Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, a new quarterly newsletter providing information on research and collaboration at Wales Anaesthesia Innovation.

Wales Anaesthesia Innovation is a new venture intended to pool together the academic expertise of Anaesthetics, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine with colleagues from the NHS, industry, other Schools in Cardiff University and throughout the world. The aim is to forge links for developing successful novel, innovative products for use in our specialities and provide a hub for clinically-relevant research.

Dr. Tony Wilkes, Research Director, said “The launch of Wales Anaesthesia Innovation provides an important focus for research carried out in Wales in the field of anaesthesia and intensive care. Recent success in applying for grants for collaborative work on novel devices with industry has demonstrated the ability of anaesthetic researchers, the NHS and industrial collaborators to work together effectively to attract and secure funding.”

In future editions of this Newsletter, specific research projects will be highlighted, describing our current collaborative research. New ideas for research are, of course, always welcome!

Any queries should be sent to Gareth Wood at Wales Anaesthesia Innovation: WoodG1@cf.ac.uk Telephone: +44(0)29 2074 2575

Spreading the word on HMEs and Filters

Collaboration with Covidien has recently enabled an extensive review to be published on heat and moisture exchangers (HMEs) and breathing system filters for the anaesthetic and intensive care community.

HMEs are a low cost, easy to use solution to provide humidified gases in anaesthesia and intensive care. Breathing system filters reduce the transmission of microbes in breathing systems. Both types of device have been available for over 50 years and some devices on the market combine both functions.

Covidien, as a leading global supplier of these products, wanted to develop new training material for its sales force. With expertise built up over 20 years of testing these products for Government agencies and involvement in the development of International standards, Covidien awarded a grant to Anaesthetics, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine to draft this training material.

The training material provided the basis for an extensive review, published recently in two parts, in the journal Anaesthesia. The review provided healthcare professionals with information on the history, principles of operation, practicalities, guidelines and problems associated with the use of HMEs & filters.

For further information, please contact Tony Wilkes at: wilkes@cf.ac.uk.
Education is our Business

The Welsh medical devices company Flexicare has long had a close association with the School of Medicine’s Patient Simulator Centre in Cardiff. Flexicare are in the middle of a three year sponsorship of the centre via a very generous donation. Both the business and the university were delighted when on 14th October the Paediatric Extension of the original centre was opened. Jamie Roberts, medical student, and Welsh rugby star, opened the centre.

Professor Keith Harding, Sub-Dean of Innovation and Engagement within the School of Medicine, thanked Flexicare for their financial support of the centre and discussed the need for a close working relationship between industry and Cardiff University. The centre has both an educational aim and a commercial one, with funds raised through the centre being ploughed back into medical education. Please go to: www.flexicare.com

Professor Judith Hall, School of Medicine, added: “This is an important development for the undergraduate and postgraduate education at Cardiff and adds to our already impressive simulation equipment. With the development of the Children’s Hospital for Wales here in Cardiff, it is very important that our medical students train to look after sick babies and children.”

The centre is available for hire for commercial conferences and simulation training for industry in the healthcare sector. Any queries should be directed to Mrs Clare Cann at cannc@cf.ac.uk

Pain Community Centre Website Launched

The Chronic Pain Directives for Wales included an item that e-learning resources for health professionals in Wales should be available ‘By March 2010’. As the main author of the document, Ann Taylor set out to establish the best way of delivering this. It was also important to develop a resource for the Cardiff University, MSc in Pain Management Alumni. The website was developed to deliver pain education by a team (led by Ann), which included the MSc course team and National pain experts from the course faculty.

Things have progressed however and the website is now designed for all UK health professionals, undergraduates, carers and patients. In fact, we already have international users! The free website provides a library of information, on different aspects of pain for anyone interested. There is an events area, listing pain management meetings and conferences all over the world. Currently qualified health care professionals can register on-site, undertake e-Learning CPD courses and participate on a Peer2Peer Discussion forum to liaise with clinical experts.

The team worked with the IT department from Napp Pharmaceuticals, www.napp.co.uk, who developed the website interface. This project would not have been possible without their support. Napp have not been involved in any way in the development of content. Please visit the website, it is a resource that Cardiff University should be proud of: www.paincommunitycentre.org

Accessing expertise within WAI
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