



## Primary Care Cardiovascular Society

Driving primary care to deliver  
the best in cardiovascular health

# PCCS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2022

Dear Colleague,

This month you'll find information on:

- [PCCS CVD Academy](#)
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### PCCS CVD Academy

We'd like to bring your attention to the 'Feedback' button which has now been added to each of the modules within the Academy. It would really help us if you're able to take a couple of minutes to share some quick answers once you have completed a module so we can ensure we're providing the most beneficial information and it will help us with future planning for the Academy and other educational initiatives.

Following the Academy's launch one year ago we will be sending a short survey to members in a couple of months' time, which we urge you to complete to help us with forward planning and to hear how effective and user-friendly the mechanics of the Academy are.

### PCCS Spring Conference 2022

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the second Spring Conference: ***Conundrums in cardiovascular disease***, which takes place face-to-face at The King's Fund in London on **Thursday, 26th May 2022**.

The day kicks off with a welcome and introduction by Dr Jim Moore and Prof Ahmet Fuat at 8.45am. You can view the full agenda [here](#) and view speaker profiles [here](#).

We will be limited in numbers so if you wish to join us please register [here](#).

### PCCS Annual Conference 2022

Our fifth Annual Conference will be held virtually over two days, **29th–30th September 2022**.

The PCCS education committee is currently in the process of planning the agenda and would be interested to know what members would like to hear about this year. If you would like to give some suggestions on topics, please follow this link and submit the form [here](#).

The deadline for submitting feedback is: Friday, 1st April 2022.



## British Society for Heart Failure (BSH) Freedom from Failure

The British Society for Heart Failure (BSH) has launched an animated video: '[Understanding your heart and heart failure](#)', just under three minutes in length, in English, Gujarati, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, Polish and Welsh languages for use by those who need to educate on heart function.

Intended for healthcare professionals across healthcare settings, it is equally applicable for student use and for self-education. The video should be a useful educational resource in primary care with the publication of the NHS England & Improvement Primary Care Network (PCN) cardiovascular disease CVD service requirements (DES) for 2022/23<sup>[i]</sup> which aims to support earlier identification of heart failure, highlighted as a priority in the NHS Long Term Plan.

Produced as part of the 'Freedom from Failure — the F Word' five-year strategy, which encourages self-recognition of symptoms of heart failure (e.g. fighting for breath, fatigue and filling with fluid) and seeking medical help early, the animated video will add to a repository of resources provided by BSH to make heart failure a national priority.

[i] <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/B0828-ii-annex-a-pcn-plans-for-21-22-and-22-23.pdf>  
accessed 27 Aug 21

## Primary care aspects of heart failure podcast

In this podcast, Dr Toni Hazell discusses the diagnosis and management of heart failure with Ahmet Fuat, honorary professor of primary care cardiology at Durham University, and Sarah Worsnop who shares her experiences of being diagnosed with heart failure at an early age. They cover the importance of the use of NT-proBNP test in patients with symptoms such as fatigue and shortness of breath, and to be aware that patients present with heart failure at all ages. The podcast goes on to cover the basics of heart failure management and the issues that are important to patients, including different consultation styles and open access to heart failure nurses when needed.

The podcast can be accessed via the following links on the RCGP Online Learning Environment:

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/heartfailurepodcast>

Alternatively, you can access the podcast on the RCGP eLearning podcast channel:

<https://audioboom.com/posts/8033367-primary-care-aspects-of-heart-failure>

*[This podcast was funded by Roche Diagnostics Limited. Final editorial and content decisions were made by the RCGP. The views and opinions expressed in this podcast are those of the podcast participants and do not necessarily represent the views of Roche Diagnostics Limited.]*

## Research Grant Funding – Aortic Dissection

The Aortic Dissection Charitable Trust is now accepting applications for pump-priming research grant funding in the field of aortic dissection. Initially, a one-year award will be provided to support projects with the overall aim of improving the clinical care of patients, to save lives and improve quality of life for those suffering from aortic dissection. Members of the multidisciplinary team and researchers involved in the care of patients with aortic dissection are invited to apply.

Applications will close on 31st May 2022. How to make your submission and a full list of terms and conditions can be found here: [Research Funding - The Aortic Dissection Charitable Trust](#).



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## The National AHSN Network Blood Pressure Optimisation Programme

The newly launched national Blood Pressure Optimisation Programme will focus on improving the management of hypertension, case finding for the undiagnosed and targeting health inequalities, in addition to support for remote monitoring. It will do this by helping primary care to do things differently using the [Proactive Care Frameworks developed by UCLPartners](#).

Dr Matt Kearney, the UCLPartner's Programme Director, has written a blog about the new National Blood Pressure Optimisation Programme to highlight the importance of hypertension management and how the programme will help primary care teams transform patient care. You can read the blog here: <https://uclpartners.com/blog-post/national-blood-pressure-optimisation-programme-do/>

## SHARP (Scottish Heart and Arterial disease Risk Prevention) webinar

The first in the new series of SHARP webinars on Managing Cardiovascular Risk in the Community takes place on Thursday 24 March 2022 at 6.30pm.

The Management of Hypertension in the Community and When to Refer will be presented by Professor Tom Macdonald, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology & Pharmacoepidemiology, Director of MEMO Research and Hypertension Research Centre, University of Dundee/NHS Tayside.

At each session there will be a 45-minute presentation on the chosen topic then a Q&A session with each speaker. [Register here](#).

With best regards,

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



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