

# British Cardiovascular Society

*BCS Annual Conference, Manchester, United Kingdom, June 13-15, 2011*

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Manchester is a long way from California, or so it would seem, but the twinning of the California chapter of the American College of Cardiology (CA ACC) with the British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) has been bringing the two much closer together. In 2011, the BCS Annual Conference will be held in Manchester, United Kingdom (June 13-15, 2011), once again providing another opportunity to further this valuable relationship. The CA ACC was well represented this year by Drs. Dipti Itchhaporia, George Smith, Jr, and John Harold, all of whom contributed to the joint BCS/ACC *Highlights of the ACC* program, with additional California involvement from Dr. Ralph Brindis, who is President of the ACC.

The BCS first met as the Cardiac Club in 1922; therefore, 2011 will be the 90th Annual Conference, although it has changed markedly from its early origins. With approximately 2500 delegates, the Annual Conference remains by far the largest cardiovascular meeting in the United Kingdom, and has evolved greatly over the years to encompass a scientific, training, and educational portfolio. This year (2011) sees the introduction of defined tracks for imaging, clinical/translational science,

and education for the purposes of revalidation in addition to the strong specialist programs developed in conjunction with our 17 affiliated groups. It also hosts the National Training Day for cardiology trainees and our linked meetings this coming year, including the Primary Care Cardiovascular Society and the joint British Atherosclerosis Society/British Society for Cardiovascular Research meeting, supported by the British Heart Foundation.

One of the highlights of the Annual Conference is when the entire society comes together for the named lectures. This coming year there will be a particularly strong US influence, with Dr. Ken Chien delivering the Strickland Goodall lecture and Dr. David Sahn delivering the Paul Wood lecture.

There are many challenges we face in the development and delivery of modern cardiovascular care, including how we commission services, how we ensure the provision of safe, effective care, and how we balance this with training needs. All these feature in the 2011 BCS Annual Conference program, especially relevant to the changing face of how healthcare will be delivered in the modern National Health Service, with a phased transition to commissioning of services directly by primary care physicians.

The BCS has been interested in the development of simulation for education and training purposes, and has established a working group to evaluate this. The findings will be presented at the 2011 Annual Conference, where we already have a major simulator training program delivered within the exhibition area—a popular feature for both trainees and trained cardiologists.

But it is not all work—the Annual Conference dinner on Tuesday evening is an opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of colleagues and to celebrate their achievements with presentations to the Young Research Workers winners, the Michael Davies Early Career Award for contribution to Cardiovascular Science, and the Mackenzie Medal Award, the highest of the Society, given in recognition of outstanding achievements in British cardiology.

Manchester is notorious for its rain and California for its sunshine, but they share the collective aspirations of our respective professional organizations and bring us closer together, enabling a valuable transfer of knowledge and information. It was great to see our California colleagues in Manchester in 2010, so why not come along and join them in 2011 and see for yourself what it is all about? You are most welcome. ■