Welcome to our e-bulletin where you can read about the latest research into heart rhythm disorders, useful heart information sources, dates for your diary

Arrhythmia Awareness Week 2007 (AAAW07) 11th-17th June 2007

We are receiving a great deal of interest and support—but we need more! Last year saw 165 events taking place around the UK and feedback showed the need for greater awareness still!

Please support us during the week. Click here to find out how you can help

Write to Your MP!

As a constituent, your voice is invaluable to MPs. As a supporter of Arrhythmia Alliance, your writing skills are invaluable to raising awareness. You can help The Alliance this AAAW, by writing to your local MP; not only to muster their support and raise awareness, but also to get some answers! Read More

Arrhythmia Alliance Patient Booklets

Arrhythmia Alliance has a range of booklets which are all patient friendly and have been accredited by the Executive Committee and endorsed by the Department of Health. These booklets will help you to have a better understanding of a current health concern or a medical procedure you are due to undergo.

They can be used for your own private reading or maybe take to your doctor and discuss your concerns further with him/her. The latest booklet is the CRT Pacemaker which has just been printed. To follow is a revised Catheter Ablation Book, Exercising with your ICD and Drug treatment.

All the booklets can be downloaded from our site or alternatively you can order directly from us. Or maybe you need more than one please then use the order form simply print off and fill in and post it in the post. We are always happy to take any questions regarding our booklets or any suggestions you may have.

Download Booklets

Volunteers— we need your skills!

The education project is fast progressing but to produce our new resources and make it a success, more volunteers are needed.

Good at talking...? Confident...? Why not become an in-school presenter and educate teachers, staff & carers on syncope and arrhythmias?

Organised...? Imaginative...? Fundraise! This project cannot get off the ground without funding to produce the materials. Why not hold a coffee morning or do a sponsored silence and help to get this important project off the ground?!

Spread the word! 'Education, Education, Education' - it's the only way to ensure that young people with syncope are fully supported in their learning environment.

For more information, or to offer your skills, please contact Laura Nelson at education@stars.org.uk or on 01789 451823.

The Blackouts Checklist

The Medical Advisory Committee of STARS has prepared “The Blackouts Checklist” to aid patients and doctors to reach the correct diagnosis. If someone loses consciousness for a few seconds or minutes, they are often said to have had a blackout. Many people, including doctors, assume that blackouts are due to epilepsy, but much more commonly they are due to syncope. This checklist will be useful to complete prior to visiting a doctor.

Download checklist (requires adobe reader)
Arrhythmia Management Module - Level 4

This award will enable health care professionals to achieve advanced knowledge and skills to care holistically and competently for patients with arrhythmias and those at risk of developing arrhythmias. The award will incorporate all aspects of arrhythmia patient assessment, investigations, holistic care and management. The award will be delivered over 9 days held in two blocks one 5 day block followed by one 3 day block five months later which will allow time for consolidation of knowledge and application to practice. These blocks will include the student developing patient assessment, arrhythmia management, electrophysiology management, interventions and investigations.

Read Course Information
Download Application Form & Download Application Form Guide

Calling All Medical Professionals

Do you work with Arrhythmia Patients? Have you joined our secure area yet?

This dedicated new service for all professionals working with arrhythmia patients is proving very popular and we shall continue to improve content and provide you with helpful information and advice about arrhythmias and everything connected with the subject.

Currently this information includes Care Pathways, Job Descriptions, Guidelines on How to Set Up Rapid Access Clinics, Business Case Templates, Patient Information Literature (in pdf), presentations from Meetings and our Congress, a Members’ Forum for exchanging information, and much more…

To join visit http://www.arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk/html/medical_area.html

New skills on board

Arrhythmia Alliance welcomes new Director of Development, Doug Henderson, formerly of The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (JFTSMA), joined Arrhythmia Alliance as the new Director of Development on 19 March.

Read more

‘Where’s the AED?’

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the UK’s number one killer, claiming approx. 100,000 victims each year. It can strike anyone, anywhere, at anytime and defibrillation is the only treatment.

Arrhythmia Alliance is currently planning a campaign to raise awareness of Sudden Cardiac Arrest and to promote the placement and use of AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) in public places.

We would love to hear from anyone who has any direct or indirect experience of Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and who has an interest in supporting our campaign. Please contact Laura Nelson at aed@arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk for more information or to register your support. We shall be setting up a dedicated web page shortly which will provide further details of the campaign.

World Heart Rhythm

During the awareness week, we are promoting 13th June as our ‘World Heart Rhythm Awareness Day’. A number of organizations worldwide will join forces to highlight Heart Rhythm awareness promoting better understanding and speedy referral to specialists and improving quality of life for those living with Cardiac Arrhythmia.

For more details click here

Heart Pacemakers and Defibrillators: Are they reaching all who need them?

Heart rhythm disorders are a major cause of sudden death and disability, but for many sufferers a modern pacemaker or defibrillator can save life and reduce symptoms when implanted by a simple operation.

The Network Device Survey Group, supported by the Department of Health, the British Cardiovascular Society, Medtronic Ltd and individual Cardiac Networks has today made public (www.deivcesurvey.com) the first systematic survey of the National Health Service in England and Wales in respect of its level and equity of cardiac device provision compared to local relative need. The findings pose a major challenge to the NHS. Whilst increasing numbers of patients are benefiting from these high-tech devices, implantation rates in the UK are amongst the lowest in Western Europe and, as this survey reveals, there is evidence of real local inequity of service provision.

For more details click here

Blair Hails NHS Treatment Success

The Prime Minister recently met some of the frontline NHS staff who have helped prevent more than 100,000 deaths from coronary heart disease since 1997, as well as some of the patients whose lives have been saved. He said that the London Network, which has helped save at least 25,000 lives, was just one example of the fantastic work going on in hospitals across the country.
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Read the Full Story

Heart Rhythm Congress 2007 - 29th-31st October 2007
REGISTER FOR THE CONGRESS ONLINE NOW
Features at the Congress this year will include Devices & Intervention courses, Live cases, HRUK courses and many more. The draft agenda will be displayed at www.heartrhythm.org.uk by the end of April. SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE (contact Laura)

Regional Meetings 2007
All 6 Regional Meetings went exceptionally well with up to 100 delegates present at each one. All evaluation results are available on our website. Presentations for each meeting can be found in the Medical Professionals Area of our website.

Wales Regional Meeting 2007 - will take place on Tuesday 18th September 2007 at The All Nations Centre in Cardiff.

Scotland Regional Meeting 2007 - dates will be announced in due course

Roger Boyle celebrates 7 years as National Clinical Director for Heart Disease
"It is now seven years since Professor Roger Boyle was appointed as National Clinical Director for Heart Disease to prepare a National Service Framework for the assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of heart patients."
Read More

Fundraising
We desperately need your help to kick start the new fundraising year and to help us reach our target. We aim to raise £80,000 through membership support, voluntary sponsorship and events, for example:

Jumping out of a plane — Skydive
Cycling one of the best routes in Europe — London to Paris Cycle Ride
Treking through the Lares region of Peru — Peru Trek

The above are just a few of the many events that you could do to help. No matter how big or small, daring or cautious, with your help, we can achieve our targets and increase awareness and support for all those affected by cardiac arrhythmias. Why not try - Fire walking, abseiling, zorbing or holding a coffee morning, a table in a supermarket, a car boot sale, or anything that takes your fancy.

An enormous thank you to everyone who has already been raising funds and awareness throughout the last year for Arrhythmia Alliance, without your support we would not have the impact we are having on the general public, the government and international arenas!

Look out for this years’ new and exciting campaigns, being launched soon!

Forthcoming Events

- A National Campaign for Cardiac Rehabilitation—Wednesday 25th April 2007, York Racecourse
- Rhythm Congress: Arrhythmias and Heart Failure—15th-17th June 2007, Cannes, France
  Visit the website to read the preliminary programme. Recent progress on implantable devices, algorithms and ablation procedures, have modified the use of our therapeutic arsenal so it has become essential for us to gather all practitioners in order to share and compare our medical strategies.
- 34th International Congress on Electrophysiology, and 48th Symposium on Vectorcardiography—27th—30th June 2007, Istanbul
- Anatomy for Electrophysiologists - 2nd-3rd July 2007, Royal Brompton & Harefield. This 2-day course aims to provide the foundation for understanding the anatomy of the heart and spatial relationships of cardiac structures as viewed by Cardiac Electrophysiologists
- Medical Futures Cardiovascular Innovation Awards—These Awards are run on a not-for-profit basis and help to identify, promote and reward innovators in Cardiology and Vascular surgery.
- Ventricular Arrhythmia & Sudden Death Symposium
To remove your name from our mailing list, please click here.

If you have any links, suggestions for stories to cover in next month’s e-bulletin, or know of any forthcoming events, please email webmaster@arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk

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- **Ventricular Arrhythmia & Sudden Death Symposium**
  20th-22nd April 2007. W San Francisco Hotel, San Francisco, CA, USA. The Ventricular Arrhythmia and Sudden Death Symposium will provide a forum for discussion of new advances in diagnosis and management of ventricular arrhythmias and sudden death.

- **British Society of Medical Managers** January-May 2007, various parts of the UK

- **Europrevent 2007**—Madrid, Spain. 19th-21st April 2007— EuroPrevent is an international platform bringing together cardiologists, scientists and other health workers with a specific interest in the fields of Basic Science, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Epidemiology & Public Health.


- **SADS UK—Patient Support Seminar —21st April 2007**
  This Seminar offers the opportunity to meet with others who are living with similar cardiac conditions or who have been bereaved, to learn more about cardiac arrhythmia and to share thoughts and feelings. Click here for [Registration Form](#)

- **Venice Arrhythmia 2007**— 7th-10th October 2007, Venice, Italy.

- **UKCRN course availability listing** A complete list of UKCRN’s courses for 2007 can be found here.

- **Diploma Level Module: Atrial Fibrillation**
Arrhythmia Awareness Week 2007 (AAAW07)
11th-17th June 2007
www.aaaw.org.uk

AAAW is a week where members and supporters concentrate their efforts and hold individual events to raise awareness of heart rhythm disorders. Last year was extremely successful and 165 individual awareness-raising events took place nationwide. It is hoped that AAAW07 will be even more of a success. Awareness is increasing, but we have a long way to go, so your support is essential!

So please give some thought as to how you could support us during the week. For instance:

- Display a poster in your community
- Take a poster and booklets to your GP surgery
- Display our promotional material on a table top at your local library/school/work place/supermarket etc
- Hold a coffee morning advertising our promotional material

In fact anything, small or large will help. We need to highlight this event within the community and with your help we can raise vital awareness.

Please visit www.aaaw.org.uk for more information and to complete a registration form or contact Carole Ellis, AAAW Coordinator, on 01789 451832 or email aaaw@stars.org.uk.

Thank you for your support.
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Advanced kit in ambulances now means a patient can bypass A&E and be taken directly to specialist units for angioplasty, a minimally intrusive balloon technique that unblocks arteries.

Emma Walker
Policy and Campaigns Administrator
British Heart Foundation
Roger Boyle celebrates 7 years as National Clinical Director for Heart Disease

"It is now seven years since Professor Roger Boyle was appointed as National Clinical Director for Heart Disease to prepare a National Service Framework for the assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of heart patients. There is no doubt that progress on the whole has been remarkable with rehabilitation the major piece of unfinished business, and with arrhythmias, SCD and women's cardiac health continuing to receive close attention. In all of this there has been keen attention to patient involvement and participation and I have had the privilege of representing patients on the NSF Task Force for the last five years or so.

To celebrate the occasion a meeting was convened at Downing Street where patients and health service staff could describe from first hand experience how these developments had enabled them to live through their trauma and enjoy an extended life. My role was to cover the benefits of rehabilitation and this gave me the opportunity to state that more should be done in this regard.

We were with the Prime Minister for an hour. He was most interested and attentive and asked many questions. It was a very worthwhile and interactive session, ably led by Professor Boyle."

Many thanks,
David H G
President, Heart Care Partnership (UK)
STARS—Shine a Light on Education

The education website material is currently undergoing approval by the medical professionals, but will be up and running in the next two months.

Thank you again to everyone who has had an input into developing this resource.

We must, once again, make a plea for volunteer action! In order to establish the whole project; including the information packs, staff training DVD and in-house presentations, your help is needed! It is imperative that we raise as much money as possible, and also that we have enough volunteers to become in-school presenters to enable us to run this important project.

Please do not hesitate to contact Laura Nelson at education@stars.org.uk or on 01789 450 564 for any further details about the project, or to offer your assistance.
Arrhythmia Alliance welcomes new Director of Development

Doug Henderson, formerly of The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy (JFTSMA), joined Arrhythmia Alliance as the new Director of Development on 19 March.

His first task will be to familiarise himself with past and present fundraising activities before implementing his own plans for the next fiscal year.

‘I’m excited to come into a charity that has had so much success in such a short space of time,’ says Doug. ‘I have an extra incentive to succeed at the Arrhythmia Alliance as my late father suffered from an arrhythmia.

‘I plan to launch several new fundraising initiatives over the next year, which will not only stabilise the Arrhythmia Alliance but also provide the additional necessary funding needed to allow the charity to expand and grow to meet the obvious demand.’

Having started his fundraising career with Warwickshire County Council in 2001 – where he provided support to community and rural transport schemes – Doug moved on to take the role of Business Development Manager at a logistical training company, before returning to the public sector.

He has spent the last ten months working as Trust Fundraiser for JTSMA, which has grown his experience in strategic planning, fundraising and relationship building.

Adds Doug: ‘I would be very interested to hear from anybody thinking about fundraising for the AA, as I may be able to provide assistance and support.’

To contact Doug, email doug@stars.org.uk or call 01789 451830.
SUPPORT ARRHYTHMIA AWARENESS WEEK '07! WRITE TO YOUR MP!

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This year, a key aim of AAAW07 is to further the implementation of the NSF for CHD Chapter 8 - Cardiac Arrhythmias & SCD in Primary Care. There has been progress since its publication, but more needs to be done to implement its guidelines in this field.

MPs are able to ask questions on our behalf and can put pressure on the government to ensure that Arrhythmia patients have access to the services they require.

Please use the letter provided, personalise it and send it to your local MP. It will only take a few minutes of your time, but will have a long-lasting impact on Arrhythmia services!

[Download Letter to MP]

Please visit [www.aaaw.org.uk](http://www.aaaw.org.uk) for more information and to complete a registration form or contact Carole Ellis, AAAW Coordinator, on 01789 451832 or email [aaaw@stars.org.uk](mailto:aaaw@stars.org.uk).

Thank you for your support.
HEART PACEMAKERS AND DEFIBRILLATORS: ARE THEY REACHING ALL WHO NEED THEM?

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No single or simple reason for the low and inequitable provision of these devices emerges from the survey, but evidence is accumulating for several possible culprits. Low awareness of the significance of relevant symptoms amongst patients and general practitioners, insufficient appreciation at general hospital level of which patients stand to benefit from heart devices, and inadequate investment in resources for diagnosis, device procurement and education are all likely to play a part.

Welcoming the report, Professor Roger Boyle, National Clinical Director for Heart Disease and Stroke, commented that Chapter 8 of the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework (CHD NSF) for arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death, published in March 2005, had served to focus the attention of patients, clinicians and the cardiac networks on the local provision of implantable devices. He expressed confidence that this national summary report, and the detailed cardiac network reports which underpin it, would assist cardiac networks and those responsible for purchasing health care to achieve progressive improvements in access to cardiac pacemakers, implantable defibrillators and device treatment for advanced heart failure.

Dr Derek Connelly, President of Heart Rhythm UK, also welcomed the work of the survey group. He commented that “there is clearly an urgent need to improve the level of practice in many parts of the UK in order to bring the overall pacemaker implant rate up to the target level and to minimize ‘postcode-prescribing’ of pacemakers”.

‘It is so important that studies like this are made available to the public’ said Trudie Lobban founder of Arrhythmia Alliance (The Heart Rhythm Charity – www.arrhythmiaalliance.org.uk). ‘With over one million heart rhythm patients in the UK, and only 64 heart rhythm specialists, it is vital that patients are empowered with as much information as possible to help them when seeking a diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

A National Heart Rhythm Management Devices Taskforce has recently been established by the Department of Health and the Manchester Heart Centre. The taskforce will consider how access rates generally might be improved and help investigate further the reasons underlying the inequity of access.

Contact information:

Dr Richard G Charles – RichardGCharles@aol.com
Dr David Cunningham – david@ccad.nildram.co.uk
Mr Mike Yates, DH – mike.yates@dh.gsi.gov.uk
Mrs Trudie Lobban (A-A) – Trudie@stars.org.uk
Fundraising for A-A

**Skydive** – A-A is seeking as many adrenaline junkies as possible to jump out of a plane in aid of A-A. There are three types of jump available – An Accelerated Freefall, A Tandem Skydive and a Static Line Jump - all of these can be done at any of the twenty approved airfields across the UK. **No experience necessary all training is given and if you raise over £290** (depending on the type of jump you choose) you will receive your jump for free. This is a fantastic, exhilarating event perfect for those of you seeking your next adrenaline fix.

**London to Paris Cycle Ride 13th-17th June** – A-A is looking for adventurous volunteers to cycle from London to Paris connecting two of the world’s most chic cities on one of the best cycling routes in Europe. This event would be ideal for those of you in search of the challenge of a lifetime.

**Peru Trek 14-23rd September** – A-A is looking for individuals and groups to trek in the Lares region of Peru on a trail that will undoubtedly give you a true insight into Peruvian life. This event is perfect for those of you with a passion for history, a sense of adventure and the desire to do something challenging for a great cause.

For further information on any of the above events please contact fundraising@stars.org.uk with your name and contact details and we will send you everything you need to take part in your chosen event.
Arrhythmia In The News

"Stitchless" heart procedure to be performed live on the web
ABC 4 - Salt Lake City, USA
When traditional medications used to treat atrial fibrillation become ineffective, patients can now get a catheter ablation procedure. ...
See all stories on this topic

Nurse gets a Red alert
New York Daily News - New York, NY, USA
Romano, 30, had lost consciousness because she suffered from a heart condition called Brugada Syndrome. After two more episodes - including one last summer ...
See all stories on this topic

Fainting still puzzles doctors
Los Angeles Times

First Visually Guided Catheter Ablation for Irregular Heartbeats in America Performed by Saint John's Health Center Cardiologist.
Genetic Engineering News - Biotechnology from Bench to Business

St. Jude Medical Announces FDA Approval of First US Heart Failure ...
Genetic Engineering News (press release) - New Rochelle, NY, USA
Heart failure patients with AF present significant challenges, such as further reduction in cardiac output, potential loss of biventricular pacing (if the ...

Heart Test Shows Who Needs Implantable Defibrillators
drkoop.com - USA
Still, more research is needed, said Dr. Andrea Russo, an electrophysiologist at the University of Pennsylvania. "We need more studies that are confirmatory ...
See all stories on this topic

First Human Trial Tests Stem-cell-based Treatment For Heart Attacks
ScienceDaily

Advanced Solutions for Heart Failure
WebMD - USA
It's called cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT), also known as biventricular pacing. To understand heart failure, you first need to know how the heart ...

New Guidelines Raise Heart Issues
The Cornell Daily Sun

HRUK Election Results
Medical News

Waiting time targets are achievable, says Department of Health -- Hargreaves 334 (7590): 389 -- BMJ

Government Wants NHS Operations in Evenings

Progressive management of atrial fibrillation for optimal control: Novel agents and interventions

The Sorin Group Announces CE Mark and First Implants of Advanced ...
Business Wire (press release) - San Francisco,CA,USA
André-Michel Ballester, President of Sorin Group Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) Business Unit commented: "As a European leading company in bradycardia ...

Amiodarone for Atrial Fibrillation
New England Journal of Medicine (subscription) - MA,USA
A 73-year-old man with stable coronary artery disease, hypertension, and chronic renal insufficiency presents with recurrent atrial fibrillation at 80 to 90 ...

Cost effectiveness of clinically appropriate decisions on alternative treatments for angina pectoris: prospective observational study -- Griffin et al., 10.1136/bmj.39129.442164.55 -- BMJ

Postpartum High Cardiac Risk Time for Women With Long QT

Heart attack, heart disease, and cholesterol information from iVillage Total Health - Heart Healthhttp://heart.health.ivillage.com/newsstories/newbetablockerdrugreducesheartrisks.cfm?general=nl_heart
Hypertrophy into heart failure: Is preserving angiogenesis key to ...
TheHeart.Org - New York,NY,USA
Increased levels of tumor-suppressor protein p53 in a murine model of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy led to ventricular dysfunction and heart failure by ...

See all stories on this topic
NetDoctor.co.uk - Daily news heart attack oxygen use critisised.
http://www2.netdoctor.co.uk/news/index.asp?y=2007&m=3&d=5&id=126297

Transcendental Meditation Reduces Congestive Heart Failure, New Study Show

Heart Attacks Can Give Couples A New Lease Of Life, Says Study

Whole-Grain Cereals Cut Heart Failure

Radioiodine treatment of hyperthyroidism -- Toft and Sandeep 334 (7592): 483 -- BMJ

Nhs walk in centres do not cut waiting times
BMJ -- Press Releases
http://www.bmj.com/content/vol334/issue7592/press_release.dtl#2

Who hasn't had the experience, either as a patient or a doctor (or both) of wasted time or resources because of a missing patient record? I thought I knew that one of the virtues of having nationalised health care was a unified medical record system that eliminated such problems. Not so, says Tessa Richards in her column this week (doi: 10.1136/bmj.39146.615081.599). She actually cites large American health systems such as Kaiser Permanente as models of seamless access by patients, primary care doctors, and specialists to medical records. I didn't know we were leading the UK in anything health related except the number of coronary artery stents placed.

ECG Abnormalities Linked With CVD Events in Women
HHH HEALTH Blair
Topic HEALTH

Published 14 Mar 2007 - 06:02

By Andrew Woodcock, PA Chief Political Correspondent
Page 1: 06:02

Prime Minister Tony Blair will today meet some of the frontline NHS staff who have helped prevent more than 100,000 deaths from coronary heart disease since 1997, as well as some of the patients whose lives have been saved.

Mr Blair will say that the combination of NHS reform and more than £700 million in additional investment since 1997 has put the Government well on track to meeting two years early its 2010 target of ensuring 40% of coronary heart disease sufferers do not die prematurely.

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end

12-Step Screening May Help Reduce Sudden Death In Young Athletes