



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine

South West & Wessex Region AGM

Minutes of the 37th AGM Meeting held on 24th March 2015
RILD Postgraduate Centre, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter

Committee Members Present:

Dr P Thomas	Chair & Workforce Rep	PT
Dr A Day	CPS Rep	AD
Dr M Balasubramini	Meetings Sec/Treasurer	MB
Dr A Sharma	(joint position)	AS
Dr A Cooper	Secretary	AC

Agenda Item		Action
1. Apologies	Apologies were received from M. Waterson, A. Turner A. Armston, T. McDonald, R. Hopkins, D. Sinclair, J. Lewis, M. Toms, L. Burgess, S. Thomas, N. Pullan, A. Barton. A Patterson	
2. Minutes	No minutes were available from the previous AGM 2014	
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes	See above	
4. Standing agenda items		
4.1 Report from Chair/Council Representative	<p>PT acted as chair in the absence of a chairperson.</p> <p>An initial discussion occurred regarding several key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An obvious loss of input from Wessex this last year with regard to meeting input, attendance or hosting. Is Wessex still active within their own region, but we are unaware of their meetings? Is the geographical location a problem? Should Wessex continue to be grouped as part of our region or would it be preferential for them to host their own training days, scientific and annual meetings?• The low turn-out to this AGM/regional meeting. This was discussed across the floor and several things were an issue, MSc deadlines for the STPs, sickness, maternity leave, and other work and training obligations, meant that the set date was likely just poor timing and the meeting coincided with too many other commitments.• The usefulness and schedule of the meetings in general.• A discussion across the floor suggested that everyone was happy with the format and programme layout of meetings. Trainees and seniors alike felt the days were worthwhile, but everyone would like to see more encouragement of input and attendance as	



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	organization of these days takes considerable effort.	
4.2 Appointment of officers	<p>A call for nominations for the vacancies of chair and secretary to cover maternity leave, were sent accompanied by ACB nomination forms on 03/02/2015. A repeat request was made on the 27/03/2015.</p> <p>A ballot was held for these positions: in the absence of any nominations, M. Waterson indicated to PT that he agreed to act as chairperson for 1 year only. Angie Cooper has taken up the secretary role.</p>	
4.3 Report from the Treasurer	<p>Report from treasurer attached.</p> <p>It was commented that individual ACB regional groups used to receive a capitation fee, however, this is no longer the case. Monies are now solely generated from meetings and current reserves.</p>	
4.4 Annual report from Secretary Produced February 2015	<p>South West and Wessex Annual report 2014</p> <p>The regional scientific committee, led by Dr Andrew Day, have worked tirelessly in 2014 to put together a varied and stimulating scientific programme for Focus 2015. They have been closely collaborating with the Welsh Focus organising team to deliver what promises to be a high quality and entertaining conference.</p> <p>Two regional meetings were held in 2014, with the spring scientific meeting organised jointly with ACB Wales. The focus of the April meeting was "Dilemmas in Laboratory medicine". The speakers delivered a pot-pourri of thought-provoking and challenging presentations on current controversial topics including POCT, procalcitonin and calprotectin. The autumn scientific meeting incorporated the Roche Trainee award. Papers of the highest quality were presented by four of the region's young scientists. Angie Cooper (Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital) took the prize for her work on "Zinc Transporter 8 autoantibodies (ZnT8) and their use in differentiating Type 1 Diabetes and MODY". The extremely topical theme of Renal Biochemistry was under consideration in the afternoon. The session covered a broad sweep of Clinical and Laboratory aspects of AKI and CKD.</p> <p>The South West maintains its commitment to the training of Clinical Scientists with two new appointments under the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP). Across the region there are now 13 pre-registration Clinical Scientists. The Regional Tutor and trainees have introduced an innovative programme of training days, organised principally by the trainees themselves, which rotates across the region. The format encompasses exam preparation and specialist speakers to cover "not in the text book" topics. Four of the 7 STPs in their final year have secured a band 7 position; 3 of which are within the region, 1 outside</p>	



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	<p>the region. One of the STPs from the 2012 intake will complete her training in 2016 due to maternity leave.</p>	
<p>4.5 Report from FCS</p>	<p>No report received from current FCS representative J. Lewis, who is now retired has been difficult to contact and has not attended any of the meetings. There are concerns that members are no longer being represented locally and it is not clear who the national representative is. AD was going to try to find out who the national representative is.</p>	<p>AD</p>
<p>4.6 Report from the Trainee's Committee Representative</p>	<p><u>South West and Wessex Trainees Report 21/01/2014</u></p> <p><u>Pre-registration Trainees</u></p> <p>2014 Intake – 2 MSC trainees (Bristol 1, Southampton 1) 2013 Intake – 4 MSC trainees (Plymouth (2), Bristol, Gloucester) 2012 Intake – 7 MSC trainees (Exeter (2), Gloucester (2) and Southmead (1), Bristol Royal Infirmary (1), Southampton (1))</p> <p>The first cohort of STP trainees (2011 intake) have finished and all have passed their OSFAs.</p> <p><u>Post-registration Trainees</u></p> <p>Olivia (2011 STP) has a band 7 position in Southampton.</p> <p><u>SpR Trainees</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><u>Training Days/Courses/Regional Meetings</u></p> <p>North Bristol held a training day in July which was very well received by all. The plan is to continue with regular (6 monthly) training days, rotating around the region. The next day is to be held in Exeter in February, and will be organized by the third year STP trainees.</p> <p><u>Other Issues</u></p> <p>None</p> <p>In summary, we've got one new STP in the South West region (plus one in the Wessex region) training at Southmead. We have biannual training days planned to rotate across the region, and be organized primarily by trainees. Three of the 7 STPs from the 2012 intake have band 7 positions secured, two of which are within the region, one outside the region. One of the STPs from the 2012 intake will complete training in 2016 due to maternity leave.</p>	



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	<p>Local News, Severn Pathology has gone live which encompasses Biochemistry, Cellular Pathology, Hematology, Immunology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, with partnership from the Health Protection Agency.</p>	
<p>4.7 Report from tutors Nov 2014 meeting</p>	<p><u>Pre-registration Trainees</u></p> <p>2014 intake- 2 x New STP trainee (SOUTHMEAD) 2013 Intake – 4 MSC trainees (Plymouth , Bristol, Gloucesterx2) 2012 Intake – 7 MSC trainees (Exeter (2), Gloucester (2) and Southmead, Bristol, Southampton) 2011 Intake – 2 MSC trainees (Portsmouth and Southampton)</p> <p>Trainees are progressing well. We undertook appraisals for all the trainees during the summer. All performed well and raised no serious issues. One trainee (2012 intake) is pregnant and is taking maternity leave from January so will push her training back). Some anxiety exists over OSFA.</p> <p><u>Post-registration Trainees</u></p> <p>Tracy Keys joined Gloucester December 2013 Francesca Mills joined Southmead February 2014</p> <p><u>SpR Trainees</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p><u>Training Days/Courses/Regional Meetings</u></p> <p>We have introduced a new series of trainee days which are principally run by the trainees at a training centre. The turn to host the training da rotates around the Peninsula. The format is mornings are exam preparation and afternoon specialist speaker are invited in to cover “not in the text book” materials.</p> <p><u>Other Issues</u></p> <p>The possibility of using videoconferencing for training events was discussed.</p> <p><u>Post-registration Trainee</u></p> <p>All trainees have successfully secured Band 7 positions at their training hospitals.</p>	
<p>4.8 Report from Workforce advisors</p>	<p>It was noted that recruitment has historically been difficult in some trusts within the SW&W region, with a poor number of applicants in</p>	



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	<p>response to these posts. It is not clear why this is the case.</p> <p>It was also noted that STPs have been taken on in trusts even when it is clear there is likely to be no job position available at the end of their training. It was noted this has changed from previous recruitment strategies of trainee clinical scientists and the rationale for this is unclear.</p>	
4.9 Report from Webmaster	Verbal report from Nicola Pullan to the Sec. The Website has been comprehensively rationalized and refreshed. There is now up to date information available on the Regional Laboratories, training and documents, as well as meeting information. Webmaster is currently on maternity leave.	
4.10 Report from Microbiology/Immunology representative	No representative available	
4.11 AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The region has been very active with regard to input and organisation for the FOCUS programme.• In clinical practice, PULSE was reported to have provided recent topical information on common biochemical disorders, offered advice of the best clinical practice for adjusted calcium reporting, and discussed the issues surrounding governance of reflex testing.	
5. Date of next meeting	To be arranged for autumn, although a date not yet decided, as consideration to FOCUS in June.	

Minutes Signed by _____ Date _____