



# ARMA 4thursday

## January 2010



### A message from Ros Meek

Dear All,

**Happy New Year, it certainly caused chaos down here in London with all transport grinding to a halt as usual.** Numbers of falls on the ice were causing problems in hospitals but on the positive side being imprisoned at home allowed for some quality catch up time on the e-mails.

In Scotland things are moving forwards with a group launched in the Scottish Parliament and led by Helen Eadie MSP aimed at raising awareness amongst politicians and policy makers of the issues in Arthritis and musculoskeletal disorders facing clinicians and patients. It was good to see some of our members and we hope that we will start to see more MSPs supporting the group. Neil Betteridge Vice President of EULAR and CEO of Arthritis Care came and spoke on European lobbying and we had a good Q and A session. I have had two useful meetings with the Long term Conditions lead and his team identifying areas of joint activity.

In Wales we had disappointing news that our bid for support from the Welsh Assembly Government was turned down. There was better news for Dr Stephan Siebert however whom we supported in his bid for setting up musculoskeletal research networks. We held members events to share thoughts on policy developments and also to provide

feedback from the EULAR Autumn conference. We have had a record number of applicants for the Stene prize which will be judged shortly.

Even though it's a few months away we are pleased to say that we have 13 members exhibiting at the BSR conference in Birmingham. We are now full. We will be hosting a session on the Friday of the conference from the main platform which is a welcome change for us.

I have been involved in some service redesign work in Ashton Leigh and Wigan and it was great to see very articulate user representatives in action. With this in mind Sarah and I have been busy putting in our second stage bid for DH funding for local networks – so fingers crossed.

You will see in the main copy that we were successful in working with Paul Rowan MP in getting an adjournment debate on musculoskeletal services and we are now over 100 MP signatures for the early Day Motion calling for a National Clinical Director. Do have a look and see if your MP has signed, If not a short note to encourage would be really helpful.

Finally we had a most successful dinner for CEOs that was addressed by Professor Paul Corrigan a former health adviser to both Alan Milburn and Tony Blair. He was extremely helpful and will be adding his expertise to our lobbying activity.

**Ros Meek, Director**

Please forward this to any colleagues within your organisations or networks who may be interested in ARMA's work.

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## Early Day Motion (EDM 362)

In December 2009, drawing on the findings of ARMA's audit of the Musculoskeletal Services Framework, John Austin MP tabled an EDM on musculoskeletal conditions as part of our continued efforts to secure a National Clinical Director to help improve the quality of care for the one in four people who have a musculoskeletal condition:

*"That this House notes that arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions affect one in four of the population, causing widespread pain and disability; is concerned that 60 per cent. of*

*primary care trusts have not audited outcomes against over £4 billion of NHS expenditure; and calls on the Government to ensure that musculoskeletal services receive improved strategic direction."*

We now have over 100 signatures and we urge you to contact your own constituency MPs to sign if they have not done so all ready.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39922&SESSION=903>

## Whitehall Debate on Musculoskeletal Conditions

On Tuesday 19th January Paul Rowan MP, tabled a Whitehall debate on musculoskeletal conditions.

Participants included:

- Paul Rowan (Rochdale) (Lib Dem)
- Bob Spink (Castle Point) (Ind)
- Andrew George (St. Ives) (Lib Dem)
- Graham Stringer (Manchester, Blackley) (Lab)
- Dr. Richard Taylor (Wyre Forest) (Ind)

- Dr. John Pugh (Southport) (Lib Dem)
- Anne Milton - Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health Services (Guildford) (Con)
- Ann Keen - The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health

To read more please use the link below:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100119/halltext/100119h0001.htm#10011948000001>

Ann Keen (L) and Paul Rowan (R)





## Members: News and Resources

### NRAS

[www.nras.org.uk](http://www.nras.org.uk)

#### Have you visited our new NRAS website? It went live in December and we hope you like it.

At the same time as launching the site, we have changed the address from [www.rheumatoid.org.uk](http://www.rheumatoid.org.uk) to [www.nras.org.uk](http://www.nras.org.uk), although rest assured the old address will still take you to our site.

You will notice a very different design and feel to the site, in part this is because we wanted to ensure the site reflected strongly people with rheumatoid arthritis, consequently the people featured on the home page have RA or are family members. When you refresh the page a new photo will appear. We have been asked if finding

information on the site could be made easier and providing good navigation around the site has been a priority. Please give us your feedback by contacting Emma at [emma@nras.org.uk](mailto:emma@nras.org.uk).

Inevitably when you launch a new website on a new platform, it is not launched in a finished state. We will be continuing to work on the new site on a daily basis for some weeks and months as we refine and improve the content.



### British Society for Rheumatology

[www.rheumatology.org.uk](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk)

#### BSR Conference 2010—Birmingham

Last chance for early bird registration rates!

Our conference website has been busy over the last few weeks as people register for Rheumatology 2010, to be held at The ICC in Birmingham from 21-23 April 2010.

Our great early bird registration rates finish at midnight on Friday 5 February 2010.

Register before then to take advantage of savings of around 20%.

You can also register for our new pre-conference symposia which will be held on Tuesday 20 April.

[https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/shop/conference/booking.aspx?pid=4&cid=-1&dm\\_i=8JC,2J6P,13SW3D,80VF,1](https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/shop/conference/booking.aspx?pid=4&cid=-1&dm_i=8JC,2J6P,13SW3D,80VF,1)

### British Orthopaedic Association

[www.boa.ac.uk](http://www.boa.ac.uk)

#### The first Joint Action Impact Report 2008 – 2010 has now been published.

According to the WHO (World Health Organisation) '*One in two of us will need*

*orthopaedic intervention at some point in our lives*'. This is a very sobering fact.

To find out more visit [www.jointaction.org.uk](http://www.jointaction.org.uk)

## BackCare

[www.backcare.org.uk](http://www.backcare.org.uk)

**‘Exciting’ New journal published by BackCare Charity.**

**A new quarterly journal aimed at professionals who help people with back pain is being published by BackCare, Britain’s only charity devoted solely to promoting healthier backs.**

Its aim is also to reach those in the field involved with creating policy or have experience of the effects of policy on real people, said Dr Andrew Auty, head of the charity’s trustees.

*“At BackCare we have long been aware of the great diversity of views held by those concerned with back pain. Consensus is rare but by itself lack of consensus is not a bar to providing real help to those who need it.”*

He added:

*“We hope that in reading these articles you will understand more of the roles, beliefs, knowledge and aims of other people in this field and will better understand what the back pain sufferer encounters and tried to manage for themselves.”*

The new venture will be available both in hard copy and electronic format via BackCare’s website in order to reach as wide an audience as possible, with an initial target circulation to over 150,000 professionals.

Topics covered in the first 40-page issue include various types of chronic and sudden back pain, coping with pain, chiropractic and back pain, testing and training lumbar spine muscles, managing Musculoskeletal problems, research news, and back pain and work.

Sash Newman, Chief Executive of BackCare, said:

*“We have decided on this exciting new publication because back pain is so common. We feel the need to spread the message to as large an audience as possible that help is available.”*

*“Using the internet we can reach many more thousands of people and so achieve our aim.”*

It is estimated that as many as four out of every five adults (80%) will experience back pain at some stage in their life.

Sash added:

*“The objective is also to bring the sector together, enabling all the different disciplines to showcase their work, research, case studies, outcomes and ideas in one inter-disciplinary publication.”*

*“Whilst we may not always all agree, it is important to start and maintain a dialogue that encompasses all professionals involved in back pain, so that we are aware of what is happening within the back pain arena.”*

In the UK the condition affects 30 million people every year – over 2.5 million people have chronic back pain on any single day and more than 1.2 million have pain so severe that they are disabled by it, making it the nation’s leading cause of disability.

*“We want as much feed-back as possible on the new journal”* said Sash.

*“We are urging readers to register via our website and give us their views.”*

<http://content.yudu.com/Library/A1ks7r/BackcareWinter200910/resources/index.htm?referrerUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.yudu.com%2Fitem%2Fdetails%2F117419%2FBackcare-Winter-2009-10>



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## The 2009 Bone and Joint Decade Global Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Seminar

The 2009 Bone and Joint Decade Global Network Conference and Patient Advocacy Seminar took place from October 21 to 24, in Washington DC, USA. Participants from across the US joined delegates from 56 nations from around the globe.

They came together and joined the four-day strategic planning session to highlight the enormous burden posed by musculoskeletal disorders and develop an ambitious yet achievable roadmap for the future of bone and joint health. This elite group included government policy makers, doctors, researchers, NGOs and patient advocates. The primary goals of the conference were:

To raise awareness and advocate for musculoskeletal health; To develop a roadmap for the future to build on the momentum created by the Bone and Joint Decade.

### Video Coverage and Speakers:

Presentations from the meetings are now available online.

Programme highlights included:

- Health Care: Opportunities and Challenges Experts in Arthritis
- The Urgency of Addressing the Burden of Musculoskeletal Disease
- Rehabilitation of Musculoskeletal Disorders – Social Integration and Engagement
- Advancing the Health Policy Agenda
- Spotlight on Women’s Health Care

ePoster session:

All Network coordinators were asked prior to the conference to report on their yearly activities in an “electronic poster”. All ePosters were available to the delegates for viewing during the meeting.

The evaluation committee consisting of ISC Members Prof Mieke Hazes, and Prof Shoichi Kokubun reviewed the posters.

The winner of the 2009 ePoster Award was North Africa, represented by Dr Thami Benzakour, Regional Coordinator of North Africa.

All the ePosters can be found at:

<http://www.bjdonline.org/default.aspx?contId=2075>

### Free prescriptions for people with long-term conditions

**A coalition of 20 charities is calling for prescription charges to be abolished for people with long-term conditions in England.**

Every year, 800,000 people in England fail to collect their prescriptions simply because of the cost. Prescription costs are now a more urgent problem as the recession has had a devastating effect on personal finances and people with long-term conditions are finding it even more of a struggle to pay for the medicines they desperately need.

In 2008, Gordon Brown promised to eliminate prescription charges for all those with long-term conditions, funded by savings in the drugs budget. This promise was set to improve the lives of millions. Professor Ian Gilmore was asked to lead a review of prescriptions and savings of £550 million from regulating drug prices were identified, which would more than cover the £250-350 million cost of this pledge. However, over a year has passed since Mr Brown's promise and we are still waiting for the

Government to publish and respond to Professor Gilmore's review.

The prescription charges coalition has set up a new e-campaign, so supporters can email their MPs and ask them to sign a new Early Day Motion, which calls on the Prime Minister to keep his promise of free prescriptions for people with long-term conditions.

It would greatly help the campaign if we can demonstrate overwhelming public support for free prescriptions for people with long-term conditions, and we would really appreciate your help in promoting the e-campaign.

The e-campaign can be found on the Prescription Promise website:

<http://www.prescriptionpromise.org>  
under 'email your support'.

If you would like further information on the campaign, please contact Katherine Dickinson at Asthma UK, on 020 7786 4931 or [kdickinson@asthma.org.uk](mailto:kdickinson@asthma.org.uk)

### The British Pain Society

#### LAY MEMBER VACANCY - THE BPS PATIENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The BPS Patient Liaison Committee is looking for a for a new member to join the committee. To apply you must be a layperson with an interest in the NHS and in how to make sure people get the best care from the health service, particularly people living with pain. Experience of living with pain or of a voluntary sector organisation linked to pain would be useful.

Applicants must be available to attend meetings within London for up to six days per year and to contribute to consultations by email; the British Pain Society will reimburse travel costs.

For further information and to receive an application pack please contact Rikke Susgaard-Vigon on 020 7269 7840 or email: [rsusgaardvigon@britishpainsociety.org](mailto:rsusgaardvigon@britishpainsociety.org)

Closing Date for Applications: Monday 1st February 2010 at 12pm



THE BRITISH PAIN SOCIETY

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## Other Information

### Health Care Update

[www.nationalvoices.org.uk](http://www.nationalvoices.org.uk)

#### The King's Fund survey on quality in general practice.

The King's Fund is running an 18-month inquiry into the quality of general practice in England.

As part of this work, they are conducting an opinion survey on the extent to which general practice is currently providing high-quality patient

care and the reaction of those working in general practice on current approaches to 'quality improvement'. We welcome your views. To contribute your views use the link below.

The findings will be used to inform the results of the Inquiry.

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/yourviews>

#### New certification scheme for health and social care information

The Information Standard is a new Department of Health initiative to give the public a quick way of identifying good quality health information. The Information Standard awards a quality mark to organisations that meet the criteria of producing safe, reliable health and social care information and advice. Organisations can then display this mark on literature and websites.

The Information Standard Certification  
Following the official launch at the King's Fund of The Information Standard, we have put together some guidelines that you will find useful.

<http://www.theinformationstandard.org/> and  
[http://www.theinformationstandard.org/sites/default/files/TIS-quick%20guide%20to%20scheme%20rules\\_2.pdf](http://www.theinformationstandard.org/sites/default/files/TIS-quick%20guide%20to%20scheme%20rules_2.pdf)

#### Improving the health and wellbeing of people with long term conditions

The Department of Health has published a guidance document that describes what a good Long Term Condition (LTC) service should look like and suggests actions to take to commission world class services. The actions are linked to each stage of the commissioning cycle and can support achievement of WCC competencies and the quality and productivity challenge.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_111122](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_111122)

#### Developing Quality Patient Information

**Date:** Tuesday 26 January 2010

**Venue:** 76 Portland Place, London

This one day conference chaired by Mark Duman President Patient Information Forum (PiF), provides an opportunity for you to learn about the latest techniques and methods for writing and developing Patient Information that is accessible,

understandable and personalised to patients as individuals on a day to day basis.

**Contact:** For more information please call Hanisha on 020 8541 1399 or email on [hanisha@healthcare-events.co.uk](mailto:hanisha@healthcare-events.co.uk) or visit

<http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk> or  
<http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=387>

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## Important Dates 2010

BSR Conference 20 - 23 April 2010  
EULAR Conference 16 - 19 June 2010

## Contributions

If you have exciting news, resources or dates that you would like to share with the wider musculoskeletal community then please email [sarahrich@arma.uk.net](mailto:sarahrich@arma.uk.net). We look forward to hearing from you.

## Thanks

Many thanks to our contributors this month and a special thank you to James Wright for designing our new-look newsletter.

## Staff at ARMA

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Project Manager

## ARMA

### ARMA Local Networks

If you are interested in establishing an ARMA local network in your area or you are interested in being involved in an already established local network please contact Sarah Rich.  
[sarahrich@arma.uk.net](mailto:sarahrich@arma.uk.net) 020 7842 0910

### More information:

For more information about ARMA, or if you have received this email from a colleague but would prefer to receive it directly, please contact Sarah Rich.  
[sarahrich@arma.uk.net](mailto:sarahrich@arma.uk.net) 020 7842 0910