

## Research Grant News 2011

The overall quality of research applicants in 2011 has been of an inspirationally high standard. This is very heartening. Less happy are the economic woes which have affected industry and hence the ability of the Foundation and the ICS to raise the funds to support all the work we would like to – and which our patients deserve. New initiatives in the coming year will hopefully help us do more for our researchers. By pump-priming good work, we will be able to attract further funding into the area and bring real advances in patient care. There were 21 applications for the [Young Investigator Award](#), and the standard was high! The winners were Dr Michael O'Dwyer, Dr Rebecca Ingram and Simon Scott. We are looking forward to seeing the fruits of this work presented at a future State of the Art Meeting. There was strong competition for the [Research Gold Medal Award](#), but there can only be one winner, this year it was Dr Brijesh Patel from Imperial for his impressive series of studies entitled 'TNF receptors in experimental acute lung injury – a double-edged sword'. The research committee oversees the awarding of prizes for the best [research oral presentation](#) and the best [research poster presentation](#). This year these went to Ms Nina Goldmann, Dr Martin Duffy and Dr Vimal Grover respectively. The entries for the [Medical Student Essay Prize](#) was again at an all-time high with quality to match. The winning entry came from Mr Stephen Dauncey for his submission "Can dietary nitrate supplements improve tolerance to hypoxia?" This and the runners up will be offered publication in *JICS*. **Prof Mark Bellamy, Research Committee Chair.**

## Chairman Stephen Brett writes...

Those of us lucky enough to attend the Foundation sessions at the State of the Art were treated to some wonderful presentations. Do consider participating as a presenter or audience participant in December 2012. The scientific activity supported by the Foundation is steadily increasing and we should soon see the results of some Young Investigators' Prize projects as well as some of the larger studies. Please consider participating in fundraising which underpins this – there are plenty of opportunities...

## News from research directors Danny McAuley and Gavin Perkins

2011 saw another research prioritisation exercise. In April the Foundation put out a call for outline trial proposals to be awarded a £50,000 grant to support feasibility work in order to develop a full proposal for subsequent submission to a national funding body. 29 applications were submitted and 14 were then selected by competitive peer review to present at a research workshop in July. The applicants presented their proposals to a panel of peers, clinical trialists and statisticians. This gave everyone an opportunity to revise their proposals based on the expert feedback received. The 14 proposals were then sent out to the ICS membership for online voting. The top 6 proposals were invited to present at the December State of the Art Meeting. Quality of presentation was high, as was the discussion from the audience. The winning proposal was from Mrs Judith Edwards, Dr Matt Thomas and Dr Sanjoy Shah from Bristol, entitled "The effects of electrical muscle stimulation on muscle wasting in patients receiving prolonged mechanical ventilation (EVEN)". The investigators plan to use the grant to undertake a local pilot study to help inform a subsequent multi-centre randomised

controlled trial. The Foundation wishes all the applicants good luck as they continue to pursue their research ideas. Hopefully we can offer support in various ways to these trial proposals as they develop further. The Foundation has good links with the NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) panel.

We will be contacting applicants over the course of the next few weeks to see if they would like their idea submitted to the HTA for consideration for commissioning research in this area. The large number of applicants and particularly the high quality discussion about proposals at the State of Art Meeting demonstrates the importance of and enthusiasm for clinical research within UK ICU. We would encourage all those interested in working up research ideas to come to the UK Critical Care Research Forum in Belfast, June 11 - 12 for what is always a very useful and interesting discussion. If you are interested in presenting a study for feedback at the Forum, then please email [ukccrf@icnarc.org](mailto:ukccrf@icnarc.org) for the 'New Study Proposal Template' which should be submitted by Friday 25 May 2012. To register to attend the UKCCRF, please email [ukccrf@icnarc.org](mailto:ukccrf@icnarc.org) for a form.

## Previous Research Prioritisation Exercises

From the 2008 research prioritisation exercise, Dr Anthony Gordon (Imperial College) will finish recruiting to the pilot vasopressin trial at the end of February 2012. Funding has been secured from the NIHR and ethics approval obtained for the main double-blind randomised controlled trial (VANISH) and will begin recruitment in the Spring. Prof Brian Cuthbertson (Toronto, previously Aberdeen) and Dr Geoff Bellingan (UCLH) are finishing their exploratory studies of selective digestive tract decontamination (SuDDICU) and are now planning a major effectiveness trial. The BALTI-2 trial (randomised controlled trial of intravenous salbutamol in ARDS) supported in the 2006 Research Prioritisation Exercise was published on-line by the *Lancet* to tie in with first ... **continued overleaf**