

Primary Health Care Specialist Group of BCS

Chairman's Report 2017

The committee has met on five occasions over the last year. This year we were keen to reach out to those working in Primary care and try to improve their use and understanding of IT. The BCS has a mantra of making IT better for society and our role is to make primary care IT better for society.

We put on a full day stream at EHI Live in conjunction with PRIMIS on primary care topics. Roz Foad organized an evening meeting with the Hertfordshire BCS branch on "Preserving Patient Confidentiality" where Ian Herbert spoke and we presented a session at eHealth week. Our main effort in this direction has been to put on a free "Education day" linked to this conference. This will take/has taken place on 12th October just prior to the AGM. We have advertised this widely to the primary care domain and at the time of writing have 44 people registered to attend. We have arranged for the day to be video recorded as an on-going educational resource and that will be available via the website soon.

We continued to discuss a national topic at the start of each meeting. MIQUEST played a prominent role in our debates this year. We produced a paper on the requirement for a such a tool and emphasized the large number of organizations dependent on it. This was sent to NHS digital in advance of their final meeting. Nevertheless, a decision not to support it was made. In our most recent CLICSIG in September we re-visited this and looked at how an alternative might be developed to serve the same purpose.

We responded to the consultation on de-identification of Data Items standard being drawn up and we spent one session reviewing the state of NHS data, confidentiality and governance and considered how we could best be involved.

As the Chair, I sit on the BCS health executive board. I have attended some face to face meetings and many teleconferences during the year. Perhaps the main agenda for BCS health has been the move to making Health Informatics a profession. I think it is fair to say that this has been a slow burner. At eHealth week the "Well connected" campaign was launched. This encouraged people to sign up to a professionalization pledge. As I write this they have just announced that Fed-IP will start taking registrations from January 2018. Meanwhile for the clinicians the Faculty of Clinical Informatics has come into being and just appointed its founding fellows. Work has also been going on to develop the professional standards around registration and links are being developed with the digital academy.

The BCS was the host organization for MIE, the European informatics meeting in Manchester this April and there are plans to encourage members to attend the next meeting in Gothenburg next April.

I also sit on the JGPIT committee and have attended those meetings. This committee receives regular reports and updates from the national programme, and I've been particularly involved this year, with another hat on, in the move of primary care to SNOMED CT.

The website has operated quite smoothly this year and we can now get stuff put up and removed easily. We are restricted in its appearance and function by the BCS software. That is also true of the booking software for the conference and I apologise to any of you who have had difficulty in getting properly booked.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for their hard work during the year. Everyone has played their part, but I would especially like to thank those who have helped me to put on this conference and the education day. Roz Foad, Miriam Lemar, Grizelda Moules and Geoff Schrecker who have all put in a huge amount of time to make it all work.