

## THE EFC EDUCATION COMMITTEE – AN UP-DATE OF ACTIVITIES

Dear All

I hope you enjoy reading an up-date of the activities of the Education Committee. I have included below reports from both Tallinn and Antalya.

Charles Redman, Carmine Carriero and Evangelos Paraskevaides ran the EFC course in Antalya which was part of the joint meeting between the RCOG Eurovision programme and the Turkish Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The course's three sessions were attended by about 25 participants and went well. Theo Helmerhorst and I ran the course in Tallinn.

Charles and I are planning to train 2 colposcopists from Latvia to come to the UK and gain their BSCCP Certification. This is the first time trainees have come to the UK specifically to gain a national qualification for colposcopy and this may be the first time this has been arranged in Europe. However, if you know better then please let us know.

A position paper on the role of colposcopy in the post vaccination population and in the context of HPV testing is nearing completion to be sent to the *Eur J Cancer*. I would like to thank all who have contributed their time and thoughts to this work. Please wish me luck with the article submission.

Our next port of call for a colposcopy training course is Tashkent from 20-22 September as part of the Eurovision series of conferences. However, this may clash with a meeting in Berlin for EFC Council and national leads planned for 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September to look at quality standards. On a brighter note, if you know of any-one who wishes a basic colposcopy course then please contact me.

I hope we can perhaps run a similar course in Greece next year at the joint meeting of the Hellenic and Turkish Colposcopy Societies.

*Simon Leeson*

### **1) Report from the EFC Colposcopy Course held in Tallinn, Estonia in conjunction with EBCOG and the Colposcopy Course held in Antalya, Turkey in conjunction with the RCOG and the Turkish Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.**

The EFC Education Committee has been busy in May with Colposcopy Courses in Tallinn, as part of the EBCOG meeting in Estonia as well as in Antalya, as part of the RCOG Eurovision meeting in Turkey. As they were both at the same time we had to divide our resources. Theo Helmerhorst attended EBCOG with me whilst Carmine Carriero and Evangelos Paraskevaides attended Eurovision with Charles. I stress that Eurovision is a collaborative exercise for exchanging good practice in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and in this case is not a singing contest. I may yet be corrected on that point.

Tallinn was treated to presentations, cases discussions and remote voting on a series of questions, all of which succeeded in encouraging audience participation. There

were around 30 delegates at each of the 4 sessions at a rather unfriendly time of 8-9.30 in the morning and so late night socialising was off the schedule. Unfortunately I was unable to speak to the colposcopy lead for Estonia but perhaps I will have an opportunity to do so later. The conference hotel had a gym which was too hot and so running around the old town was more fun. Theo visited the countryside in a bus with its destination marked 'Estonia'. I was fearful I would not see him again.

*Simon Leeson*

## **2) Report on developments resultant from the EFC Colposcopy course held in Riga, Latvia in conjunction with the RCOG Eurovision Programme**

The Eurovision programme collaborated with the EFC to jointly run a colposcopy course in Riga, Latvia, which was attended by about 70 participants. The faculty comprising Ulli Petry, , Simon Leeson and me, Charles Redman.

The interactive course went well and received excellent feed-back. The course also provided the opportunity to liaise with senior clinicians in Latvia about how to help their nascent cervical cancer-screening programme. Latvia has a high cervical cancer incidence and mortality and an organised population-based cytological screening programme had recently been launched but there are virtually no colposcopists and no colposcopic tradition. It was agreed that the EFC would help address this by arranging colposcopy training and, if necessary, provide funding.

As Simon has already mentioned, arrangements have been made for 2 trainees from Latvia to receive colposcopic training in the UK (Betsi Cadwaladr University Hospital with Simon Leeson and University Hospital of North Staffordshire with me) with view to completing the requirements of the RCOG/BSCCP training programme and to sit the BSCCP OSCE exam in May 2013. The BSCCP has provided a travelling grant of £1200 for each trainee to enable this and will contribute a further £1000 towards costs of a trainer providing some training in Riga. The British Council has also been approached and is considering supporting the project.

Discussions are in progress with the West Midlands QA team to provide advice and support in enabling the introduction of a QA programme to be embedded within the Latvian colposcopy service. A protocol for an audit programme to evaluate the colposcopic process and outcome is being prepared with view to applying for the BSCCP Singer/Jordan Research Grant (up to £10,000).

*CWE Redman*

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