



## Chairman's Report

Turbulence is never a particularly pleasant experience, but that is the term so commonly applied to what is happening in our current specialist world of diabetes these days. We can but hope for an eventual smooth landing,

although the journey through these uncertain times requires continued determination with a destination that will be almost certainly different to that which many of us have cherished in the past. The strength of ABCD is through its membership (now over 65% UK Diabetologists), and this enables our views to be made known through a number of advisory and partnership roles. From our website dialogue it is evident that concerns in respect of specialist diabetes services are prevalent across the country, and these have been made known to Diabetes UK whom we feel should be well placed to champion the expert care people with diabetes should expect.

The autonomy of ABCD has enabled us to make strong representations in several ways. The ABCD – Diabetes UK Liaison Group is important and proving productive, and from this partnership the review of specialist diabetes services will be derived. More recently ABCD has met with the Society for Endocrinology and Diabetes UK to discuss issues around education, training and recruitment of young doctors, particularly in the light of Partha Kar's SpR Survey, highlighting the current uncertainties for young doctors considering a future career in diabetes and endocrinology. Ways of improving the speciality profile through educational initiatives and incentives do need to be identified. It is a continued privilege to publish ABCD position papers, recently including guidance on insulin pumps (Practical Diabetes International November/December 2006) led by our experts Peter Hammond, Shirine Boardman, and Richard Greenwood; whilst a paper on "Screening for Gestational Diabetes" prepared by Stephen Robinson and Anne Dornhorst is now in press. Thanks to everyone who contributed. The accumulating series of position papers is looking impressive.

Other ABCD activities continue to increase. Those attending the last Autumn Meeting will know of Maggie Hammersley's commitment to inpatient diabetes care, and on behalf of ABCD along with David Kerr she will be linking with Mike Sampson's overall inpatient project under the direction of the NDST. Mike's ABCD audit paper has been accepted by Diabetic Medicine. ABCD is also often asked to provide endorsement of new guidelines. To do so for the "Minimum Skills Framework for Commissioning of Footcare Services for People with Diabetes" provided no problem; it has been a different matter for guidelines on "Boxing with Type 1 Diabetes", where the membership clearly does not wish to be seen encouraging this particular sport.

As many of you will know this is the time of year when consultant minds focus on Higher Awards. Members supported by ABCD did quite well in 2006 (2 gold, 1 silver, 5 bronze) and a number of other members who had not requested support were successful nonetheless. It just shows the quality within the membership! Good luck to all those who are submitting for 2007.

Our last Autumn Meeting in London was informative, encouraging and above all enjoyable. Peter Winocour looks to

have put together yet another excellent programme for Chester, 16/17 May. ABCD needs to provide strong clinical leadership and promote high quality research and innovation. I believe these meetings provide the forum to take these forward. See you in Chester.

*Ken Shaw, Chairman, ABCD*