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## South West & Wessex Regional Committee: Meeting Minutes

**Author :** Joe Bailey

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Venue :** Seminar Room 5, RILD Building, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

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**PRESENT:** Anthea Patterson (Chair), Anna Barton, Angie Cooper, Mandy Perry, Paul Thomas, Becky Hopkins, Tim McDonald, Oli Roberts, Kristen Lilly, Joe Bailey

**MINUTE SECRETARY:**

Joe Bailey

Minute No:		Action By
1.0	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Andrew Day, Nicola Pullan, Angela Mallard, Mary Stapleton	
2.0	<b>RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> Agreed to be an accurate representation. Minutes approved from last meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016. Sent to ACB head-office and to Nicola for upload to website.	
3.0	<b>MATTERS ARISING.</b> <b>FCS representation</b> Angela Mallard had taken on this role temporarily and attended the National FCS meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> January. However, Angela is retiring at the end of March. Oliver Clifford-Mobley, current FCS rep for London, will be starting work at Bristol Royal Infirmary in April and may be able to assume the SWW FCS role. <b>Audit representative</b> Anthea contacted Mary Stapleton (Northern Devon NHS Trust) to discuss joining the committee as audit rep. Mary agreed and plans for regional audits will be discussed at the next committee meeting. <b>Other committee vacancies</b> Kristen Lilly (Plymouth) has joined the committee as Immunology representative. AP/NP to contact ACB to obtain a list of Immunology and	<b>AP/NP</b>

	<p>Microbiology members within the SWW region.</p> <p><b>ACB awards</b></p> <p>AP to find out from ACB the procedure for nominating local members approaching retirement for awards as recognition of their work. PT remarked that this is the time of year for nominations to be made and that formal nominations should perhaps be made in a year's time once the procedure is known.</p>	<b>AP</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>STANDING AGENDA ITEMS</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Chair/Council Representative report</b></p> <p>AP attended the recent ACB Council meeting on 3rd November 2016. The following subjects were covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lord Carter initiatives: pathology is still seen within government as a sector where savings can be made.</li> <li>• Choosing Wisely UK: a campaign hosted by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges aimed at improving conversations between patients and clinicians, including around the need for laboratory tests.</li> <li>• New ACB Continuing Professional Development module: to be hosted by the ACB and available for all members to participate in, including trainees.</li> <li>• Sustainability and Transformation Plans: vast changes afoot in places like London – proposals for hospitals to close and services to be downgraded. FCS to release paper highlighting that the proposed pace of changes is a clinical risk. It is not known who this paper will be submitted to. <i>(There followed discussions within the ACB SWW meeting about local STP plans – two community hospitals proposed to close in Exeter area. Blood sciences not mentioned as part of proposed changes in the draft Devon STP plan. No further communications yet from NHS Improvement on data submissions made by each Trust in Autumn 2016.)</i></li> <li>• Interpretative EQA for biochemists: now expected as part of UKAS accreditation within competency frameworks. Individual enrolment for all involved in clinical interpretation would crash the current system of marking. New ideas to automate the marking process include changing the scheme format to multiple choice questions with tick boxes. However this would not mimic routine daily practice.</li> <li>• Finances: William Marshall is keen for ACB regions to come up with a standard pricing structure for regional meetings, though some regions do not charge for attendance at all now. Asked regions to think about what minimum cost could be charged, or if not charging at all would be feasible (i.e. using meeting sponsorship to cover attendance costs). <i>(In the SWW</i></li> </ul>	

	<p><i>meeting, AB and AC suggested that sponsorship could be used now to allow no attendance fees but that this would likely not work indefinitely. The SWW regional meetings seem expensive compared to others. It was proposed within the meeting that £10 for ACB members and £20 for non-members be charged for regional meetings, to come into effect as of the October 2017 meeting. AP will take this proposal back to the next ACB Council meeting.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWW region newsletter: felt by the Council to be a very useful and positive contribution to communication with members. Other regions were asked to develop similar newsletters using the SWW template as a meeting action.</li> <li>• Workforce review: high loss of heads of department in next 5 years according to responses to the recent ACB workforce survey (only 50% response rate). 40% of chemical pathologists to retire over this time period. More data to be sought.</li> <li>• ACB News: Prof Jonathan Berg is stepping down as editor. Associate editors are taking over. The newsheet will be published bimonthly in future. Ian Hanning from Hull will be overseeing the process.</li> <li>• Training: Gwyn McCreanor believes that there may be plans to withdraw central funding for the Scientist Training Programme. <i>(Tim McDonald believes that there may be confusion over this. The possibility of withdrawing MSc and conference attendance funding as part of the programme has been considered but nothing has been decided yet.)</i></li> <li>• Bioinformatics: felt to be an untapped resource in Biochemistry. There may be a Spotlight meeting held to focus on this.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Tutors' reports</b> Tim McDonald, South West regional tutor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 2013 STP entrants secured HCPC registration in autumn 2016.</li> <li>• Gloucester are looking to become a registered training centre for STPs in future and may host an HSST trainee.</li> <li>• Francesca Mills (North Bristol) and Mandy Perry both passed FRCPath.</li> <li>• Rachel Cooper (Truro) passed FRCPath Part 1.</li> <li>• Next regional training day on 8<sup>th</sup> February at Southmead will be held jointly with the Wales region of the ACB. There has been a delay in delivering this.</li> <li>• Part 1 FRCPath will be completely MCQs from 2018.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differential questions for medics to be introduced in Part 2.</li> <li>• Possible videoconferencing for training events has been discussed – but unlikely to be instigated as need attendance income to make the events viable.</li> <li>• The formula of two-day national training events is going to become permanent.</li> <li>• Trainees can now claim tax back on exam fees (also works retrospectively) and register to join the NUS.</li> <li>• Concerns regarding 2016 OSFAs and their difficulty level. Audited by the NSHCS and considered fair.</li> </ul> <p>No report from Wessex area. Janina Mazurkiewicz at Poole has agreed to share the regional tutor role with Annie Armston. Janina has now been added to the committee mailing list.</p>	
4.3	<p><b>Trainees’ Committee Representative report</b> Becky Hopkins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 2013 STP intake in the region now have HCPC registration.</li> <li>• Joint SWW and Wales training day to be held at Southmead on 8<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>• Attempts made to organise group tutorials across the region but staffing constraints have made this not possible. Relying on local resources for tutorials.</li> <li>• Feedback from participants in the trainees’ award at the autumn 2016 scientific meeting mentioned possible negative criticism of speakers by judging panel. This was discussed in the committee meeting and the comments from the judges were felt to be fair, honest and constructive. In future only one main prize for the winner and equal runners up prizes for the other participants may be preferable.</li> </ul> <p>It had been hoped that more trainees would enter the competition. In future, all trainees attending will be asked to submit something to present (case/audit/research project). All training supervisors to be contacted prior to the meetings to encourage trainees to come up with submissions, likely as of the March 2018 regional meeting.</p>	TMcD
4.4	<p><b>Meetings Secretaries report</b> Anna Barton and Angie Cooper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next scientific meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Will include AGM.</li> <li>• Autumn scientific meeting booked – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Taunton Golf Club. The SAS Trace Metals service will provide the content, SWW region to host and organise the logistics.</li> </ul>	

	Paul Cook (Southampton) had been in contact and asked to be able to replicate a successful SAS TM meeting given in the ACB Trent, Northern and Yorkshire region. AC and AB to discuss the issue of fees with the SAS team.	
<b>4.5</b>	<p><b>FCS Representative report</b></p> <p>Angela Mallard not present but submitted an e-mail report on the National FCS meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> January prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FCS committee will produce a welcome letter about joining the ACB/FCS for all trainees and new starters to receive.</li> <li>• Concerns that trainees going via the 'long route' (not STP) are not represented by Trainee Reps. Is there a regional list of such members?</li> <li>• Prof Chris Price wants the ACB to be more involved with 'Value-Based Healthcare'.</li> <li>• IBMS attempting to become an equal partner with the ACB. Papers submitted and hearing set for the summer.</li> <li>• AfC pay negotiations not going well for next year but bands 1-3 pay must be addressed. Scotland apparently removing band 1 altogether – England unlikely to have band 1's working in labs.</li> </ul> <p>Angela has also given AB a list of all local FCS members and FCS reps.</p>	
<b>4.6</b>	<p><b>Audit secretary report</b></p> <p>No report. Mary Stapleton has only just taken on the role.</p>	
<b>4.7</b>	<p><b>Treasurers' report</b></p> <p>Nothing to add since accounts described in previous minutes.</p>	
<b>4.8</b>	<p><b>Workforce advisor's report</b></p> <p>Paul Thomas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacancy for Workforce Advisory Lead in ACB. PT has been asked to apply. Unsure what the role involves.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.9</b>	<p><b>Webmaster's report</b></p> <p>Nicola Pullan not present but report submitted via e-mail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website ticking along but unable to update as often as would like due to work pressures.</li> <li>• Minor changes made (dates of next meetings, etc).</li> <li>• No audit reports for publication received yet. Nicola plans to upload her own to start things off. Paul Downie (SpR, Bristol Royal Infirmary) agreed he would publish the results of his recent testosterone audit.</li> <li>• Often a delay in meeting speakers sending through talks afterwards. Disrupts flow of keeping meetings page up to date. Unsure how to address this.</li> </ul>	

<b>4.10</b>	<b>Microbiology/Immunology representatives' reports</b> No reports. Kristen Lilly has only just started the Immunology role. No Microbiology rep appointed.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim McDonald: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OLAT system for STP trainees going out to tender. Current system seen as too clunky. Existing contents to migrate to new one? Unclear if current trainees will have to be moved.</li> <li>○ Regional tutors policy has come out. States that the role can only be occupied for 5 years.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The possibility of using speakerphone reports for committee members unable to attend future meetings was raised. To be discussed further.</li> </ul>	
	<b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	
	Next Committee meeting : 06/03/2017 (AGM) (Exeter)	

**Accepted 19/09/2017 by SWW committee.**