We have had 2 excellent diaries.

**Physicians Training Day** is in November at the Royal College of simulator sessions in the Exhibition, I hope the trainees trainees and together with less well covered areas in the cardiology curriculum for on Sunday The National Training Day (which followed the S

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<td>Dr Sarah Clarke</td>
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<td>Vice-President Elect</td>
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The 2011 Conference is about to draw to a close and plans for 2012 are already underway. Thank you for joining us this year to make the conference one of the best yet.

This year has seen a complete overhaul of the programme with the introduction of tracks:

- **Education** for Revalidation Track - over a 3 to 5 year cycle this track will cover areas defined by the cardiology curriculum. Each session has an integrated formative assessment, which on completion provides members with certification for revalidation portfolios.

- **Innovations** Track - includes Clinical/Translational Science supported by the BHF who also support the linked British Atherosclerosis Society/British Society for Cardiovascular Research meeting. This year we have seen the abstracts incorporated into the programme with discussants. Together with the Young Research Workers Prize and Michael Davies award this track showcases the best and latest in cardiovascular research. Congratulations to all prize winners.

- **Imaging** Track - covering areas of imaging as they integrate into cardiovascular medicine.

- **Affiliated Groups** Track - the Affiliated Groups have embraced the new format of the programme and contributed not only to this track but to the programme in general.

The National Training Day (which followed the St5 KBA on Sunday- Good Luck all!) on Monday highlighted the less well covered areas in the cardiology curriculum for trainees and together with the Education track and simulator sessions in the Exhibition, I hope the trainees have felt well catered for this year. The next National Training Day is in November at the Royal College of Physicians on 28th November- please add to your diaries.

We have had 2 excellent guest lectures this year:
- The Paul Wood Lecture entitled ‘Improved understanding of cardiac form and function- How the development of the heart continues to influence heart function’ by David Sahn and;
- The Strickland Goodall Lecture entitled ‘Re-engineering regenerative cardiovascular medicine-

Towards heart stem cell therapeutics’ by Professor Kenneth Chien

Despite the recession, we have seen our exhibition space completely sold out and thank all our exhibitors for supporting our meeting and the education of our members.

If you have not been able to attend the meeting this year we hope that the roving reporters have given you an overview of the sessions at your desktops and also hope you find the webcasts, which are a new feature this year, helpful. We thank the Communication and Education Committee and all the SpRs involved for this work.

Despite many national and international conferences seeing a downturn in the number of delegates we have been fortunate that the Annual Conference of the British Cardiovascular Society continues to attract increasing numbers of delegates. Organisation of the meeting lies with the Programme Committee, chaired by Dr Iain Simpson, to whom we are all indebted for producing an excellent meeting this year. We also thank the team at the Society offices in Fitzroy Square. Their support in helping deliver the meeting is invaluable.

We hope you have enjoyed the meeting this year - both the educational content and the ability to network with colleagues. We also hope you enjoyed the Annual Dinner which is becoming increasingly popular with live entertainment from magicians and one of our members Dr Will Orr and ‘Orr that Jazz’ this year! If you have a hidden talent which we can showcase at future meetings please let me know at clarkes@bcs.com ! And if you didn’t come this year, make sure you buy a ticket next year or book a table with colleagues.

We now look forward to next years’ meeting which will have an Olympic theme! We welcome any feedback from this years’ meeting and in particular any comments you may have on the change in format with the introduction of the tracks. We will ask you to complete a short questionnaire when applying for your CPD certificates online. Otherwise please email me directly at clarkes@bcs.com. This is your meeting and I want to build on the excellent foundation created by Dr Iain Simpson to make this meeting the highlight of your event diary for 2012!

I look forward to hearing from you! Please keep an eye on our website for upcoming educational events throughout the year- www.bcs.com. See you in Manchester next year, 2012!

**Email:** clarkes@bcs.com
Will Orr is a cardiologist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading, a place perhaps best known for employing until recently (as an orthopaedic surgeon) the great jazz saxophonist Art Themen. He trained as a classical singer, and as a medical student sang as a Tenor Lay Clerk at Southwark Cathedral. Will has continued to perform as a soloist in the Oxford area & has for 15 years conducted the chamber choir Oxford Collatorium. He has directed & performed in musical theatre at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival & The Dorchester Festival, sung jazz with Art Themen, Jonny Gee’s The Jazzberries & The Jez Cooke Trio, and recently collaborated on a number of musical projects with Oxford-based jazz guitarist Pete Oxley.

Steve Berry (Bass) teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music & Chetham’s School of Music, and holds residences on behalf of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. He is best known as a composer and bass player in the 90’s big band ‘Loose Tubes’, The Mike Westbrook Big Band and his own band ‘Foolish Hearts’.

Dan Whieldon (Piano) studied classical piano at the Birmingham Conservatoire then Jazz Piano at the Royal Conservatoire, Brussels. In 2008 he won the Nottingham National Jazz Piano competition. He plays with the Mike Hall Quartet, his own trio & quintet, & has accompanied many great jazz soloists including Art Themen. Dan is a visiting teacher of Jazz piano at Ampleforth College and Stockport Grammar School.

Eryl Roberts (Drums) studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and in USA with Bob Moses and Keith Copeland. He has performed with Kenny Wheeler, Anthony Braxton, Chuck Berry, Nico, Damon Albarn, Vince Mendoza, John Taylor, Mark Murphy, Red Holloway, Snake Davis, Hamish Stuart & Claire Martin. He has been a member The Creative Jazz Orchestra and The Snake Davis Band.
Simulation Training in Cardiology
15.00 to 16.30, Exchange Hall

Article by Kevin Fox, Chair of BCS Working Group on Simulation Based Learning

This session we will discuss the role and (added) value of Simulation Based Learning. Speakers will describe the role of simulation in the aircraft industry, its use in medicine and (vascular) surgery and more specifically in cardiology. The current evidence will be described and the gaps in evidence, particularly within cardiology training, noted. Finally the session will describe and discuss the report of a BCS Working Group into Simulation Based Learning.

Simulators have the potential to enhance learning:
- Learning can take place without exposing patients to risk
- Learning can take place at the speed of the learner
- Immediate feedback is available to the learner
- Learning can be adapted to the learner in a completely flexible way

In essence, Simulators have the potential to take the early and dangerous part of the learning curve away from patients and to accelerate learning.

There are currently several particular drivers for SBL: Opportunities for trainees are challenged by the European Working Time Directive which often leads to disruptive rotas. Certain core procedures are being performed less frequently, particularly in the tertiary centres. This is happening at a time of increasing pressure to objectively validate and re-validate skills and competency.

Patient safety has always been a priority but increasing public availability of patient outcome metrics and National Health Service Litigation Authority grading of Trusts have established even greater scrutiny.

This means it is an appropriate time to look at the role of Simulators in Cardiology Training and Practice and the BCS therefore established a Working Group to explore this subject.

While there are few RCTs to demonstrate the added value to learning of the use of Simulators there are data, and circumstantial evidence is strong. Simulators are embraced by industry where cost, safety and effectiveness are key, by the military where lives depend on effective teamwork, and increasingly by groups requiring robust governance such as Obstetricians in the USA whose insurance premiums are reduced if they undergo Simulator training.

Within Cardiology a wide range of general simulation equipment can be used for generic skills and improving team working particularly in critical or crisis situations. At present there is under-utilisation of simulators, especially in the area of team performance. In addition SBL can be applied for more specific areas of Cardiology practice such as coronary intervention, electrophysiology and echocardiography.

In the USA SBL has been embraced to a greater extent by regulatory and other authorities. The American Board of Internal Medicine, following a pilot study, includes Simulation training as an optional part of recertification for interventional cardiologists.

The provision of SBL will require a network of trainers and equipment. Modelling the requirements suggest a figure around 4000 days of SBL and 500 days of trainer time may be needed with current trainee numbers.

The Working Group examined the role of the BCS and recommends the BCS focuses on setting objectives for SBL and for SBL courses, encourages studies into the added value of SBL, brings together stakeholder groups including the Deaneries, the affiliated groups (BJCA, BANCC, SCST) and potential funding sources for education and SBL related research.

This session will bring together international expertise on the role and use of simulators to focus on how the BCS and UK cardiologists can utilise Simulation to enhance training and patient safety.

BCS Membership
Charles Knight, Honorary Secretary
At the time of writing, BCS has over 2,300 members; we continue to increase our membership year upon year through on-going recruitment efforts. Our aim is to have a strong, extensive membership that represents the breadth of healthcare.
professionals working in cardiovascular healthcare. We have made special efforts to encourage all health professionals with an interest in cardiovascular medicine to join BCS, through great value subscription rates, joint membership with Affiliated Groups and a simpler application process. We have recently set up a new 'Starter' BCS Membership for those Doctors or Practitioners with an interest in cardiovascular medicine that are not yet eligible for ordinary or joint membership.

Membership of BCS represents outstanding value for money for those working in Cardiology. Our membership package is regularly reviewed and we seek out extra membership benefits, such as discounted publications.

All BCS members receive the following benefits:
- Free registration for the BCS Annual Conference
- Free access to Heart Online
- A discounted subscription for the bi-monthly journal Heart, a peer review journal for health professionals and researchers in all areas of Cardiology.
- Free access to the web tool CardioSource (ACC) which offers research, information, on-going clinical trials, and news regarding cardiovascular health.
- Reduced rates for BCS Courses and KBA
- Regular e-bulletin with the latest news from the field of Cardiology
- Automatic membership of the European Society of Cardiology
- Access to the membership area of the website, including members directory, membership offers and restricted documents

As the voice for those working in cardiovascular health, science and disease management in the UK, BCS aims to promote and support the healthcare professionals who work in Cardiology.

BCS membership can give our members significant professional support, including:
- Professional representation with the Royal College of Physicians and Department of Health
- Support for ACCEA Awards
- The option to stand for nominated BCS positions
- Access to the facilities of the Society's offices

We believe that these benefits will encourage an active and diverse BCS membership over coming years, strengthening the Society and improving cardiovascular healthcare.

To find out more about applying for BCS Membership, follow this link: http://www.bcs.com/pages/page_box_contents.asp?PageID=1

We are keen to hear from our members and to understand their views on BCS Membership. We have recently set up a dedicated membership contact for all membership enquiries and comments: membership@bcs.com

Mackenzie Medal
BCS Annual Dinner, Tuesday 14 June

Prof Keith Fox,
BCS President

The Mackenzie Medal is awarded by the British Cardiovascular Society in recognition of outstanding service to British Cardiology. Two medals are given out each year during the BCS Annual Dinner, at our Conference. The list of previous award winners could be a who's who of outstanding contributions to Cardiology with Professor Roger Boyle (2010), Sir Magdi Yacoub (2002) Professor Desmond Julian (2003), Sir Richard Peto (2007) and Professor Salvador Moncada (2006), to name but a few past award winners.

This year, I am pleased to announce that the Mackenzie Medals will be made to Professor Stuart Cobbe and Professor Kim Fox. I would like to congratulate both Stuart Cobbe and Kim Fox on their award of the Mackenzie Medal and thank them from both the Society and its members for their continuing work in strengthening and improving British Cardiology. Here are just a few examples of the work that Professors Cobbe and Fox have undertaken during their careers in Cardiology, to give you an appreciation of why these awards have been given.

Professor Stuart Cobbe is currently the Head of Cardiology in the Division of Cardiovascular Medical Sciences at the University of Glasgow. He also holds the Walton Professor of Medical Cardiology at Glasgow. Professor Cobbe is the author or co-author of 172 peer-reviewed original scientific papers and 84 editorials, reviews & chapters. His major contribution to evidence based medicine has been in his role as co-principal investigator of the West of Scotland Coronary Prevention Study, a landmark clinical trial which demonstrated the benefit of
cholesterol lowering treatment with statins in the primary prevention of myocardial infarction and cardiac death.

Professor Cobbe also sits on the Executive Committee and chaired the Endpoints Committee for the Pravastatin in Reduction of Ischaemic Events in the Elderly (PROSPER) trial, which has recently extended evidence of benefit from lipid reduction in prevention of coronary disease to subjects aged over 70 years.

As Chair of the Specialty Advisory Committee in Cardiology and the BCS Vice-President Training from 2007 to 2010, Professor Cobbe worked tirelessly to progress training in Cardiology in the UK. His success in this area has seen a greatly improved application process and the production of a revised cardiology curriculum.

Professor Kim Fox has led an illustrious career in Cardiology. He is currently the Strategic Head of the Heart Division, at the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust. Many of you will be familiar with Kim Fox as the past President of the European Society of Cardiology (2008-2010), but he has also served on the Executive Committee of the British Heart Foundation and on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Leducq Foundation.

Professor Fox has published over 400 papers in leading scientific journals. His expertise is in the understanding, investigation and treatment of angina; he has played a major role in many important international clinical trials (TIBET, EUROPA, HPS, ASCOT, BEAUTIFUL etc) that have changed the treatment of this condition. He is the acknowledged European expert in this field and consequently chaired the Task Force producing the European Angina Guidelines and chaired the committee responsible for the audit for the management of these patients in Europe.