
Conference Report

Society for Acute Medicine Spring Meeting

15th-16th April 2002

The fifth meeting of the Society for Acute Medicine took place on the 15th and 16th April of this year, hosted by Dr Paul Jenkins and Dr Rob Mallinson in Norwich. The education centre of the new Norfolk and Norwich hospital provided an excellent venue for the conference, which was attended by around eighty delegates over the two days. Delegates enjoyed presentations on a wide variety of clinical topics, including the European Guidelines on Syncope, Acute Coronary Syndromes, upper G-I bleeding and medical emergencies during pregnancy.

There was considerable debate on the future of Acute Medicine, with a presentation by Karen Castille from the NHS Modernisation Agency on proposals to change the patient's pathway through the system. Further, presentations were made on the future of medical training, and the Acute Medicine/ITU interface.

Dr George Strang, consultant in Acute Medicine at the Royal Glamorgan hospital provided an interesting insight into the working of a medical admissions ward, with his version of 'How we do it here' – a series of talks which has become a regular feature at these meetings. He

concluded that a large proportion of patients who are traditionally admitted to hospital may be safely manageable on an outpatient basis if the staff and facilities are available. There followed a lively debate on this subject.

The overwhelming opinion was of a very interesting and topical meeting. The next meeting will be held at Discovery Point in Dundee on October 3rd and 4th 2002. Confirmed speakers include Sir Alan Langlands and Rae Rowdon, the latter talking on Demystifying the NHS change agenda. It is proposed that the clinical agenda will include presentations from medical, nursing and therapies staff. Further details of this meeting including transport and accommodation are available on the Acute Medicine website, <http://www.acutemedicine.org.uk>. and an application form to join the society is included with this journal.

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