



Primary Care Cardiovascular Society

Driving primary care to deliver
the best in cardiovascular health

PCCS NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

The newsletter this month is a fairly lengthy one for August, despite being the holidays for some, there is much going on we'd like to share with you and hope you will find of interest and benefit. This month you'll find information on:

- [PCCS CVD Academy](#)
- [PCCS 4th Annual Conference](#)
- [Anticoagulation of Patients with Mechanical Heart Valves](#)
- [New BHF report – The Untold Heartbreak](#)
- [Launch of NHS Digital Weight Management Programme](#)
- [Have your say on the future of Congenital Heart Disease research](#)
- [Webinar, conferences and events of interest](#)

PCCS CVD Academy

By logging into the Academy section, members can now watch the three latest modules uploaded in the CVD Academy:

- Atrial fibrillation and flutter – *Professor Ahmet Fuat*
- Heart failure – *Professor Ahmet Fuat & Dr Jim Moore*
- Assessing the patient with chest pain and coronary artery disease – *Dr Derek Connolly*

If you still haven't activated your account in order to gain access to the Academy please contact our secretariat who will be able to help you: admin@lcwconsulting.co.uk

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PCCS 4th Annual Conference

There's still time to [Register](#) for our Annual Conference 'Shaping Healthy Communities: Focusing on Cardiovascular Care'. This will be held virtually on Thursday, 30th September, 8.55am–4pm, with the AGM following on afterwards from 4pm to 5pm (for members only).

The programme will focus on the Detect, Protect and Perfect agenda, around cardiovascular health, beginning with identifying patients at risk of cardiovascular disease. Within the Protect portion of the day, a number of speakers will provide a clinical update on ABC, including Nazish Khan who will be discussing the NICE 2021 AF guidelines, and Dr Dermot Neely providing a clinical update on cholesterol management. This will be followed by a series of speakers examining guidance on optimising models of care, including PCCS Past President, Professor Ahmet Fuat who will discuss models of care for identifying and managing AF. Looking ahead, the day will close with a discussion on how to work together to improve patient care, including a presentation from Dr Raj Thakkar and PCCS President Dr Jim Moore on emerging cardiac networks.

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Anticoagulation of Patients with Mechanical Heart Valves

We wish to highlight an important Joint National societies (including the PCCS) statement on the inappropriate prescribing of Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) in people with mechanical heart valves. At present, none of the DOACs are licensed for use in people with mechanical heart valves and are in fact contraindicated according to international guidelines, therefore, this document advises that people with mechanical heart valves receiving a DOAC medication should be urgently reviewed. Please read the full [Joint Statement](#) on our website under the Highlights section.

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New BHF report – The Untold Heartbreak

'The Untold Heartbreak' is a recently published report from the British Heart Foundation which highlights Covid-19's devastating impact on cardiovascular care and makes the case for urgent action to ensure patients can access the care they need within a stronger and more resilient health.

This is a far reaching timely, comprehensive document which clearly describes the challenges ahead but with a strategy aligned to addressing these challenges. It is reassuring to see how the views and recommendations of stakeholders across the cardiovascular disease spectrum are reflected in this document and hopefully it will be an important lever in enabling the change necessary to meet the needs of those at risk of and with established CVD.

You can read a [summary](#) or download the [full report](#) on our website under our [Highlights](#) section.

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Launch of NHS Digital Weight Management Programme

NHS England and Improvement has launched the Digital Weight Management Programme (DWMP) for people living with obesity who also have either diabetes, or hypertension, or both. In England, Primary Care can refer patients to the programme and can now receive funding for referrals to weight management services, including the DWMP, as set out in the recently announced [enhanced service](#).

The DWMP provides a new service that GPs and practice staff can offer to their patients, providing them with free access, via their smartphone or computer, to a 12-week behavioural and lifestyle intervention.

Excess weight is associated with poorer COVID outcomes, as well as a range of other health conditions and we would therefore encourage General Practice staff to engage with patients who may be eligible for this programme to discuss the benefits of referral. For comprehensive information and details on the programme please see visit NHS England's [website](#).

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Have your say on the future of Congenital Heart Disease research

A national study has been launched to identify and prioritise the areas of future research in congenital heart disease that are most important to patients, their families, and healthcare professionals. The PCCS is supporting this project to help ensure all voices are heard. The survey is now open and can be completed online at: <https://redcap.link/congenitalPSP>

It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and with your help, the findings will be used to:

- Develop a national strategy, to address the issues that matter most
- Guide the design of future studies, aimed at improving the clinical care and day-to-day lives of children and adults born with congenital heart disease

and so will have a major impact on the direction of congenital heart disease research in the UK.

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Webinars, conferences and events of interest with PCCS involvement:

Heart Rhythm Congress, 3rd – 6th October

Arrhythmia Alliance (A-A) Virtual Heart Rhythm Congress (HRC) provides an unrivalled opportunity for healthcare professionals interested in the management of arrhythmias to share effective practice, showcase innovation, learn about the latest developments and network with UK & international delegates.

This year, don't miss the PCCS & A-A joint symposia, featuring Dr Jim Moore, Dr Rushabh Shah, Ms Helen Williams and many more!

A-A HRC2021 will deliver virtual presentations, debates, and discussions from an international faculty. Delegates can also access a virtual exhibition hall to see the latest in innovation and technology. Click here to register:

www.heartrhythmcongress.org

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Webinars, conferences and events of interest with associated societies/organisations:

British and Irish Hypertension Society Annual Scientific Meeting 2021, 13th – 15th September

This live event celebrates the 40th anniversary of the BIHS conference and will be taking place at the Hilton Brighton Metropole, Brighton. The meeting is open to all healthcare professionals with an interest in cardiovascular disease and high blood pressure. To register your interest for the 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting please email bihs@in-conference.org.uk

BACPR Annual Hybrid Conference 2021, 7th & 8th October

Registration is now open for the BACPR 2021 Annual Conference. This year's hybrid conference theme is 'New World of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation'. Information on the programme and registration is available here: <https://eu.eventscloud.com/website/5115/>

Issues & Answers Live – Long Covid: The Way Ahead, 16th September, 12th October, 9th November

Announcing the first three evening programmes from the unique, expert-led series of interactive broadcasts providing practical advice and guidance for the whole primary care team confronted with the challenges of caring for patients suffering from Long COVID.

Covid survivors report a bewildering complex of long-term consequences. The programme aims to strengthen your understanding of Long COVID and its long-term implications for the nation's health by offering evidence-based answers and practical 'how-to' advice for delivering best practice.

Registration is FREE and CPD points are awarded for attendance. Programmes also recorded for on-demand viewing. To find out more and to register visit: <https://www.issuesandanswers.org/conference-2021/>

Webinars, conferences and events of interest with non-affiliated international/European meetings:

European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress 2021 – the Digital Experience, 27th – 30th August

This annual cardiovascular disease conference offers ground-breaking science, essential clinical updates to improve your clinical practice, a renowned international faculty and the opportunity to connect with colleagues from around the globe. For further details please visit: <https://www.escardio.org/Congresses-&-Events/Congresses>

Congress of the European Society of Vascular Medicine: Best practice and comprehensive reviews on peripheral vascular disease, 1st–4th September

This free 4-day virtual conference will provide evidence-based lectures from highly respected international experts on best practice for the peripheral vascular disease (PVD) patient, along with a comprehensive review of PVD aspects, covering peripheral artery disease, venous disease and lymphology. It will also update on the latest evidence in epidemiology, diagnosis and management. For more details and to book, please click here: [7th Congress of the European Society of Vascular Medicine: Best practice and comprehensive reviews on peripheral vascular disease \(rsm.ac.uk\)](https://www.rsm.ac.uk/7th-Congress-of-the-European-Society-of-Vascular-Medicine-Best-practice-and-comprehensive-reviews-on-peripheral-vascular-disease)

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With best regards,

Dr Jim Moore FRCP Edin
President of the Primary Care Cardiovascular Society
GP, GPwSI Cardiology



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