

Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG)

Introduction

The Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) is here for you as a paediatric pharmacist irrespective of whether it is your chosen speciality, just a part of your job or even if it is just an interest.

It was formed in 1994, with the aim of improving the care of neonates, infants and children by advancing the personal development of pharmacists and the provision of quality pharmacy services in relation to practice, research and audit, education and training, communication and advice. The annual conference is held in the autumn of each year and attracts delegates from around the world.

Membership is open to any pharmacist, pharmacy technician or corporate body with a pharmaceutical interest in paediatric or neonatal pharmacy. Members receive regular newsletters and a reduced rate for the annual conference.

The group has links with various paediatric organisations including the Academic Division of Child Health in Derby, and is represented on the Medicines Committee of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH). In conjunction with the latter, a national paediatric formulary for the UK (*Medicines for Children*) has been produced. The group also has links with the Drug Information Advisory Line (DIAL) based at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool.

Specialist Sub-groups

Various specialist and geographical sub-groups enable members with related interests to share information and formulate policy. Currently these include the Paediatric Oncology Pharmacists (POP) group and a Paediatric Intensive Care Pharmacists (PICU) group. Regionally there is a strong Scottish sub-group as well as an Australian and Scandinavian sub-group.

Communications

Reports from the sub-groups and DIAL appear in the newsletter that is published four times per annum. This also acts as an information resource for members, including requests for information,

forthcoming paediatric conference announcements and proceedings reports, and details of paediatric publications (articles and books). There are regular reports on current paediatric practice in various countries worldwide, to keep members informed of developments. As a member, you can help us by sharing your experience. We hope we can help you by disseminating everybody else's experiences. What better way of showing your commitment to paediatric pharmacy than by being a member of the largest paediatric pharmacy group in the UK?

Contacts

The principal point of contact for the group is the Professional Secretary. Steve Tomlin is based in Guy's Hospital and can be contacted on 0207-955 5000 Extension 5379, or by email at stephen.tomlin@gstt.sthames.nhs.uk

Other Points of Contact:

- *Chairman:* Dr Malcolm Partridge (Tel: 01159-709199; email: malcolm.partridge@mail.qmcuh-tr.trent.nhs.uk)
- *Secretary:* John Timmins (Tel: 0114-271 7376; email: john.timmins@sch.nhs.uk).
- *Editor:* Peter Mulholland (Tel: 0141-201 1382; email: peter.mulholland@sgh.scot.nhs.uk).

Membership

Membership shall be open to any pharmacist, pharmacy technician or corporate body with a pharmaceutical interest in paediatric or neonatal pharmacy.

Conference

The group holds its annual conference in the autumn. For 2001 this will be held in Glasgow over the weekend of 28th-30th September. The conference consists of plenary lectures from guest speakers, workshops, research presentations, posters and a pharmaceutical industry display. Topics to be covered this year include advances in neonatology, electronic prescribing, cystic fibrosis, HIV, paediatric chemotherapy, drugs in pregnancy

and breastfeeding, paediatric pain and palliative care. An application form to attend can be obtained from the Professional Secretary.

Website

The group website (www.nppg.demon.co.uk) acts as a resource for paediatric pharmacists within the United Kingdom and further afield. A comprehensive links section allows access to a

variety of paediatric websites. Newsletters, published quarterly, are available on the website. An index of therapeutic guidelines for paediatric pharmacy practice is held on the site and enables visitors to request these from the sites who developed the relevant guidelines. A members-only section of the site holds details of members' specialised interests, to enable effective communication within specialties. A message-board facility is also available for members' use.