

Heart Rhythm Congress (HRC) – Birmingham, UK, 3rd – 6th October 2010

It was a privilege for Peter and myself to attend the HRC in Birmingham.

Although PACE has achieved so much to date, it was encouraging to see how much the Arrhythmia Alliance has achieved and the impact they have made in the country, including the community, medical field and government. If there is one clear message that we came away with, it is that the voices and actions of the people can make a huge difference. By working together, so much more can be achieved.

One of the things that struck us the most was the huge demand and involvement in Atrial Fibrillation and separate groups have been established for the various Arrhythmia groups such as AFA (Atrial Fibrillation Association), STARS (Syncope Trust and Seizure Syndrome) with Cardiomyopathies falling into their own categories (HCM/ARVD).

The Congress started with a 'Patients day' on the 3rd Oct which was very well received and was only for patients and their families.

We were fortunate to attend many much informative sessions over the next few days. We were also struck by the amount of counseling and support offered 'In house' to Heart Rhythm patients by the various hospitals and doctors, including specialized 'Arrhythmia nurses'.

The Congress concluded with an International Round table meeting of the Arrhythmia Alliance and their International partners, with each country presenting a short presentation of activities in their respective countries. The AA have made remarkable progress in all fields and have promised that their affiliated parties will be assisted in any way that they are able to help. The AA also advised that they will only endorse one AA affiliated group in the various countries which will need to comply with their strict guidelines. Fortunately PACE have already been included in this categ

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