updates will be available on the HSRC website and at <http://eusos.esicm.org/>.

National Audit Projects (NAPs)

The NAP4 launch in March was a great success, and a second event has been planned for Wednesday, 13 July 2011. We are now in the process of starting to set-up NAP5, under the guiding hand of Dr Tim Cook. The NAP5 topic will be announced in early autumn. The call for topics for NAP6 will take place in early 2012. Please keep an eye on the HSRC website for further details.