



Irish Thoracic Society

Irish Thoracic Society Update – Summer 2009

Promoting education and research in respiratory medicine and healthcare on the island of Ireland is central to the work of the Irish Thoracic Society and we are delighted to bring you news of a number of key developments in this area.

We are particularly pleased to announce the appointment **of Dr Peter Barry as ITS SpR Educational Officer**. This is a new and important role that reflects the Society's commitment to education and to strengthening links with respiratory SpRs. In addition, the Society is launching two new educational resources in the Autumn that will be available through the members' area of the website www.irishthoracicsociety.com:

ITS Educational Masters – a series of state-of-the-art power-point lectures by nominated ITS Educational Masters on a comprehensive programme of education. Over the next few months more than 30 lectures will be posted up on the ITS website, providing an invaluable source of reference material on the full spectrum of respiratory topics.

ITS SpR case of the Month – this will provide SpR members of the ITS with a valuable means of sharing their learning with each other and the wider ITS membership. A schedule of cases is currently being compiled for the next two years, each of which will be published in the members' area of the website on their allotted month.

It's important to note that access to both of these programmes is only available to members of the ITS. We encourage non-members to register for membership through www.irishthoracicsociety.com/become-member.html to take full advantage of these valuable resources.

The Irish Thoracic Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Galway, 6th and 7th November 2009 – Preparations for this year's meeting are proceeding apace with a distinguished panel of national and international speakers now confirmed for Symposia on Granulomatous Disease and Sleep Disorders.

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Professor Joe Keane, St James's Hospital, Dublin; Dr David Moller, John Hopkins, Baltimore and Professor Ajit Lalvani, Imperial College London will deliver lectures on *Granulomatous Disease* on Friday the 6th November.

On Saturday, 7th November topics such as narcolepsy, stroke/OSAS, restless legs syndrome and sleep and driving will be covered by Dr Paul Reading, James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough; Prof GJ Gibson, Freeman Hospital and University of Newcastle; Dr Shaun T O'Keeffe, Merlin Park University Hospital Galway and Dr Alan Mulgrew, Bons Secours Hospital, Tralee as part of the *ITS Sleep Disorders Symposium*.

Visit www.irishthoracicsociety.com/meeting.html for full details on the meeting.

The Irish Thoracic Society Pulmonary Rehabilitation Research Network – an all-island multi-centred trial has been established in conjunction with Beaumont Hospital, Dublin to carry out a long-term evaluation of activity and health status pre and post pulmonary rehabilitation. Details of the study and the final group of participants are currently being finalised.

Irish Thoracic Society Fellowships in Respiratory Medicine - the 2009/2010 Fellowship was made possible by the kind support of Allen & Hanburys. Details of the successful project will be announced at the ITS Annual Scientific Meeting in November. Two previous Fellowships, kindly supported by Boehringer Ingelheim, are in progress:

Dr Surendran Thavagnanam from Queens University, the 2007/2008 ITS Research Fellow, is now in the second and final year of his project entitled '*Effects of IL-13 on normal and asthmatic paediatric bronchial and nasal epithelial cells: IL-13 as a potential therapeutic target in childhood asthma*'.

Dr Oisín O'Connell from Cork University Hospital, the 2008/2009 ITS Research Fellow, has just completed the first year of his project: '*Variability of TLR-mediated innate immune Response in patients with Cystic Fibrosis, and its relationship with differential gene expression and clinical phenotype.*'

For further information on any of the above please contact Suzanne McCormack, CEO, the Irish Thoracic Society, Email suzannemccormack@irishthoracicsociety.com, Tel +353 (0) 1 2835252 or check the ITS website www.irishthoracicsociety.com.

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