Hypertension Online
www.hypertensiononline.org

This is an online educational resource providing evidence-based information and tools relevant to the field of hypertension. It is a graphically well-presented site hosted by the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA. The Editorial Board is national rather than international. Mini CVs for the contributors are provided.

The site provides several resources that are likely to be of general interest to occupational physicians including
(i) clinical trials information,
(ii) a slide library,
(iii) video animations and
(iv) continuing professional development (CPD) activities.

The clinical trials section contains a summary of the various important worldwide hypertensive trials. The slide library contains PowerPoint slides relating to hypertension, diabetes and renal disease that can be downloaded either individually or as a complete presentation. The quality of the slides is high.

The video animations section is particularly impressive and provides animation sequences lasting 2–3 min on topics including left ventricular hypertrophy and cardiac failure. As an educational resource, including a means of updating the user’s general medical knowledge on hypertensive diseases, they are hard to beat. When trialled, the animation sequences downloaded quickly and without problems (and without incomprehensible IT instructions). Once loaded (a matter of seconds only), the animation sequences opened automatically. I certainly gained new information regarding cardiac physiology that was presented in a far more memorable format than a textbook could have done.

CPD activities, including the ability to receive a certificate upon completion of a module and post module assessment, are the fourth key site resource. The modules are up to date and cover some of the clinical trials as well as more general knowledge areas surrounding hypertension. The CPD activities are recognized by the American colleges and are free of charge.

The site is free to access with no need for registration. The graphics and presentations are of high quality and navigation around the site is easy. The only drawback is that there is no search facility for quickly focussing on any one aspect of the subject or for quickly looking up a particular trial. For those with a particular interest in the subject there is an e-mail update facility where you can register to receive updates when new information is posted on the site.

In summary, this is a well presented, professional looking site, covering all aspects of hypertension (there is also a link to a sister site covering dyslipidaemia—www.lipidsonline.org). It is a particularly useful resource for those seeking information on clinical trials as well as those in need of general medicine refresher training on hypertension.

Scores
Access speed = 5
Speed of searches, not really applicable
User friendliness = 4
Links to other websites, not really applicable
Overall score = 4

James Mackie