

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

SOUTHERN REGION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2013 at 2:15pm at ACB Headquarters, 130 – 132 Tooley Street London.

Present:

Anne Tarn	Chairman, Clinical Practice Group Representative
Helen Johnstone	Secretary
Emma Tuddenham	Treasurer
Fiona Riddoch	Ordinary Member (London)
Katie Hadfield	Trainee Representative (north London)
Jenny Lake	Trainee Representative (outside London)
Alan Courtney	SR Webmaster
Hannah Fox	Immunology representative
Andrew Taylor	FCS Representative (outside London)
Oliver Clifford-Mobley	FCS Representative (outside London)
Rebecca Leyland	Meetings Secretary

36.13 Apologies for absence

Laura Tooth, Sally Benton, Rachel Carling

37.13 Minutes of the meeting held 13 November 2013

Minutes of last meeting circulated via email 14 November 2013

38.13 Matters Arising

None

39.13 Report from the Chairman/Council Representative

AT Unable to attend most recent council meeting, however agenda and report from President discussed with committee members.

The council afternoon session was about ISO standards - presentation to be circulated to committee members by AT.

ATay was in attendance at Council and provided the following information;

The ACB 5 year plan which was discussed at the Executive retreat was circulated generated some further discussion. A final document will be circulated to all members in the near future. It proposes aims and work to be undertaken to follow through on those. Nobody Overjoyed by the strap line 'better lab testing better patient care'. Clinical biochemistry more than lab testing. Particularly clinical involvement - one proposal met with some approval and Council was asked to consider proposals and collect thoughts.

Concern was voiced on how to make the non-biochemistry disciplines feature well and how to promote this. E.g. in a few years there may be an Immunologist or Microbiology ACB President.

The President elect was announcement as Gwen Mcreanor. She has experience on how the organisation works, has previously been a council member and can allocate time for commitment. The President and past President discussed ideal candidates and chosen their favoured candidate. Council members voiced displeasure at the protocol for appointing President elect and suggested a democratic process instead. A list of suggested candidates will be presented to Council by the executive committee and these candidates will be put forward for an open vote by all ACB members for the position of President elect. Council is keen to avoid a popular candidate amongst peers who

performs less satisfactorily as President elect. The SR strongly supports the short listing method. Vote might be disadvantaged if there is a small number of people voting e.g. representative members of other professions within the ACB may be disadvantaged. AT to send email round to committee and then to council.

The Clinical Practice Group has appointed Chemical Pathologist Maurice o'Kane based in Londonderry. Maurice currently sits on committee involved in reviews as part of scientific committee. This will be a Secondment and open for election before the next AGM.

The future of regional structures was discussed at Council. The SR has largest membership. There were calls for one job description for the secretaries/chair across all regions.

Ovarian cancer might be suggested as a national audit

An issue in Manchester about an appointment of a senior healthcare scientist (operations) above the laboratory and reporting to a nurse line rather than medical line. This has emerged as part of the reorganisation structure. ACB is concerned that this is akin to a second head of department and might be reproduced in other hospitals. AT noted that the Clinical Director for South West London Pathology is responsible to host hospital MD.

Royal college 50 year review.

LETBs have a very important role. It is possible that these will reduce from 13 to 4. AT stated that there are RCPATH tutors in most of our hospitals who look after the college trainees. There are many changes occurring across the system.

ISO Standards - Validation and verification methods

Traceability and uncertainty big change for people in the new standards. Presentation on what it really means and what is required to meet these. There will be inspections against KPIs and CPA are to pilot this against the standards in the next few inspections.

'7day' working and how this is developing was discussed. Balance of work may change - more op clinics/operations people will be working across weekends. Less of an effect of Biochemistry as we continue to work as required of the service anyway.

Different meetings occurring – ACB council wanted to highlight EUROLAB FOCUS 2014 in May. Focus 2015 scheduled to be in Cardiff with Cardiff 2018 reservation option also.

Think tank science museum in Birmingham to include; ACB medal, AGM and National Audit meeting.

meetings - Some regions having too many and others not enough.

Pathology alliance group - meeting amongst representatives iTMS, RCPATH, infection uk. Not sure what the role of this meeting is. Predominantly driven by the college, ACB is limiting its involvement.

Venture publications - what is the future of this? A few items in long term publications. Large stocks of unsold books at the ACB offices. Perhaps these could be given to trainees rather than going out of date?

RCPATH officer post – ACB should consider members from wider 'blood sciences' base.

Variation of reporting - can see reporting between hospitals

-atlas of variation. Data shows substantial variation in availability and variability of tests requested. Interesting document, even highlights how our requesting patterns vary amongst others even within own GP practices. Questions should be raised regarding why some tests are done and others not – is this based upon local funding? AT actively discourages in our area if this is not available in neighbouring network.

40.13 Report from the Clinical Practice Group

No new news. It is hoped that the focus of group may become more energised with the new chair.

41.13 Southern Region Website

The production of the new regional websites is underway and can be accessed via the ACB website: http://www.acb.org.uk/whatweare/structure/what_we_are_regions.aspx. The southern region webpage is still under construction with little information available online (http://www.acb.org.uk/whatweare/structure/what_we_are_regions/Southern_region.aspx) but there is at least a list of current and previous committee members. There is also a contact form to contact specific members as well. I haven't been personally informed as to when the website will be completed for us to maintain, so there is no agreed go live date to my knowledge.

The committee discussed other ideas to add to the SR website;

Regional map

Current and previous members of committee with contact details.

Old meeting programmes – useful for CPD.

Audit pages - guidelines from past 2/3 years.

Application form for applying for funds.

AC will liaise with office in getting the information onto the website.

Ideally would like to have similar design layout to Northern Ireland.

42.13 Report from the Treasurer

The last statement of accounts available from the ACB Office was at the end of June, showing a balance of £37,475.92. Unfortunately more recent accounts are not available due to staff shortages at the ACB Office.

The ACB Southern Region Summer meeting was at Guy's Hospital in November. Attendance was good and there were three sponsors at £500 each meaning a profit of approx. £320. I will confirm that the three sponsors have all paid when I receive the most recent version of the accounts.

The Autumn meeting will be held at UCH on 16th Dec. At the moment we are struggling to attract sponsorship for this event. The local organisers have managed to keep room hire costs down by downsizing the lecture theatre, and catering costs are reasonable. Based on a projected number of 60 attendees, and given that speaker honoraria and members prizes total £400, a small loss of approx. £300 is expected. Further sponsorship is being sought and a draft budget has been approved by William Marshall (ACB Director of Finance)

There have been two requests for funding since the last meeting in July:

- 1) Request from Ceri Roberts to present a poster entitled 'Modulation of human T helper cell responses by biological therapeutics' at the British Society for Immunology Congress (Liverpool, Dec 2013). She has been an Ordinary member of the ACB since 2009 as a Pre-Reg trainee in Immunology. She switched to Student membership in 2012 to carry out a PhD at King's, and plans to return full-time to the profession after her studies. The total amount required for registration, train travel and hotel stay is £315.30.
- 2) Request from Laura Tooth for £200 towards the Trainee welcome evening in January 2014, at Tooley Street. This is an event which we supported last year, also with £200 of funding.

Secretary to review again the guidelines and clarify the points for awarding financial assistance to SR members making an application. E.g. Student members - ordinary members prioritised before student members.

HJ asked if SR committee members will be invited to next year's welcome evening. Fire regulations limit the size of the number of people at the ACB offices and aim of the welcome evening is to introduce trainees to the ACB. KH will review the numbers and the southern region committee will be invited if sufficient space.

43.13 Report from the Meetings Secretary

Summer Meeting 17th September 2013

- The meeting, entitled 'Patient Centred Care' was held at the Roben's suite, Guy's Hospital and was organised by Dr. Zehra Arkir and Mr. Nick Unsworth from GSTS.
- Theradiag, Roche and Biohit sponsored the meeting, with a total £1500 in sponsorship.
- 44 delegates attended, of which 33 returned evaluation forms.
- Overall feedback was very good for the venue, catering and the speaker's.

- The meeting made a profit of £353.20

Future meetings

Date	Venue	Organisers	Topics
16 th December 2013	UCLH	Nandini Rao, Katie Hadfield, Sarah Pitkin, Nick Flynn	Inherited metabolic renal disease and member's papers
29 th January 2014	Royal College of Pathologists	Dave Halsall and Rebecca Leyland	SAS spectacular and AGM
21 st April 2014	Kent and Canterbury Hospital (East Kent hospitals)	Edmund Lamb	To mark the retirement of Ruth Lapworth

Deadline for abstracts for the UCLH members papers has passed. There is space for 6 presentations and 13 abstracts have been submitted. Mike Thomas, William Marshall and Anne Dawnay will be the judges. Speakers and venue confirmed, but the meeting is currently without sponsorship.

AT agreed members papers is a highlight and this draws people from wide grades of the profession.

RL concerned by the lack of more junior trainees attending on this occasion. Important to get them networking so that they take away valuable information. A short term STP representative post has been created since STPs were not represented in the ACB trainees committee. RL was advised to contact Louie Dron.

Some discussion followed regarding the engagement of STPs in ACB in both membership and getting in touch with them. Not always Biochemistry members but also Immunology and Microbiology STPs.

RL stated that if trainees are not members of the ACB they won't receive the meetings emails from the ACB office. JL has posted onto the STP forum about the welcome evening for the SR. A link to website on ACB was also suggested.

Unclear as to whether the new ACB website will continue to have the trainees site.

Suggestions for volunteers and venues for the summer meeting to be held in September please contact RL. There is a fall in the number of attendees which may be due to issues with funding or time away from the Laboratory.

HF had received requests for more Immunology content. Perhaps swap a biochemistry meeting for an Immunology once per year. RL asked if HF could obtain feedback regarding options of 4 meetings with some immunology content or one meeting with all immunology. There are some cross over subjects such as EQA or even a half day. Will numbers recoup funding? What is the likely engagement of immunologists for regional meetings?

The Immunology professional committee currently organise a national meeting and local meetings at nearby hospitals.

Alternative options included a joint meeting with BSI.

RL has put together some guidelines for those organising local meetings which Katie is using.

AGM to be in March.

44.13 Report from the FCS Representatives

- Pay

DoH has argued that the cost of living uplift to salaries due in April should be linked to further reform of the incremental pay progression (Note: the government has budgeted for a 1% increase in the pay bill).

- T&Cs

NHS employers have suggested that incremental pay progression could be linked to another metric of service delivery rather than simply time served. Just a suggestion at this stage. The DoH is looking at ways to cap redundancy pay especially for senior managers, because of the large bill from all the lay offs post Health and Social Care Act.

- 2013 AfC amendments

The implementation of these is up to local Trusts, who will negotiate the bits on incremental pay progression e.g. non-consolidated points on Bands 8c and above. It is up to local reps to make the views of their members felt. Look out for 'automatic triggers' which would cause progression to be halted – these should be strongly opposed. They are unfair because they cannot be applied to staff at the top of their scale.

- Reorganisations

Progressing across the region. Please feed up any 'intelligence' about this.

- Representing members

There have been a number of cases dealt with

ATAY has been appointed the Chair of the Federation and will be stepping down as a regional FCS representative. The Committee thanked Andrew for his support to the region over the years and is sad to be losing a valuable asset, the committee won't be the same without Andrew.

Sally Brady has also stepped down as FCS representative due to work commitments. Maria Firth hasn't been to any Committee meetings within the last year and hasn't really been particularly active within the region and will not be put forward to continue as a representative at the next AGM. Two FCS representative positions will be advertised prior to the next AGM.

Liz and Olly continue as FCS SR representatives.

45.13 Report from the Tutors

No formal report received.

Report received from London tutors?

JO highlighted concerns remain about Nottingham course. They have only one trainee due to complete and trainees are concerned about their depth of knowledge to be able to sign off competences. Francis Boa is collecting all feedback data.

Wrexham Park has just taken on their first STP. Under the new scheme any trust can bid for STPs. The AHSS are retrospectively assessing labs for suitability as training centre for STPs. Oxford have been assessed and there have been some issues in Biochemistry.

46.13 Report from the Trainees Committee Representatives

Much is reiterated in what tutors have already said.

13 trainees on fixed term contracts. All London trainees that finished in September are on fixed term contracts.

Eleven trainees are due to finish in Sept 2014. The first year of STPs are looking to secure band 7 or HSTP posts. In addition, there have been 2 trainee losses from the region, one of which failed to get employment after applying for appropriate posts for two years.

Lots of jobs advertised recently and lots of trainees choosing the new three year route registration for HCPC. Many are also progressing through careers by passing part 1.

The Royal Free trainee will be supervised by Gill Rumsby at UCLH.

More input is required from trainees to fully complete the analyte monologues.

47.13 Report from the Microbiology Representative

Micro apologies. No report received.

48.13 Report from the Immunology Representative

A number of articles have been published in the ACB news and this has been very well received by the immunology trainees.

Now that the biochemistry analyte monographs are almost complete focus has moved to producing Immunology monographs and this has been forwarded to the Immunology scientific committee.

New guidelines for NICE coeliac disease have recently been published.

An NIHR grant awarded to Clinical scientist in Oxford to help further research. Applications for round four have now closed.

BSI congress is 2 - 5th in Liverpool and there is also a further primary immunodeficiency network meeting planned.

49.13 Report from the Secretary

Committee would prefer to have criteria for awards. And HJ should seek to identify if other regions have a criteria/structure to follow.

HJ to circulate list for ACB awards (Fellow, Honorary, and Emeritus awards) and SR awards.

50.13 Report from the Workforce Advisors

No report received. The committee recognises that this is an important role and the current member is unable to give the time required to this role. There are many changes afoot; new roles in laboratory medicine – MSC, networking and pathology reorganisation. A new workforce advisor committee member will be advertised prior to the next AGM.

51.13 Regional Social Events

the committee discussed and decided that this does not require a specific role and as such does not need to be advertised at the next AGM. It was agreed that informal social events could be arranged after the regional meetings and local meeting organisers can organise if so wish. SR members have been less inclined to attend formal events.

52.13 AOB

The current Chair expressed concern that due to network and local reorganisation commitments they are unable to give sufficient time to the Chairmanship as would like and will consider standing down if another member is enthusiastic and can be more proactive. ATAY suggested it was something for the committee to think about.

Ordinary member, FR, will be stepping down and will not be looking for re-election at the next AGM.

53.13 Date of the next meeting(s)

Suggested dates are;

Wednesday 19 March 2014

Wednesday 19 June 2014

Wednesday xx October 2014

Actions

Advertise; WA, OM, FCS x2,

AT to email ACB President re: SR supports the democratic nomination of future president elects .

AT to suggest to ACB Council: Unsold books at ACB offices could be given to Trainees entering the profession.

HJ Atlas of variation – email to committee members.

AC to liaise with ACB offices re: data input on ACB SR website.

HJ to email Council ISO Standards presentation (from AT)

HJ to review guidelines to include application form for SR website

HJ to identify if other regions have awards and what criteria is.

HJ to circulate list of retired members for ACB and SR awards.