

NHS GENETICS EDUCATION CENTRE

UPDATE

December 2008



WELCOME

Welcome to the first electronic newsletter highlighting some of the key developments at the National Genetics Education and Development Centre. We are pleased to announce that 2008 has been an extremely successful year! Working with clinical practitioners, educationalists, researchers and patients we have identified education needs and developed resources to support teaching and learning. We have also relaunched our website which signposts all our work. We do hope that you will contact us with your ideas about how we can support genetics education and activities in practice.

THE 2ND SUPPORTING GENETICS EDUCATION FOR HEALTH CONFERENCE: CONNECTING EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE

Over 100 people attended our conference at the ICC in Birmingham in October 2008. Speaker John Burn (Newcastle University) and Sir Muir Gray (NHS Choices) encouraged participants to consider our knowledge of genetics and it's clinical impact. Glyn Purland and Tim Elliott discussed the importance of cancer genetics services and Jane Gregory shared her personal experience of being the mum of a child with a genetic condition. The afternoon workshops showcased the Centre's work and a workshop on 'Teaching Genetics: mind your language' caused great debate about the impact of the words health professionals use with patients and families. Feedback identified that participants felt the Centre was supporting them in "switching their colleagues on to genetics".

GP TRAINERS DAY

Over the past 6 months, the Centre has carried out two pilot workshops in the West Midlands to provide GP trainers with tips and tools to support their trainees with the RCGP Curriculum on 'Genetics in Primary Care'. The workshops summarised the key curriculum themes, illustrated how patient stories and clinical scenarios could be used to address many of the learning outcomes and signposted resources that would assist GPs with the clinical management of patients. The workshops were well received by participants, one trainer commenting, 'I have underestimated the importance of this topic in day to day practice... a lot learnt and very stimulating.'

The workshops are now being rolled out nationally by the Centre's Genetics Education Facilitators.

For more information, please contact michelle.bishop@geneticseducation.nhs.uk

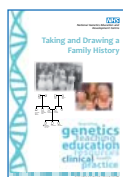
TEACHING GENETICS COURSE: A COURSE FOR REGIONAL GENETICS STAFF

How can I engage people when I'm teaching? How do I decide what to include in a teaching session? 'Teaching Genetics' is a three day course which provides a grounding in teaching genetics to health professionals. Interactive presentations and small group activities provide practical suggestions for teaching and learning genetics based on current educational theory and good practice. Dates for 2009 are now available on the website.



NHS INNOVATIONS AWARDS - DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Centre has recently had a double success in the NHS Innovations Awards. We were first announced as a 'One to Watch' at the West Midlands MidTech awards with our 'Taking and Drawing a Family History' series, winning £1000 to further develop the series. Following that we were short listed in the 'Diagnostics and Therapeutics' category for the NHS National Innovation awards in London. We are delighted to announce that we were voted runner up in our category winning a further £2000 to develop the next stage of the Family History series, 'Understanding and Interpreting a Family History'.



CURRENT WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

Website Re-Launch

Check out a brand new website from the Genetics Education Centre at www.geneticseducation.nhs.uk



Evaluation of our Telling Stories website is ongoing. A preliminary report on how the site is being viewed by educators is now available.

Genetic Progress embedding scientific advances into Healthcare

"The Centre is beginning to catalyse appropriate training across the NHS, and facilitate uptake of genetic knowledge". DH(2008).

READ ON FOR:

The Taking and Drawing a Family History Series

The Genomic Basis of Therapeutics Series

Genetics and Obesity Factsheet

Genetics Education Across the Continuum of Medical Education

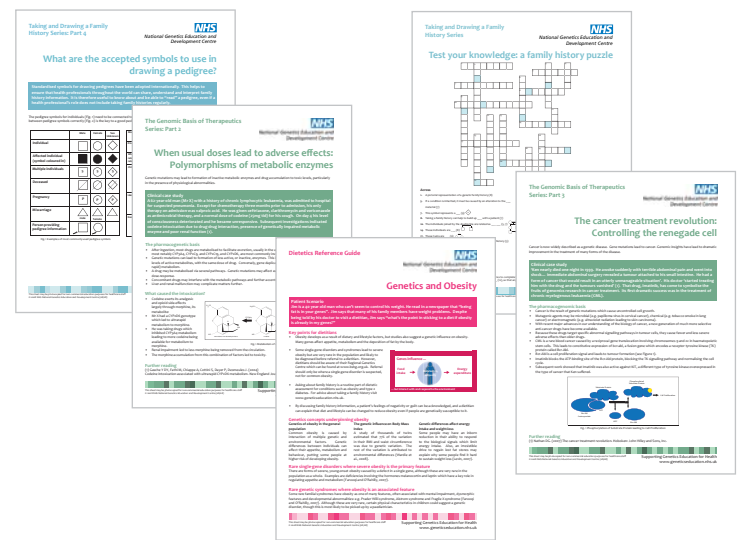
TAKING AND DRAWING A FAMILY HISTORY SERIES

This pack of factsheets about collecting and recording a genetic family history is one of a series of resources developed by the NHS National Genetics Education and Development Centre to support health professionals in undertaking genetic activities in clinical practice.

Other factsheets in this series cover why taking a family history is important, accepted international symbols, pedigree drawing exercises and safeguarding information. The series has been published and is available upon request from the Centre or you can download a copy from www.geneticseducation.nhs.uk

GENETICS AND OBESITY FACTSHEET

Genetics influences the body's response to diet and nutrition, so dietitians need to understand the genetic basis of disease and how this applies in dietetic practice. Some specialist dietitians are involved with inherited metabolic disorders such as phenylketonuria (PKU). For these an understanding of family history and genetic concepts is particularly important. These concepts are also relevant in common conditions such as diabetes or heart disease. The Centre is working with dietitians to produce education resources explaining the genetics underpinning common conditions. A factsheet on "Genetics and Obesity" is currently available from the Centre's website.



THE GENOMIC BASIS OF THERAPEUTICS SERIES

Pharmacogenetics is the science of how genetic variation affects the response to drug therapy. This is of interest not only to pharmacists, but to all health professionals who are involved in prescribing or delivering drugs. It is a relatively new area, but has a wide variety of applications, many of which are already used in clinical practice. The Centre's pharmacogenetics web pages provide an introduction to the subject, together with a series of factsheets entitled "The Genomic Basis of Therapeutics" and sources of further information.

GENETICS EDUCATION ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF MEDICAL EDUCATION - DR MELISSA MARTYN

It is widely acknowledged that the genetics education of healthcare staff has not kept pace with advances in genetics. The NHS National Genetics Education and Development Centre is working to address this situation by promoting clinically relevant genetics education for healthcare professionals across all stages of education and training. The first step in promoting clinically relevant genetics education is to work with practitioners to identify where and how genetics impacts on practice. This knowledge can then be used to define clinically relevant educational outcomes for trainees.

As part of the Centre's medicine work programme, learning outcomes relevant to clinical practice have now been identified across the whole continuum of medical education, from medical student training through to speciality and general practice training. The learning outcomes for medical students emphasise underlying genetics concepts whereas those for general practice and speciality trainees emphasise the application of these concepts to clinical practice.

Learning outcomes for medical students were developed in consultation with UK medical school genetics leads based on topics accepted nationally as important for medical students. Learning outcomes for general practice trainees were developed following an educational needs assessment which asked GP trainees and trainers, programme directors and geneticists to identify genetics items important for general practice. They can be found in 'Genetics in Primary Care' curriculum statement six. Learning Outcomes for specialty trainees were identified following a similar needs assessment involving geneticists and speciality consultants. These learning outcomes for medical training and education are now being incorporated into curricula at a national level.

Educational outcomes and resources can be found in the 'Teaching Genetics' section of the Centre's website. The educational outcomes may be helpful to those asked to teach medical trainees by defining what genetics trainees at different stages are expected to know. We hope you find the outcomes and resources useful and would welcome feedback on how you are using these and suggestions for what else might be useful.

COMING SOON...

- How can genetics influence the outcome of drug therapy? Why pharmacogenetics education is relevant to all health professionals
- Developing education for dietitians about the effect of family history and genetics information on dietetic practice
- Using cases to teach genetics
- A Toolkit for Developing Services in Genetics
- Genetics in Practice

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