

Monday 22nd October 2007

**Minutes of Teleconference with
Members of the Renal Association Academic Research Board**

Present:

Caroline Savage
Edwina Brown
Philip Kalra
Colin Baigent
Bruce Hendry
Jo Adu

1. Apologies were received from Colin Baigent and Mark MacGregor

2. **Report and proposals from Education Committee**

A report from the Education Committee was given by Edwina Brown. She noted that the Renal Association Education Committee had contributed to the Took enquiry but felt that further comments on the full report that has been published would be covered by the Royal Colleges.

The issue of how to interest Trainees in a career in nephrology was raised and various options discussed. EB is writing an article on why to choose nephrology for the Foundation Years journal which will come out in 2008. Alison Brown and Sue Carr are also doing a survey to establish what renal experience is offered to foundation years and ST1s and 2s round the country.

The Education Committee is arranging a Renal Master class aimed at Consultants that will cover interstitial Disease, renal stones and urinary tract infections. Three CPD sessions at the Renal Association meeting in Glasgow are being organized which will cover dialysis, glomerulonephritis and basic mechanisms. The Renal Scientists are responsible for the latter.

3. **Report and proposals from Research Committee**

A report from the Research Committee was given by Bruce Hendry. Presently membership of the Committee is being reviewed. The database of renal science in the UK is going to be developed so that it can be searched more easily. The Research Committee is also considering how it can best link to UKKRC. As Bruce Hendry is a member of UKKRC Steering Committee, those links should be facilitated for the future.

4. **Report and proposals from Clinical Trials Committee**

As Colin Baigent was unable to join the teleconference, Caroline Savage briefly updated the Board on the fact that UKKRC has asked Colin to form a subcommittee to develop a clinical trail called REN-1, to assess the role of β blockers in haemodialysis patients.

5. **Report and proposals from International Committee**

A report from the International Committee was given by Jo Adu. He acknowledged the previous work done by Mequid El-Nahas on behalf of the committee. He now plans to enlarge the committee to enable responsibility of global regions to be

devolved to individuals. The committee is working to develop more ISN Fellowships within the UK. The Royal College of Physicians have been approached for help with processing of visas and work permits. The International Committee is also planning to set up meetings to empower consultants in developing countries with information on educational methodologies that will allow better educational programmes to be delivered to their trainees. The aim will be to run such programmes in Africa and other regions during 2009 – 2010.

7. **Date of next teleconference**
February 2008