

IMPRESSIONS OF THE 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Clive Tonks, Honorary Secretary.

The Saturday Conference started with a light-hearted presentation on last year's charity bike ride (2004). Colin McArthur gave an excellent off-the-cuff talk about our adventures in Vietnam. He then outlined his plans for

THE NEXT BIKE RIDE TO COSTA RICA IN MARCH 2006.

The **first General Speaker** was from Chris Hendriksz, Birmingham Children's Hospital (UK). Chris gave an overview of all GSD's in a humorous yet informative fashion and his talk has helped us all better understand the problems faced by families affected by all the types of GSD. (See Workshop Reports October 2004)

Our **second General Speaker** was Ruth Geall from the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. This is a charity that represents over 30,000 UK patients and over 60 diseases which includes the muscle affected glycogen storage diseases such as GSD types II(Pompe), IIIa (Forbes/Cori) and V (McArdle's) under their remit. Our AGSD(UK) volunteer representative to the MDC is Mrs. Ann Jacklin who made contact last year with the MDS office in London. They say they are hoping to have a greater bond with the AGSD - and with regard to Pompe's want to assist in lobbying/campaigning etc for the ERT to get the go ahead."

After the morning coffee break people dispersed to the following **WORKSHOPS:**

Type I GSD Catherine Mah, Dr.D. Koebel and Dr. K. Bhattacharya

Type II GSD Dr. Mark. Davidson (GENZYME), Dr. Ed Wraith (Manchester), Professor Tim. Cox (Cambridge), Ellie Gunary (MPS), Dr. Catheryn Mah (USA), Dr. Kerry Cresawn (USA), And Dr. Andrea Amalfitano (USA)

Type V GSD Dr. J. Buckley, Dr. R. Godfrey and Dr. G. Whyte (UK Olympic Team Physiologists), Dr. R. Quinlivan (Oswestry)

After the Buffet Luncheon the **Workshops Continued** until afternoon tea at 1600 followed by

Final announcements, a cheque presentation and closure.

The AGSD(UK) Committee would like to thank two members who have volunteered their services as co-ordinators:

Lisa Alexander for the **Type III families** and

Andrew Wakelin for the **Type V families.**

We still need a volunteer *co-ordinator for GSD Type IX*, a *General representative* and a **Newsletter Editor**

[The editor wishes to thank Allan Muir and Ann Jacklin for their contributions to this section.]