

## Executive Summary

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2005-06 has been a busy and productive 12 months for the BCDS.

We have added to the BCDS standard series, and continued to develop new patch test series, for hairdressers and footwear, and we have updated the patient information leaflet.

The website has been upgraded and the discussion forum introduced to help members with their contact dermatitis problems.

The BCDS has supported research funding with the British Skin Foundation and sponsored a visiting lecturer at the BSID meeting.

We have introduced a competency-based assessment tool for SpRs. For the future, we will continue to promote education training and research in contact dermatitis.

The society has a membership of over 150 consultants, non-consultant career grade doctors, dermatologist trainees and nurses interested in contact dermatitis. The Committee Secretary is Barry Statham, the Meetings Secretary, Jane Sansom the Treasurer, Mark Wilkinson, and Helen Horne represents non-consultant career grade doctors. We pay tribute to Dr Richard Rycroft, a previous president of the

BCDS and a physician who has contributed greatly to the field of contact dermatitis, who has retired and leaves the committee. Dr Sarah Wakelin joined the committee as a representative for London. Over the last year, the activities of the BCDS have been focused on five key areas:

- **Improving facilities for members:** refinement of the website such as the discussion forum, standardisation of additional allergen series and updating patient advice sheets, are available on the BCDS website
- **Education:** by developing methods for competencies assessment in contact dermatitis, by organising courses and updates, and with the British Society for Investigative Dermatology, by sponsoring a visiting international speaker
- **Undertaking research initiatives:** to recognise and eventually make widely available 'new' allergens, through trialling of suspected allergens by committee members
- **Sponsoring scientific research:** into contact dermatitis through a joint venture with the British Skin Foundation, to fund a research project

- **Assessment and competencies:** an assessment package for SpRs using direct observation and knowledge-based assessment has been developed. A package that can be used to assess the function of a department as a contact dermatitis investigation unit is in development

## Aims of the BCDS

The Society's aims are the promotion of knowledge about the diagnosis and treatment of contact dermatitis.

## Website and database

The BCDS website [www.bcds.org.uk](http://www.bcds.org.uk) has been upgraded and we thank Dr Barry Statham for his contribution in undertaking this development.

A 'Discussion Forum' is now available on the website for dermatologists to pose questions, receive replies and join the 'threadwatch'. Information sheets, guidelines and useful links are provided on the site.

The database (in Microsoft Access) is available to BAD members through the BAD website Members' Section under 'Services and Advice'. It is designed for general dermatologists who may not have a particular interest in contact dermatitis but who provide a standard patch testing series. Its purpose is to allow easy audit of patch test results.

# contact

## Standardisation of allergen series

The BCDS has developed a standard series of 35 allergens suitable for basic patch testing by British dermatologists and available as Chemotechnique or Trolab allergens. Crawford Pharmaceuticals market the series as a package. In addition, the BCDS has formulated facial, medicament, corticosteroid, hairdressing and footwear series for more advanced patch testing. A data form that can be used in the clinic is available (attached).

## Patient information sheets

The BCDS committee has updated the patient information sheets for most series, available on the website. A general handout for patients on what is involved in patch testing together with an acknowledgement form has been formulated and may be downloaded from the website.

## Research into new allergens

After trialling by committee members, the BCDS has approved the inclusion of Disperse blue 124/106 mix and fragrance mix II in the BCDS standard series. The committee has suggested that the approved concentration for testing tixocortol should be 1%, and that for compositae mix should be 2.5%. Committee members continue to trial 'new' allergens on a regular basis.

## Annual meeting and courses

The BCDS holds an annual meeting during the BAD main meeting, and an annual course of instruction in contact and occupational dermatitis, run by the Universities

of Birmingham and Nottingham on alternate years. The University of Nottingham hosted the course in March 2006.

## Update meeting:

Thursday 7 September 2006,  
University of Derby

The BCDS runs a biannual one-day update meeting on breaking areas in contact and occupational dermatitis, to be held next on Thursday 7 September 2006 at the University of Derby (please contact Dr Jane Sansom, email jane.sansom@ubht.swest.nhs.uk for further details).

## Discussions with the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI)

In collaboration with the BAD and the Royal College of Physicians of London, the BCDS was asked to contribute to a debate initiated by the BSACI concerning "Allergy Centres". The position of the BAD and the BCDS is that dermatologists are happy to cooperate with allergists in working within a network of specialists who have an interest in allergic diseases.

## Travelling fellowships

The BCDS sponsors Fellowships for BCDS members to attend contact dermatitis meetings abroad. Preference is given to specialist registrars or members who have difficulty in obtaining financial support for overseas meetings.

## Scientific research

In collaboration with the British Skin Foundation (BSF), in March 2006 the BCDS has jointly funded a small grant to promote research

into contact dermatitis. At the time of writing the successful research project is not known.

## Sponsored lecture at the BSID annual meeting

In collaboration with the British Society for Investigative Dermatology (BSID), the BCDS sponsored Professor Wolfgang Uter of Erlangen as its distinguished international speaker on the subject of contact dermatitis at the BSID annual meeting in April 2006.

It is hoped that this invited lecture will be an ongoing event and will form the focus for scientific presentations at the BSID meeting on the subject of contact dermatitis.

## Assessment and competencies

A package for assessing SpRs or other doctors, using direct observation and knowledge-based assessment, has been developed and BCDS members have been involved in writing questions for the knowledge-based assessment that is being trialled amongst SpRs at the present time.

A package that can be used for assessing the functioning of a department as a contact dermatitis investigation unit is in development.

## Change in committee officers

Professor Gawkrödger will stand down in July 2006, having served his term of 3 years as president of the BCDS. There will be an election for the post of president and it is likely for one or more committee positions as well as the Annual General Meeting in July 2006.

# contact

## Committee Secretary's Report

Dr Barry Statham

Honorary Committee Secretary

barry.statham1@virgin.net



The last 12 months has seen continued development especially in the following areas:

### Website

The website has proved a very successful new asset enabling the committee to post information of value to dermatologists and the general public alike. Following discussions with the BAD our patient information leaflets are now available to all- members, non-members and the general public. These are now on an open-access area of the website. The Fragrance Mix information leaflet has been updated to reflect the addition of Fragrance Mix II to the test battery and the change in EU labelling regulations.

The discussion forum is now accessible to all members and after a slow take off is now being used with increasing frequency. We are looking into the possibility of developing a shared discussion forum with the ESCD that we feel could have significant benefits for members of both societies.

### Patch testing batteries

The patch test batteries are continuing to slowly evolve with the addition of Fragrance Mix II in addition to Hydroxyisohexyl 3-cyclohexene carboxaldehyde (Lyal) as standard battery allergens.

The addition of Compositae Mix to the test battery has been delayed, it had been decided following a comparative study of Chemotechnique and Trolab Compositae Mix Allergens that the Trolab Compositae Mix diluted to 2% would become our recommended allergen. Unfortunately, Trolab have announced their intention to withdraw the Compositae Mix 6% allergen due to concerns about the risk of sensitization. We are currently exploring the option of moving to the Chemotechnique Compositae Mix allergen at 2.5% concentration, which identified almost as many cases of Compositae allergy as the Trolab equivalent.

The hairdressing and footwear batteries are still in an early stage of evaluation but are available for members on the website if they wish to utilize them. Data are accumulating on the Cosmetic, Medicament and Corticosteroid batteries. Currently we are collating this information from 9 members of the BCDS committee who are users of the BCDS database and further information will become available in due course. The majority of allergens in these batteries are infrequent sensitizers and it may be some time before a clearer picture emerges.

### BCDS Database

2005 has seen the launch of an updated version of the BCDS database. This tool is now utilized

widely in Contac Dermatitis Departments across the UK and is available free-of-charge for members to download from the website. Unlike commercial software the Access database has been released in a format that allows those knowledgeable about computers to make their own modifications. It is possible to add new allergens and write new queries.

The new version of the database is now only available in Access 2000 or later format; it is no longer possible to continue support for the Access 97 version.

The current database incorporates all of the batteries now recommended as well as other batteries (largely copies of the Chemotechnique batteries) for members to use if they wish. There are several significant improvements in the new database including a much improved section for recording occupations and safeguards to reduce the risk of inadvertent entry of incorrect date of birth. Help files are also available on the website to guide importing of data from the old to current version and more general information on using the database.

The data-sharing project is now well established with 9 members of the BCDS Committee pooling data on the commonly used batteries. A further 2 major patch test centres have recently begun collecting data for this process and we will be looking to slowly expand this process as experience in data handling improves. This is a very exciting development and should allow more accurate assessment of the value of individual allergens in terms of their rates of positivity against potential irritancy and help in identifying emerging allergens. We are also taking part in the European Surveillance System for Contact Allergens (ESSCA) project where data sharing has been underway for some time.

# contact

## Meetings Secretary Report

Dr Jane Sansom

Honorary Meetings Secretary

jane.sansom@ubht.swest.nhs.uk



It has been a pleasure to act as the BCDS Meetings Secretary for the last few years. Separating the Committee and Meeting Secretary roles works well as we can concentrate on the different activities needed to support the Society and its members. These are two of our important regular meetings:

### Our Annual BCDS Meeting

This is held at the BAD Annual Meeting and offers members and others the opportunity to report their research, recent developments and interesting cases. We have recently introduced a prize for the best presentation by a Specialist Registrar.

The session is always extremely well attended, testimony to the high standard of abstracts and presentations at the meeting.

### Bi-Annual Update in Contact Dermatitis

The purpose of the one-day Bi-Annual Update is to educate and inform all those involved in patch testing. The programme includes information on recent changes and emerging allergens, combined with an opportunity to raise queries with the 'expert panel' of speakers. Our next meeting is taking place on Thursday 7th September 2006 at the University of Derby. Do contact me for further details.

## Clinical Update Meeting

Thursday 7 September 2006 - University of Derby

### Programme:

The one-day update will include sessions on:

- standard and additional series
- new and emerging allergens
- metal allergy and orthopaedics
- facial and cosmetic dermatitis
- occupational dermatitis
- ask the experts

### Suitable for:

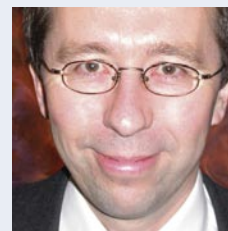
The meeting is aimed at Consultants, Specialist Registrars, Non-consultant career grade doctors and Nurses who wish to update their knowledge of Contact Dermatitis. There is an application for 4.5 hours CPD from the Royal College of Physicians.

## Treasurer's Report

Dr Mark Wilkinson

Honorary Treasurer

Mark.Wilkinson@leedsth.nhs.uk



The society's accounts retain a healthy balance with £60,029 in the accounts at year-end (2005) and a surplus of £739 for the year. As a consequence of our sustained growth it has been decided to support the British Skin Foundation by donating £5000 for a project related to contact dermatitis with the BSF providing an equivalent amount.

### Income

The majority of our income continues to derive from commercial grants and money generated by educational activities. Please support the biannual update, which is to be held in Derby again in September this year!

### Expenditure

More than half of our expenditure relates to the support and development of our web site.

I hope that you find this a valuable resource that is accessible to all. If there are questions you'd like answered please use the discussion forum.

# Contact Dermatitis Data Form

Patient Details	
Hospital No:	NHS No:
Surname:	First name:
D.O.B:	Post Code:

**Sites Affected** - select up to two, rank 1 & 2

Hand	not specified		Ear	not specified		Arm	not specified	
	entire			canal			elbow	
	back (dorsal)			lobe			lower arm	
	palm (not spec)		Neck	not specified			upper arm	
	palm central			front			wrist-entire	
	palm (peripheral)			back			wrist-extensor	
	finger (not spec)			side			wrist-flexor	
	finger interdigital		Trunk	not specified		Leg	not specified	
finger tip		front			upper leg			
Face	not specified			back			knee	
	eyelid			groin			lower leg	
	periorbital		axilla		Foot	not specified		
	mouth-lip		Perineal	ano-genital			toe	
	oral mucosa			peri-anal			dorsum	
	peri-oral			genital			sole	
Head	not specified		Flexures	not specified		Generalised	generalised	
	scalp (not spec)			elbow				
	scalp (margin)			politeal				
	scalp (centre)							

<p><b>Duration</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 0-3 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4-12 months</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 yrs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 yrs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> &gt;8 yrs</p> <p><b>Atopy?</b> Yes/No (circle)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Eczema</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rhino-conjunctivitis</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Asthma</p> <p><b>Suspected Allergy</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nickel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fragrance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p><b>Work related?</b> Yes/No (circle)</p> <p><b>Employer</b> .....</p> <p><b>Protection measures</b></p> <p><b>Gloves</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> wrist</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> gauntlet</p> <p><b>Make</b> .....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> domestic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> industrial</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> surgical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> latex</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> nitrile</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> vinyl</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> fabric</p>	<p><b>Usage</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> continuous</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> frequent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> occasional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never</p> <p><b>Barrier/after work cream</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> available</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> unavailable</p> <p><b>Usage</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> regular</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> seldom</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> never</p>
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# Contact Dermatitis Data Form

## Medicament/Cosmetic list

Steroids	Cosmetic/miscellaneous	Emollients

## Contactants - select up to two & record one as 'other'

1	clothing, textiles	16	metal (worked with)	31	woods
2	house dusts	17	metal jewellery	32	plants (not food)
3	shoes, boots	18	metal implants	33	pesticides, herbicides
4	cosmetics, creams (leave on products)	19	metal (other, like coins)	34	paints, lacquers
5	soap, shampoo (rinse off products)	20	tools (metal, wood, plastic)	35	glues
6	hair cosmetics	21	dental filling (e.g. amalgam)	36	gloves (various materials)
7	nail cosmetics, artificial nails	22	dental prostheses	37	leather (other)
8	perfume, deodorant	23	cutting fluids (water based)	38	rubber (other)
9	food (additives), skin contact!	24	neat oils, greases	39	plastics
10	drugs, external	25	solvents	40	office material
11	drugs, internal	26	'other' chemicals	41	not classified
12	medical materials. (sutures, gel, etc)	27	cleaning agents (detergents)	Other	
13	disinfectants	28	building material		
14	Disinfecting wash e.g. hibiscrub	29	Surface wipes		
15	Sanitiser e.g. alcohol gel	30	Animal proteins		

# Contact Dermatitis Data Form

**Final Diagnosis** - select up to two - rank 1 & 2, complete after patch testing

Category	Sub-category	Rank	Category	Sub-category	Rank	
Allergic	ACD-NEC		Endogenous	Atopic eczema		
	ACD-exclusively			Atopic(palmar/plantar)		
	ADC-predominantly			Pompholyx		
	ACD-contributory			Hyperkeratotic eczema		
	ACD-medicament			Seborrhoeic eczema		
	ACD- cosmetic					
Irritant	ICD-NEC				Discoid eczema	
	ICD-exclusively				Stasis eczema	
	ICD-predominantly				Lichen Simplex Chronic	
	ICD-contributory				Asteatotic	
Contact Urticaria	CU-NEC				Eczema NEC	
	CU-immunological			Airborne	Airborne	
	CU-non-immunological			Photo	Photo-allergic	
Cheilitis	Cheilitis NEC				Photo-toxic	
	Cheilitis irritant		Protein Contact Dermatitis	Protein Contact Dermatitis		
	Cheilitis contact allergic		Drug intolerance	Systemic contact dermatitis		
Stomatitis	Exclude-amalgam allergy			Fixed drug eruption		
	Exclude-denture allergy		Post-Occupational			
	Glossodynia		Frictional			
Not Eczema	Psoriasis		Low-humidity			
	Perioral dermatitis		Other			
	Prurigo					
	Exanthem, non-urticarial					

**Patch Tests Performed**

<input type="checkbox"/> BCDS Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> Latex (type IV)	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo-patch
<input type="checkbox"/> BCDS Cosmetic	<input type="checkbox"/> Fragrance mix 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Acrylates
<input type="checkbox"/> BCDS Medicament	<input type="checkbox"/> Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Epoxy
<input type="checkbox"/> BCDS Steroid	<input type="checkbox"/> Bakery	<input type="checkbox"/> Dental
<input type="checkbox"/> BCDS Hairdressing	<input type="checkbox"/> Coolants/oils	<input type="checkbox"/> Caines
<input type="checkbox"/> BCDS Footwear	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastics/glues	<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves
<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber additives	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoe samples	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Signed .....

Date .....