



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine

Better Science, Better Testing, Better Care

South West & Wessex Region

Date: 22nd January 2016
Time: 12:30 – 14:30
Venue: BRI, Restaurant Level 9 meeting room

Committee Members:

Dr Mike Waterson – Chairman
Dr Andrew Day – CPS Representative
Dr Paul Thomas – Workforce committee representative
Dr Anne Armston – Wessex regional tutor/audit
Dr Tim McDonald – South West regional tutor
Mrs Rebecca Hopkins – Trainees representative
Liz Burgess – Audit
Dr Sadie Thomas – ordinary member
Dr Mathangi Balasubramani } Joint meetings secretary & treasurer
Dr Aabha Sharma }
Dr David Sinclair – Wessex FCS representative
Dr Nicola Pullan – Webmaster
Miss Anna Barton – ordinary member
Dr Angie Cooper – Secretary (maternity cover for Anthea)
Dr Anthea Patterson - secretary

Minute secretary: Dr Angie Cooper

AGENDA

Minute No.		Lead
1.	Apologies Anne Armston, Tim McDonald, Liz Burgess, Aabha Sharma, Nicola Pullen. Advised by Mathangi that Sadie Thomas has reached the end of her term as an ordinary member.	
2.	Minutes Minutes approved from last meeting 21 st Sept 2015. Sent to Nicola & ACB head-office to upload to website.	
3.	Matters arising No other matters.	
4.	Standing Agenda Items	



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4.1

Council Report

SWW ACB Regional Committee 22/1/16 – Report from Chair/Council Representative

Key points for discussion

- **Feedback on Regional structure/meetings etc**
- **Scientific meetings/ audit meetings**
- **Regional Role in replacing National Training Meetings**
- **Communicating with members - ? Minutes of committee,
?shortened highlights**
- **FCS rep for South West**

MW attended **Council Meeting** on 5th November 2015. No minutes published yet.

Main items for discussion- have been published in ACB News:
There were 3 topics of the day for discussion.

Executive Position Announcement

Alex Yates, currently a National Member, is to demit office at the next AGM, and a replacement for Alex will be needed. This is to be advertised in the ACB News. Also, the position of President Elect was approved by Council and waits to be ratified at the next AGM.

Regional Matters

Regional boundaries formed a significant part of the discussions. Previously, regional Chairs from Southern and Trent, Northern and Yorkshire, based on geographical coverage, were to review their boundaries. In conclusion, the Southern Region did not believe there was any significant benefit to be gained by changing the boundary. Trent, Northern and Yorkshire Region have proposed a series of sub groups. These sub groups will support communication across the region and as such will ensure a level of equity across the region for all. Consistency was the order of the day, and there was much discussion on producing roles and responsibilities for Regional positions that would confer a level of consistency. Additionally, it was felt that each region could adopt the corporate image of the ACB on their website, with shared website developments, and, for example, all audits to be shared nationally, and sharing of documentation. The final regional matters discussion, focused on the future of training. There was a general feeling, that because of the decreasing number of Trainees entering the profession and



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diminishing budgets that the training week was becoming unsustainable. There was a lot of discussion on how we could use IT to support training, and also maintain key training such as the Focus Training Day and management courses. The concept of a networked training was put forward and the potential in the use of webinars was also discussed.

Name Change

This final topic of the day, not surprisingly, brought out the emotions in Council members. Should the ACB change its name to reflect laboratory medicine (i.e. reflect a move to encourage pan-pathology involvement)? There were differing thoughts on this topic, but it was felt that changing the name, which would be the decision of members, would not be prudent in isolation, and that a lot more work is required with input from the membership before any realistic consideration would be given to change anything.

[? Association for Lab Med –but ACB strong brand]

Other items

Regional Reports

Relevant information

Southern The newly appointed committee are keen to find ways of communicating with the SR membership and are considering a quarterly bulletin following each committee meeting. This would include main points discussed in the committee meeting, news of forthcoming meetings, sources of funding etc

Northern Ireland - Scientific Meetings

- a. The annual regional scientific meeting is being planned for April 2016.
- b. The regional audit group meeting was held on 27th October.

North West – Held scientific and audit meetings

Republic of Ireland – Committee had dropped to 3 members

TNY A suggestion has been made within the regional committee to further develop sub-regional working, as we are already divided into 3 regions, each with a regional tutor, trainee and ordinary representatives. This could be used to promote more audit work and pathology harmonisation.

West Midlands Regions Appointments of two new Professors in the region. Increasingly difficult to recruit members to committee posts.



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President's Report

Focus 2015 took place in Cardiff from 8th – 11th June and it was an excellent meeting. Congratulations to the organisers David Cassidy and Andrew Day. FOCUS 2016 will be in Warwick and the programme is almost complete. 2017 – 2 days only?

EuroMedLab Paris 2015 - This meeting took place from 21st – 25th June. It was an enormous meeting with almost **10,000** professionals from **106** countries including **4,200** delegates, more than **160** medical laboratory suppliers exhibiting, **27** symposia, **5** plenary lectures, **37** workshops held by industry and **1,285** abstracts presented.

The Academy for Healthcare Science Council of Professional Bodies meeting took place on 21st July 2015. The main topic was the 'One Voice' initiative.

Teleconference call was held with IPEM and IBMS re concerns about the AHCS HSSR. It was agreed that we would draft some guidance for our members who may be affected and we wrote to Marc Seale, CEO of HCPC about the possibility of adding a tick or mark to the current clinical scientist register to indicate attainment of HSS training or equivalent. We received a very positive reply to our letter and have a meeting set up with him to discuss the way forward.

The Pathology Alliance consists of RCPATH, ACB, IBMS, ACP, Path Soc, BDIAP and BSH.

The main issues are 7 day services and the cancer taskforce report including the controversy around the new trainees' contract.

Muir Gray and Chris Price have started an initiative around the value of pathology.

Ian Young to be President elect.

Education Committee report to Council

Recruitment to STP training programme 2015

For England only	Direct Entry	In service
Discipline		
Clinical Biochemistry	19	1
Immunology	3	0
Microbiology	3	2
Haematology	1	0



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2015 26 applicants per post

Training Course Review

The training day at FOCUS was very successful and I would wish to continue this.

The management course has an important role for clinical scientists and medical trainees.

Residential training courses –The future of these courses in this format is on the agenda for the next RT and Education Committee meeting. I will be proposing to the RTs and Education Committee that we stop offering these courses, but run more regional one day training events co-ordinated by the regional tutors.

FRCPATH - Part one MCQ only. Separate part 2 for medics and scientists, project might go, risk of exam system falling apart

Scientific Affairs Committee

1. Scientific Scholarships. There were 15 applicants, 12 of whom presented fundable proposals.

2. NICE DAP Carla Deakin (Associate Director - Diagnostics Assessment Programme at NICE) has written an invitation for our members and this was published in ACB news.

3. National adoption of the CKD-EPI equation Date is being re-scheduled due to unavailability of key attendees.

4. FIT vs fOBt Screening hub labs have asked the ACB to support this change (adoption of FIT). Discussed at SciCom on 11/9/15 and received strong, unanimous support. Supportive response to consultation has been submitted.

5. Choosing Wisely SciCom discussed proposal from Lance Sandle, Vice President of RCPATH, regarding engagement with RCGP to reduce unnecessary variation in test requesting. Committee agreed with approach, and understands that the President of the ACB is going to collate responses.

6. CPS Reflex/Reflective Testing group A member representing the SciCom has joined this group – Gareth McKeeman, who is a corresponding member of the Scientific Committee.

Clinical Practice Section

Current work:

1. Adjusted Calcium systematic review
2. Troponin testing best practice guidelines
3. Reflective testing (Graham Bayly advises a paper is imminent)
4. Magnesium replacement guidelines



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Support system for new consultants ['Buddy scheme'].

Corporate Members

The relevance of the ACB Corporate Members Committee has been questioned by a number of, particularly larger, Companies. There does not seem to be the close relationship between Industry and the ACB that previously existed.

Trend that the larger Corporate Member companies are declining to attend as exhibitors. In order to maintain the income stream that underpins the ACB Focus delegate fees, it is important to provide more innovative sponsorship ideas.

The number of smaller exhibitors is generally holding up. It was also noted that many of the larger companies also did not attend the IBMS exhibition. So the above trends are not unique to the ACB.

There is still no clear identified Corporate Members to take over the Chair.

Trainees Committee

STP Induction Event – Birmingham

STP electives

The STP elective afternoon will again be held at ACB offices on Monday 14th December.

National Pathology Week Several members of the TC are participated in national pathology week **Healthcare science networks** An ambassador for the London Healthcare Science Network attended our most recent TC meeting.

ACB training course evening

Changes in FRCPATH examinations

Continued uncertainty surrounds changes to the future structure of the FRCPATH exams.

Employment

The tabulated figures show the current situation of trainees' employment prospects. Many newly qualified STP trainees are finding band 7 posts and there currently appears to be an issue with under-recruitment to these band 7 posts.

Region	No. of trainees in year 3	No. of trainees in year 4 without substantive	HSST posts
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	post	
	Biochemistry Sub-Total 17 3 4	
	<i>Next Council Date 24th March</i>	
4.2	Tutor's Report No changes from last report (minutes from 21st Sept 2015), except congratulations to Anna Barton and Moya O'Doherty on completing all FRCPath exams and Rachel Cooper and Paul Downie on passing part 1.	
4.3	Trainees report Trainee's Report - SWWessex ACB Committee Meeting, January 22nd 2016 Pre-registration Trainees 2015 intake: 3 STPs (Exeter, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Biochemistry) 2014 intake: 2 STPs (1 Bristol (NBT, biochemistry), 1 Southampton) 2013 intake: 4 STPs (2 Plymouth, 1 Bristol, 1 Gloucester) Post-registration Trainees 2012 intake: 6 STPs in Biochemistry - 5 have secured jobs (two outside the region, 1 HSST Gloucester), 1 on maternity leave will complete with 2013 intake. Training Days/Courses/Regional Meetings The SW&W region has begun biannual training days, organised by trainees and hosted by different centres each time. We have had three so far; NBT, RD&E, Cheltenham& Gloucester. All were very well received and considered to be very useful. The next training day is scheduled for 4 th March, hosted by Plymouth trainees, held in Exeter. The next regional scientific meeting will be held in Filton, Bristol	



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	<p>Exeter on Tuesday 15th March.</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Congratulations to Anna Barton and Moya O’Doherty on completing all FRCPath exams and Rachel Cooper and Paul Downie on passing part 1.</p> <p>Several trainees in the region plan to take part 1 this year – ?organization of group tutorials, possibility of video-link for those further away.</p> <p>Truro has applied to take on an STP in September 2016.</p> <p>Difficulties keeping track of all new trainees, particularly when they don’t join the ACB – they won’t be included on emails. Have asked all trainees to pass on information and encourage ACB membership. Particularly difficult for immunology, microbiology and haematology trainees.</p> <p>Very few responses to any emails sent to trainees – assume everyone is OK.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>There has been recent confusion regarding which national curriculum fulfils an ‘acceptable training programme’ that includes a work-based assessment (WBA) structure, following the introduction of the new HSST programme...feedback from the council meeting suggests the FRCPath exams are still considered the most acceptable programme to fulfil these requirements.</p>	
4.4	<p>Scientific meetings report</p> <p>The last Regional Scientific meeting was held on 17/11/15. Topics included neurology and hepatology, with presentations by Dr John Christie (Exeter) on Chronic Liver Disease, Dr Jason Ramtahal (Torbay) on the Recent Advances in the management of MS, An Update on Neurometabolic Disorders by Dr Iain Hargreaves (UCL) and Novel Markers for Dementia by Dr. Viki Worthington (UCL).</p>	
4.5	<p>FCS report</p> <p>No local representative identified; Angie has contacted Emma Lewis (Consultant Clinical Biochemist at the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust & FCS Secretary) to try and source a name</p>	



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	of a more local rep.	
4.6	<p style="text-align: center;">Audit</p> <p>Liz Burgess is currently involved in implementing the installation and validation of a new IT system at her trust so has very limited resources available for audit input. However, Liz is keen to encourage and support some willing volunteers to carry out local, regional and national audit activities/quality improvement drives.</p> <p>Input from regional members on local/regional/national audits undertaken, or planning for future audit would be greatly received from regional members. Audits suggestions proposed were: TnT service, Laboratory communication with GPs & Minimum testing intervals employed with the region.</p>	
4.7	<p style="text-align: center;">Nominations for ACB Membership Awards</p> <p>N/A</p>	
5.0	<p style="text-align: center;">Other agenda items</p>	
5.1	<p style="text-align: center;">SW &W Website</p> <p>Nicola has finished maternity leave and has been in contact with Angie to gather updated information/presentations/minutes etc for upload to the website.</p> <p>Multiple items/updated info has been sent to Nicola following this most recent committee meeting.</p>	
6.0	<p style="text-align: center;">Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sincere thanks to Aahba and Mathangi for their help, organisation and support as joint treasurer/scientific meetings organisers over the last 3 years. Their term ends at the end of March 2016. • The committee suggested that a brief newsletter detailing the main items discussed in the committee meetings may be useful to keep regional members updated on items discussed. Anna Barton has kindly volunteered to take on this task; a finalised draft will be approved by all committee members and distributed by the ACB Office to regional members following each committee meeting. • Calls for nominations for committee members will be placed in the Newsletter. However, following disappointing responses from previous calls for replacement committee members, current members have agreed a contingency plan in the event no 	



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	responses are again received, to enable the regional committee to remain as beneficial as possible.	
7.0	Dates of Next Meeting/s <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th March 2016 Regional Trainees training day in Exeter• 15th March 2016, Holiday Inn, Filton, Bristol SWW & Wales Regional Scientific Meeting•• 18th November 2016, Derriford Health & Leisure Centre, Plymouth	