

CMGS website subcommittee report April 2010

I am pleased to report that the website has continued to operate smoothly for the benefit of CMGS members, the Executive committee and visitors to the site.

I am indebted to all the members of the subcommittee who have continued to make updates, especially to the homepage, lab directory, best practise guidelines and training pages. I think a good analogy is with a quality football match – where the referee who does a good job is the referee who is barely noticed. You will find their names listed on the website, and the training area is ably managed by Nicola Wolstenholme.

There is a low interaction with CMGS members which is a little disappointing, but feedback which is received is dealt with swiftly and there are few complaints. However, there are areas to look to for development, and David Gokhale who has attended the most recent Executive meetings has provided me with the following summary.

1. Domain Names

Because of the move from Netcetera to Zen, there are now two cmgs domains (www.cmgs.org and www.cmgs.org.uk).

The best one to use is probably www.cmgs.org as when you are navigating through the site you can see and use the proper URLs, which isn't the case for the .org.uk domain.

Despite the redundancy we intend to keep the www.cmgs.org.uk domain as it will allow us the option of doing testing without disrupting the original version of the site.

2. Searching the lab directory

A search facility has been added to the lab directory which allows users to search for tests etc. The site used to have this facility, but because there was a delay in getting this set up again many people (including clinicians) don't know about it, so we will try and raise awareness of this as the lab directory is still useful for tests that are not listed on the UKGTN website.

3. Lab Directory

The lab directory has been updated and now includes information about whether each test is UKGTN approved etc.

How up-to-date the CMGS directory is depends on each lab letting us know about changes to their test repertoire. Information about new tests etc. can be emailed to Peter Logan who will update the directory as soon as possible (peter.logan@belfasttrust.hscni.net).

4. Collaboration with the ACC

Last year we conducted a survey and got some valuable information about what CMGS website users wanted to see in the future. The original plan was to develop a content management system and develop some of the other ideas that came out of the survey. However in the meantime, the ACC and CMGS have started to discuss merging and we felt that we might be better to start to work with the ACC website team and try and co-ordinate things. We've had some initial promising discussions with Gavin Cuthbert and provisionally agreed to develop a joint ACC/CMGS training area, providing the TAB committees are happy for this to happen. Gavin has some very useful expertise in content management and I think the CMGS has lots of good content in its training area, so I think this collaboration will work well, but funding might need to be considered to help make it happen.

Finally, I'd like to express my thanks again to all who put in their time for the benefit of the site.

David Cockburn
Chair, CMGS website subcommittee
April 2010