

NEWS AND VIEWS

Centre for Exercise Science and Medicine

News and views has a distinctly Scottish tone this month. Glasgow University, whose thriving sports medicine and sports science groups have always been closely coordinated, are to formalise this link between them under the overall title Centre for Exercise Science and Medicine (CESAME). Although other universities have promoted both sports science and medicine to varying degrees, this is a key development by one of the leading research institutions which could revolutionise the development of sports medicine nationally. They are to make a major investment in personnel and funding and hope soon to appoint a leading figure as director.

Chair in cardiology and exercise medicine

Still in Glasgow comes the news that Glasgow University has appointed Stewart Hillis to a personal chair in cardiology and exercise medicine. This is a great personal honour for Professor Hillis, but it also represents an important step forward in academic sports medicine. It is recognition both of his own achievements and of the importance of sports medicine in the academic environment. We wish him well.

Scottish Sports Medicine Institute

The Scottish Sports Medicine Institute has had some change of personnel and now takes on a rather international perspective with Andy Stewart from Otago as the acting director and Giuseppe DeVito as medical officer. The partnership between Strathclyde and Aberdeen universities continues and, indeed, Aberdeen looks set for further expansion under the leadership of Professor Ron Maughan. Nic Mafulli, senior lecturer in orthopaedic surgery and one of the most prolific researchers in orthopaedic sports medicine, is also in Aberdeen.

BASM annual congress

Scotland will host the BASM annual congress in Peebles in November 1998. The keynote speakers will be Lyle Michaeli from Boston and Peter Brukner from Melbourne. Lyle Michaeli is well known for his work in children's orthopaedic sports surgery and has visited the United Kingdom on many occasions. He will address the problem of adolescent sports injury. Peter Brukner is a leading light in Australian sports medicine where he heads one of the most innovative clinical and educational units and has a particular interest in primary care sports medicine. His team were very prominent at the recent 1997 ACSM meeting and Peter is currently spending six months on sabbatical at Stanford University.

The conference will also consider the problems of adapting to heat and humidity and will reflect on the knowledge gained in preparing for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, and the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The main theme will, however, be clinical. The hospitality of the Scots and memory of the splendid conference in Gleneagles suggest that this 1998 event is set to be another outstanding success. Situated in the Borders region, Peebles Hydro is easily accessible by car from all parts of the country or by plane and train to Edinburgh.

National Sports Medicine Institute

Further south, the National Sports Medicine Institute (NSMI) continues its regrouping. Richard Wells, who was acting director, has been appointed senior executive with overall responsibility for the Institute. It is likely that the appointment of a medical director will be delayed until more is known about the future Academy of Sport. In the meantime, the NSMI board of management will assume responsibility for work in the different areas of interest within the Institute. Richard hopes to construct a national network of sports medicine centres, and lottery grants have been approved for 29 institutions which are, for the most part, departments of sports science based at universities, and sports medicine units based at NHS hospitals. The grants are intended for capital investment in equipment used either in testing or treating athletes.

Another major objective of the NSMI is to set up an integrated information technology network linking all the funded units, to allow central data collection and analysis. The system for collecting sports injury data is being piloted at the British Olympic Medical Centre in Northwick Park, Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham, The Royal Liverpool University Hospital, and at the University of Edinburgh. One of the key issues in setting up the injury surveillance system will be the coding and classification. The NSMI committee is currently working on this project and welcomes input from those with expertise. The NSMI library will continue in its key role as a national resource centre for all those with an interest in sports medicine and sports injury and intends to develop its computer online capabilities. Richard has emphasised his intention to work in partnership with all those bodies with particular interest in professional accreditation, education, and service provision and has indicated that he wishes the NSMI to be a shared national resource.

American College of Sports Medicine

On the international front, the links between BASM and the ACSM continue to strengthen and BASM has again been invited to promote a keynote lecture at the 1998 conference in Florida. This will be perhaps the biggest gathering of sports medicine experts ever, with the FIMS World Congress and the ACSM congress dovetailed together at the same venue in the same week (3-6 June). American College of Sports Medicine, PO Box 1440, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1440, USA.

European Federation of Sports Medicine

The European Federation of Sports Medicine (EFMS) was founded on 26 September 1997. In 1994 a number of countries in the European Union (EU) discussed the possibility of forming a Federation to promote the recognition of sports medicine in the EU as a specialty, and to standardise sports medicine education and qualifications. At a preliminary meeting in Granada in 1995 it was apparent that there was enormous interest in setting up a Federation for all European countries, whether in the EU or not. As a result, a steering committee was set up to propose statutes, and these were circulated to the sports medicine associations of all European countries. Each was invited to send a representative to the founding meeting at the IXth European Congress of Sports Medicine in Oporto and to nominate candidates for positions on the executive committee.

Voting representatives were present from 21 countries and, subsequently, Professor Norbert Bachl (Austria) was elected as president, Pierre Bertheau (France) and Costas Christodoulakis (Cyprus) as vice presidents, Fabio Pigozzi (Italy) as secretary general, and John Wesseling (Netherlands) as treasurer. Other executive members elected were Ian Adams (BASM Chair), Eva Martos (Hungary), and Fernandez (Spain) with Andre Debryne (Belgium) and Unter Gheorghe (Romania) as substitutes.

The aims of the Federation are to gain recognition for sports medicine as a medical specialty and to develop undergraduate and postgraduate education programmes throughout Europe. It will act as a pan-European forum to improve communication and collaboration between sports science and sports medicine organisations of the member countries. It will promote scientific research, and establish a sports medicine code of ethics.

An enormous amount of the groundwork was done by Moira O'Brien (Ireland) and Sven Solveborn (Sweden), but surprisingly neither was elected to the executive. They are to be congratulated for all their efforts to establish the Federation, which now has a solid foundation. The scene has been set, the parts have been cast, now let the action commence.

BASM courses known internationally

The international influence of BASM extends world wide and the education office has had inquiries about courses from as far afield as Brazil, Australia, Malaysia and from a number of Middle Eastern and African countries. One remarkable individual travelled from the West Indies to participate in the 1997 London Marathon and, on the evening of the marathon, made his way to Lilleshall to attend the BASM general course.

Postgraduate qualifications

The numbers registered for postgraduate qualifications and entering examinations in sports medicine continue to rise. Twenty two candidates attended the autumn sitting of the Royal Scottish Colleges diploma in sports medicine which took place in Edinburgh.

The increasing numbers sitting the examinations have encouraged BASM to organise a course directed towards preparing candidates for this exam. It will take place on 23-25 March 1998 and is restricted to a maximum of 24 participants to ensure the quality of teaching.

President of the RSM sports medicine section

Dan Tunstall Pedoe, who has in the past been acting editor of the Journal and is a member of the editorial board, is the current president of the section of sports medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine. We wish him well and look forward to even stronger links among all those organisations interested in the future of sports medicine.

AIDS in sport

FIMS recently released a statement on AIDS in sport. This document highlights the problems and difficulties of dealing with competitors with AIDS and efforts being made to protect the public and participants. They intend to circulate this document as widely as possible and full text is available on the FIMS home page on the world wide web at <http://cac.psu.edu/~hgk2/fims>

Growth hormone

The Journal always highlights the importance of research as one of the foundation stones of our discipline and congratulates the team at UMDS for their challenging research programme investigating the use and detection of growth hormone and other peptide hormones. This is one of the most exciting new pieces of research in the field of drugs in sport. Many athletes have formed part of this anonymous random sample and medical officers world wide are encouraged to allow their athletes to participate.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RSM sports medicine section

2 April 1998; Arthroscopy in the management of sporting injuries
6.00 pm, Royal Society of Medicine, London
Further details: Neela Lubojacky. Tel +44 (0)171 290 2987

Radiology 1998: Imaging, science, and oncology

1-3 June 1998, International Conference Centre, Birmingham, UK
Topics include interventional radiology, *info* RAD, quality in diagnosis and imaging, dosimetry, nuclear medicine, targeted radiotherapy, imaging and brachytherapy, information technology applied to health care and training, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, and medical imaging.

Further details: Ms June Clark, Conference Manager, Radiology Secretariat Office, 36 Portland Place, London W1N 4AT. Tel +44 (0)171 436 7807. Fax +44 (0)171 255 3209

9th British Association of Day Surgery annual meeting

4-6 June 1998; Harrogate International Centre

The meeting will cover the surgical, anaesthetic, nursing and managerial aspects of day surgery practice

Further details: Kite Communications, The Silk Mill House, 196 Huddersfield Road, Meltham, W Yorks HD7 3AP. Tel +44 (0)1484 854575. Fax +44 (0)1484 854576. Email info@kitecomms.co.uk

International conference on "Hydration throughout life"

9-12 June 1998; Palais des Congrès Vittel, France

The scientific programme, which will provide an overview of current basic and clinical research advances in the field of hydration, is intended for basic and clinical researchers and physicians as well as other health care professionals

Further details: Perrier Vittel Water Institute, Conference Secretariat, BP 101 - 88804, VITTEL Cedex. Tel +33 (0)3 29 08 70 41. Fax +33 (0)3 29 08 70 49. Email instieau@worldnet.fr

Third annual congress of the European College of Sports Medicine

15-18 July 1998; Manchester, England

Further details: The Third Annual Congress of the European College of Sports Medicine, Conference Secretariat, HIT Conferences, Cavern Walks, 8 Mathew Street, Liverpool L2 6RE, UK. Tel +44 (0)151 227 4423. Fax +44 (0)151 236 4829. Email ecss@hit1.demon.co.uk

Correction

Joint position sense and rehabilitation in the anterior cruciate ligament deficient knee (Carter ND, Jenkinson TR, Wilson D, Jones DW, Torode AS. 1997;31:209-12)

We regret that an editorial error occurred in table 3 of this article. The value for the entry Quadriceps strength (Nm), ACL should have been 198.5 (58.9).

Errors may occur in the journal from time to time but we would like to assure readers that a correction will always be printed when requested.