

## JOINT ASA/JRCALC CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE



### **Annual Report 2000/2001**

Chairman: Mr S Jones (Westcountry, JRCALC)  
Vice-chair: Dr I McNeil (JRCALC, Surrey, Kent)  
Secretary: Mr S Nicholls (ASA/JRCALC)

Members:

Dr Judith Fisher (Essex, JRCALC)  
Dr Graham Johnson (West Yorkshire, JRCALC)  
Dr Peter Baskett (JRCALC)  
Graham Brown (Westcountry)  
Lesley Cave (London)  
Rose Ann O'Shea (University of Hertfordshire)  
Leigh Thompson (Mersey)  
Andy Silver (East Midlands)  
Neil Barnes (Greater Manchester)  
Terry Service (Tees, East & North Yorkshire)  
Robin Lawrenson (Scotland)  
Tim Jones (Wales)  
Dr David McManus (Northern Ireland, JRCALC)  
Alan Howson (IHCD/Edexcel, JRCALC)  
Val Ward (ASA)  
Steve Edwards (West Midlands)

### **Annual Report 2000/2001**

The last twelve months have seen considerable change for the committee and a busy period for the National Clinical Effectiveness Programme.

Mr Sam Jones (Chairman, Westcountry Ambulance Service) took over from Mr Paul McCormick (Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service) as Chairman of the committee from April 2000, and there have been significant changes to the membership of the committee. All past members are thanked for their contribution in sharing best clinical practice amongst the UK's ambulance service.

To assist in sharing best practice and information on clinical audit and clinical effectiveness, this year saw the launch of two websites - [www.asancep.org.uk](http://www.asancep.org.uk) - the website of the ASA's National Clinical Effectiveness Programme and - [www.jrcalc.org.uk](http://www.jrcalc.org.uk) - the website of the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee. Also, Candour the newsletter of the committee is now in its fifteenth issue within Ambulance UK.

The joint committee strengthened its ties with JRCALC through the establishment of the JRCALC Clinical Guidelines Committee Chaired by Dr Iain McNeil, in May 2000. By November 2000 a comprehensive set of national prehospital clinical guidelines had been completed as a starting point for further evidence based guideline development. The guidelines were published on the JRCALC website, on CD-ROM and will appear as part of the National Electronic Library for Health Emergency Care Virtual Branch Library.

Evidence for Change III was published highlighting over 70 clinical improvement projects within the UK ambulance service an increase over the previous year's total which is quite an achievement given the number of Trust mergers. Again the survey highlighted the lack of funding for clinical audit within the service - 55% of services still do not receive external funding.

The committee had strong representation at the JRCALC conference in November 2000 with Dr Iain McNeil, Mr Graham Brown and Mr Stuart Nicholls covering topics including guideline development, implementation and clinical audit.

A survey of patient report forms was published in October 2000 which looked at compliance to the ASA/JRCALC Minimum Data Set with particular reference to information relating to the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework (CHD NSF).

In respect of the CHD NSF the ASA's National Clinical Effectiveness Programme in collaboration with JRCALC and the Royal College of Physicians have begun work on a national prehospital clinical audit of acute myocardial infarction. For the first time this will allow for benchmarking of UK ambulance services and uniformly allow outcome measures from within hospital to be accessed.

Key relationships have been maintained and new ones developed by the committee. Val Ward has joined the committee whilst Stuart Nicholls is reciprocally now a member of the ASA's Ambulance Education and Training Group. There are stronger ties with JRCALC through the guidelines committee and the main committee to ensure policy and strategy are fed through to the member services. In covering issues surrounding clinical governance the committee has looked at issues of clinical risk and many of these will be worked up with the ASA Risk Forum to develop a reference pack for Trusts and staff. The National Clinical Effectiveness Programme maintains links with the National Clinical Governance Support Team and assisted in a workshop dedicated to developing clinical governance within ambulance services.

The main development that the committee had to deal with this year was the announcement from the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) that they would be ceasing funding of the National Clinical Effectiveness Programme from the end of March 2001. The reason for this was to centralise clinical audit funding and allocate it for specific audit and guideline developments commissioned by NICE through new Collaborative Centres. The committee has established partnership arrangements with three of the six centres - Acute Care, Primary Care and Chronic Care - and will look to formalise arrangements with the other three centres in the coming year.

The ASA and JRCALC have agreed to subsidise the National Clinical Effectiveness Programme for the short term and have submitted a bid to the Department of Health to ensure guideline and audit developments within the ambulance service continue to be supported in the long term.