



Membership Newsletter

October 2016

Dear Colleague and member of the ACPIN community,

Welcome to the 1st ACPIN membership newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to update you on recent developments in ACPIN, and to re-iterate the ACPIN vision which you heard about at #ACPIN2016. This vision for the future of our organisation is one which: is stronger represented on a national level, delivers greater membership benefits, has a wide portfolio of CPD/training activities, has greater engagement with HEI and industry leaders, provides equal opportunities for members to fulfil their professional development and is responsive to changes in the neuro rehabilitation sphere, both scientifically and politically.

As discussed at the AGM in March 2016, the ACPIN Committees have been busy over the last few years and months, looking at ways to better serve our neuro physiotherapy community.

To explore and look at ways of supporting this work, we drafted a plan and a vision in 2015 of the future challenges ACPIN is facing. We also looked at ways ACPIN could further support its members, alongside the original aims of the organisation. One of the major issues ACPIN faces, as it continues to grow, is the overwhelming administrative burden faced by the committees. This, unfortunately, has been a reason for various committee members to resign over the past few years, and continues to be a stumbling block in getting new committee members from our volunteer community. We are paying special attention to how we go about our business and are coming up with new ways of working, aimed at reducing this burden. This includes looking at a variety of ways to obtain ACPIN office support for regions. We hope that these plans will encourage people to volunteer, and thereby add more interesting CPD opportunities for our membership. You will know from the AGM and other publications, that one of plans has been to invest in management support for ACPIN as part of an ACPIN office.

New CEO

Management support is very much the first step in setting up an ACPIN office function. I am delighted to let you know that we have been successful in advertising and interviewing for the interim ACPIN CEO position and like to announce that we have appointed Richard Denyer as our new interim CEO. If you are going to the ACPIN supported events this year or the ACPIN Conference 2017 (#ACPIN17) you will have an opportunity to meet him.

Richard's professional career has been impressive and he brings with him a wealth of experience. After international service in the British Council & as a volunteer country field director in his early career, he served as Chief Executive of four professional bodies. Among other non-executive director /trustee roles, he has served as Board Chair /Senior Independent Director of a large information and publishing company linked to Royal College of Nursing; Director (& Joint Secretary) of a health-related European Federation; public interest member on the Institute Chartered Accountants Scotland; Chair of Board Governance Committee of the National Association for Special Educational Needs;

positions on main boards of the European Society of Association Executives and International Association Forum; on Steering Committees of the Health /Social Care and Membership Special Interest Groups Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) and he still is the Vice Chair of a Patient Participation Group. He also holds the European Certificate of Association Management. Among the many projects he has directed, one was entitled 'Tomorrow's Leaders' (funded by industrial companies in several countries); and another (funded by the Department of Health) focused on workforce development in the fields of nutrition and inequality. For 40 years he has been (and continues to be) in the Westminster Parliament at least monthly, as well as occasional interaction with other legislatures. We hope to tap into his extensive network and get access to great opportunities for our ACPIN community.

Upon accepting the interim role, we have tasked Richard with reviewing the structure of our organisation and, using the "Nolan Principles" at its core, make recommendations on a ground up structure which ensures good governance and transparency. We have further asked for him to recommend ways to reduce the burden on the main committees and simultaneously increase the opportunities for members of our community to engage with important pieces of work, developing CPD type experience which supports individual and professional development. Ensuring CPD opportunities are the essence in undertaking roles with ACPIN, will support members in obtaining support from employers in undertake these roles.

Richard will be attending the WCPT ER, Therapy Expo and UK Stroke Conference in October and November of this year. Please do try and meet with him at these events to share your views during this period of settling in and developing the role.

Conference 2017

After a very successful international conference in March 2016, the committee have embarked on the task of developing a programme for the #ACPIN17 conference. The conference will use the now tested format including being hosted at the QE2 venue again with a programme that looks as challenging and thought provoking as it did with #ACPIN16. For 2017 the conference will be building on the success and great (inter)national attention for #ACPIN16. We will be building on the lessons learned from running such a big event last time. Please do keep an eye on the ACPIN website for a list of confirmed speakers. As #ACPIN16 was a new direction for our community, conference fees were heavily subsidised by national ACPIN. Unfortunately, National ACPIN is no longer able to continue to subsidise conference fees financially, we will need to at least break even in order to maintain our budget for other planned activities throughout the year.

Membership fees

ACPIN membership fees have stayed constant for almost 10 years. Our fees are the lowest of the CSP professional networks. It will be no surprise that we have been incurring increased costs over the same period. For some time, the national and executive committees have been discussing the need to raise membership fees. At the national ACPIN committee meeting in July 2015 we unanimously agreed to raise the fees. We now have insight in the budget needs for the next few years and as of **January 2017**, we will be raising the membership fees to £35 for existing members. From 1st April, for those who join after our conference, i.e. **new ACPIN members**, the membership fees will be raise to

£45. The raised income from membership will go towards benefits that ACPIN members have been telling us they would like to see, such as, increased training opportunities, availability of resources in a “members only” network and a new ACPIN website. We hope to count on your continued membership support in 2017 and increase the strength of our community.

Regions

Our aim for the next two years is to build on our strong regional activities and look at ways to expand these with national support. The ACPIN regions, a strong point of ACPIN activity, have a healthy repertoire of activities maintained throughout the years compared to other CSP professional networks who have lost their regional structure over time. In past years, regions have highlighted a desire to share resources and develop supra regional activities such as combined training opportunities. To start this process, it is essential that we first create a single ACPIN style for regional and national activities. Regions have been very effective in running a local programme of training and CPD activities. To support regions in developing an activities portfolio and give members clarity in how to engage with these activities, it will be important to collaboratively work with regions, to co-ordinate and share the local good practice in an effort to come to a common style of communication, booking training, evaluation of activities, reporting on engagement activities and other membership opportunities. This will come from clear principles of agreement set up jointly with National and Regional Committees.

All of this work, aims to reduce the administrative burden on the regions and create clarity for members by making ACPIN activity instantly recognisable in the staffroom. For members of our community, it will help to show a strong ACPIN brand to our patients and service managers / commissioners.

Expanding ACPIN's influence

In order to nurture and expand ACPIN's influence, we will be developing panels and working groups to influence and challenge the status quo in the health and political context. This needs to build on the credibility of ACPIN and the CSP as partners in developing health policy and clinical guidance. ACPIN already has representation at the RCP, UK Stroke Forum, Parkinsons UK and we are working with the CSP to secure ACPIN representation at the Neurological Alliance. Panels will sit alongside these representatives and advise the national executive on direction and content for specific future developments. Some panels will be short lived and others will have a longer commitment. Some areas where we will need to setup working parties and panels are:

Education and CPD

This is a mainstay of ACPIN activity and will benefit from a clearer structure for members to follow in pursuit of their CPD requirements. Eventually this will lead to additional activity and greater collaboration with HEI's in delivering accredited training and qualifications. This in turn will translate to a clearer career structure and establishment of agreed CPD needs for neuro physiotherapists in future.

Research

A long held ambition of ACPIN is to be supportive of members in the field of neuro rehabilitation research. In the past and to this current day, this has been through funding small research grants. These grants have been increased last year as part of a review of the grants structure. There is a need to look at how effective ACPIN is in supporting members by this activity. In addition, ACPIN has been supporting the dissemination of research through publication in Synapse, presentation at the ACPIN conference through platform or poster presentation and of course through the regional activities.

Collaboration with others to develop training and guidance

ACPIN has a history of actively supporting guideline development in collaboration with the CSP, NICE, RCP, Parkinson UK, COT, Handicap International/UK Aid, MNDA, MS Trust and is embarking on the development of specific training for NMES/FES in neuro physiotherapy.

ACPIN Awards

This new development, started last year, was greatly received. Nominations are invited again for this year and we are looking for volunteers among the ACPIN community to support the awards process by joining the awards panel in 2 online meetings. The members who volunteered last year gave feedback that it was a hugely rewarding process to be involved in as it gives insight into the commitments of other members towards our profession, but also into the workings of ACPIN behind the scenes. Following feedback received during the first awards process, we have been busy making amendments to improve on the nomination and overall process, which should make it easier to nominate exceptional colleagues for an appropriate and well deserved award recognising their commitment to our community and profession.

As the ACPIN community, I hope you will find our aims and plans for the future as exciting as the national committees do. I strongly feel that we are on our way to firmly cementing the foundations for our journey in order to ensure our continued success. Please do consider if you or any of your colleagues are able to come along to one of our meetings and find out how you can help in advancing ACPIN's aims.

I look forward to seeing you, at the ACPIN stand, and discuss our exciting future at one of our supported national events or during #ACPIN17

Jakko Brouwers
Honorary Chair ACPIN