

Author: Karen Clough

Minutes of Cross Party Group on Asthma Meeting

Date: 5 November 2014

Attendees: Asthma UK (Gordon Brown, Karen Clough) MSPs (Nanette Milne MSP (chair), Jim Eadie, Hugh Henry, Richard Simpson, Maureen Watt), Members of Cross Party Group (Mike McGregor, Elisabeth Ehrlich, Suzanne Cameron-Nielsen, Trisha Burns, Olivia Fulton, Ann McMurray, Julie Westwood, Steve Cunningham, Susan Grieve, Louise Scott, John Macgill), Others (Dr Dietmar Zeiss, Gwen Robertson, Paul Murdoch)

Discussion	Action	Person to action
<u>Welcome and update from Asthma UK</u>	N/A	
<u>Fitstars</u> GB explained the background to the Fitstars project and then Gwen Robertson and Paul Murdoch the resource and explained the concept and vision behind the project. It was noted that the programme includes 98% of the Curriculum for Excellence as well as encouraging physical activity for children under 8. A 100% success rate for participation was also noted, with the team explaining that the programme can be adapted for all levels of physical ability. The programme has already been piloted by Aberdeenshire council with success. The agenda item ended with a short but physical demonstration of part of the resource before a round-table discussion. There was unanimous praise for the resource with MSPs asking for documentation to read and promote in their areas.	MSPs to be provided with short summary of project details.	GB (completed)
<u>Dr Dietmar Zeiss Presentation – A novel approach to inhibit Amphiregulin activity in order to prevent inflammation associated airway remodelling.</u>	N/A	

<p>Dr Zaiss from the University of Edinburgh discussed research he has been undertaking to try and prevent airway remodelling as a result of inflammation damage from asthma. He noted that by adapting current asthma medication there was the possibility of preventing long term damage to the lungs by inhibiting the receptors which caused the damage. He explained that with early diagnosis and treatment this could mean the prevention or even reversal of damage to the lungs, especially when used alongside physical exercise.</p> <p>The importance of physical activity for all ages of asthma sufferer was also discussed, with it being noted that programmes like fitstars which introduce physical activity in the young being very important for the future health of the sufferer.</p> <p>It was noted that the continued Asthma UK funding into research such as this was vitally important.</p> <p>A round-table discussion ensued with widespread appreciation and understanding of the work and its implications. There was also acknowledgement of the role Asthma UK plays in funding research and a discussion of the need for more funds to be put into this under-resourced area.</p>		
<p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>A short discussion took place on the progress of Scottish Government work around the NRAD findings. It was confirmed that a work plan is being drawn together to take forward the recommendations and SG are working alongside the National Advisory Group to ensure NHS Board implementation of these.</p>		