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WMPA Secretary's Report

Wednesday, 16 November 2016

The Autumn meeting last year (2015) was a GI update in the City Hospital Post Grad unit and was well received (Scores of >78% on feedback for all the lectures). We were lucky to have the George Whitfield lecture presented by Professor Sir Stephen O'Rahilly on Human Obesity and Insulin Resistance: Lessons from Genetics.

The feedback from the meeting indicated that the Venue is no longer suitable for large meetings (circa 150 Attendees). The lecture theatre is easily big enough but, due to renovations, it is no longer possible to feed this sort of number in the restaurant.

Therefore the traditional Autumn Central Venue Rota for the WMPA has been changed.

The old central Autumn Venue Rota was: QE / Heartlands / City.

The new central Autumn Venue Rota is: QE / Heartlands / Coventry. This was decided at the February 2016 Executive Committee meeting of the Association, following perusal of the feedback from the Autumn meeting.

We would like to remind all speakers that unencrypted flash drives are no longer working at NHS podium computers, and likewise most NHS podium computers will not accept "Hotmail" / "gmail" addresses, so we would like to ensure presenters send their presentations at least a week before the meeting to our Executive Business Support Secretary (Diane.Nicholls@execbs.com), so that the presentations can be virus checked and loaded onto the Podium computer in a timely fashion for the meeting. Those who leave it to the last minute are reminded to bring a laptop. (Notebooks are not always recognised by all digital projectors).

The Spring meeting (2016) was in Wolverhampton; a Renal Medicine update, very well hosted by Jonathan Mann, in a nice venue. The feedback scored the organization of the event at 89%, and all the medical presentations scored well at >82%. The update lecture was provided by Professor Tony Young: the National Clinical Director for Innovation in NHS England. This proved to be a popular talk, with some attendees travelling a long distance to attend the meeting, and speak with Prof Young.

The attendance overall at the Spring meeting was a little lower than we have had in the recent past. We think that this was because it backed onto a Bank Holiday, and we plan to avoid Bank Holidays / weekends / half term in future (if possible).

Roger Shinton (Past President) has moved the Association's Membership database to an excel format, which allows us to email notifications to the members, saving on postage. He has also overseen the New Website development. This has been well received, with a crisp new feel. There is a facility for Associate Membership for trainee Consultants, with instructions as to how to set up a standing order to pay an annual fee of £3. As an incentive to join as Associate Members, we have reduced the fee for WMPA training days: a fee of £30 for associate trainee members and £45 for non-members and Consultants. So for associate members, a direct debit fee of £3 per year will reduce their annual costs by £30. This development has cost some of the Associations reserves, but (See Treasurer's report) we are still working within a prudent fiscal program.

Following the September Executive Committee meeting; we have issued another membership drive. The Treasurer's report may cast some light on its success.

Mike Healy (Hon. Sec. to WMPA)