

The Renal Association

MINUTES OF A

Meeting of the Executive Committee – Number 183

Council Dining Room, 5th Floor, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, London

Tuesday 26th February 2008

15.30 – 18.00hrs

1. Present –

Peter Mathieson (President); Kevin Harris (Clinical Vice President); Caroline Savage (Academic Vice President); John Feehally (Past President); David Goldsmith (Hon Secretary); Stuart Rodger (Treasurer); Charlie Tomson (Chair Renal Registry Committee); Martin Raftery (Chair Clinical Services Committee); Jo Adu (Chair International Committee); Bruce Hendry (Chair Research Committee); Rob Mactier (Chair Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee); Donal O'Donoghue (National Clinical Director); Mick Kumwenda (SAS representative); Mark Taylor (BAPN representative); Paul Stevens (BRS representative); Gordon Bell; Paul Rylance (BMA liason); Steve Powis (SAC Chair); Mark Macgregor (Webmaster); Tim Johnson (Renal scientists representative)

Julia Phillips (MCI UK)

2. Apologies for absence –

Lawrence Goldberg, Robert Lewis, Phil Kalra, Magdi Yaqoob, Colin Baigent, Edwina Brown, Vickie Moxham, Fiona Loud

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

3. Minutes of the November 2007 182nd EC Meeting [**enc 1**]

Accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, with the following corrections – (a) Caroline Savage wrongly described as Chair of Research Committee – should have been Academic Vice President; (b) Mark Taylor should have been designated as BAPN representative.

ACTION POINT – MCI PLEASE CORRECT THE MINUTES YOU HAVE ON RECORD FOR THIS MEETING

4. Matters arising, not covered in the Agenda

Recent elections for the RA Executive have been completed – three new members have been elected and will attend from the next meeting. The three successful people were Sue Carr, Laurie Solomon and Andy Lewington (Andy being the RA Exec member with < 5 years post CST experience)

World Kidney Day is 13th March. Fiona Loud has asked for everyone to participate in the “email request for wishes”. There will be a parliamentary event on 13th March at the Palace of Westminster.

The CD Forum is scheduled to take place on March 7th 2008 in London. Martin Raftery presented the programme outline.

5. President's Report **[enc 2]**

President

One particular feature the President wished to place on record was his appreciation (on behalf of the RA) of the work of the National Clinical Director in raising the political standing and profile of kidney disease and transplantation

6. Treasurer's Report **[enc 3]**

Treasurer

The financial position of the RA and RR was stable. Last year there was a small loss for the RA which represented a loss on the Brighton 2007 annual meeting, itself a result of a change in the VAT practices we had undertaken

Honoraria for RA members speaking at the Advanced Nephrology Course would no longer be paid. Non-RA members would be paid a modest honorarium. In both cases appropriate travel expenses would be re-imbursed.

It was decided that the RA would support a number of international visiting fellows, mainly but not exclusively a part of the ISN COMGAN Renal Sister Centre Scheme. Jo Adu would judge applications for this from UK units. (ACTION POINT JO ADU TO PUBLICISE ON eNEWS AND BY DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE UK SISTER CENTRES). A total of 8 delegate days would be supported by the RA.

eNEWS and the Meetings Calendar together contributed around £10,000 as a revenue stream (more than one Corporate Member annual contribution). The Trustees decided that in line with the Communications Working Party Report (presented to and accepted by the Executive in August 2007) there would be a strictly controlled opportunity for Corporate Members to have their own section of eNEWS. DG was tasked with devising some guidance (ACTION – HON SEC / MCI). Key principles included – free for one year trial; limit of 100 words per company; total editorial control with RA; no “links” from Corporate text to another site; the Corporate page(s) to be a “click” away from the main eNEWS to ensure that a conscious effort was needed to access this area. This development would need to be rigorously policed and review internally and with Corporate Members. MCI would communicate this development to the Corporate Members (ACTION MCI).

Tim Johnson raised the issue of support for Renal Scientists training days. It was decided that Tim Johnson and Edwina Brown should work up a programme proposal and present that to the

Education and Training committee for approval; a decision on funding this could then be taken by the Trustees in May 2008. (ACTION POINT – TIM JOHNSON, EDWINA BROWN)

7. RCP-RA Nephrology Knowledge Based Assessments President +Treasurer

A formal response from the Federation of Royal Colleges had been received, largely rebutting the points raised by the “Joint Specialty Societies” grouping. In essence, the Federation appear to have acknowledged the concerns about the post nominals, acceding to requests to call this new degree “Certificate RCP (specialty)” with this changing, once a trainee had obtained a CCT, into Membership RCP (specialty). However, other concerns that had been raised by the Joint Specialty Societies were not recognized as valid or accepted – specifically, international graduates would be encouraged to take this new exam, and, costs would remain very significant. The Trustees expressed continued concerns about the costs of this new examination, and at the failure of the Federation to embrace the possibility of cost curtailment. The RA/Nephrology Chair of the Question Setting Group, Jonathan Fox, had produced a paper in which he made several suggestions which might well make a marked reduction in the payments asked of candidates possible. The Trustees decided that this paper should be shared with the other members of the Joint Specialties Society.

There remains a significant financial risk to both the Federation / Colleges and to specialist societies if the examination remains in this format. The cost to the individual candidate is likely to be in the order of £800 if the examination mechanics remain unaltered. There was some speculation that one of the reasons for the high infrastructural costings of this examination was that it was in part a RCP revenue protection mechanism, as the Federation of Royal Colleges had seen a precipitous decline in “MRCP” examination-derived revenue.

Clinical Matters

8. Report from the Clinical Affairs Board / Committees [enc 4] Clinical VP

A representative from the Darzi workstreams will be attending the upcoming CD Forum. Peter Mathieson and Paul Stevens will produce a joint submission to the Darzi Team.

Bob Couch from the Department of Health is in charge of a Specialised Commissioning group to produce the “Specialised Services National Definition Set” which will involve working on / with HRG and PBR data.

A fresh set of Clinical Guidelines would be produced (this information provided by Rob Mactier in a paper) whose format would more closely map KDIGO processes. New pairs of clinical standards writers would work on 15 modules.

Charging for Renal Patient View might more logically be taken up with Renal Registry capitation structures. Details would need to be worked out.

9. MHRA guidance on anaemia (enclosed) Clinical VP and Chair Clinical Standards

Disquiet was expressed at both the quality of the guidance issued by the MHRA and also about their process / procedures. No RA, BRS, NICE or other advice was sought by the MHRA in the production of their guidelines. There was a widespread view that the MHRA had not understood the nature of the use of Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) in patients with chronic kidney

disease. In particular the assertion that the use of ESAs should be related not so much to target haemoglobin levels but to symptoms was judged to be flawed, and potentially dangerous.

It was decided that Rob Mactier would contact Kent Woods (MHRA Chief Executive Officer) and William Richardson (Senior Medical Adviser) to express the concerns and anxieties of many RA members, and seek clarification or reformulation of the published advice (ACTION POINT ROB MACTIER)

10. NSF Update

National Clinical Director

A full report on the progress of the NSF and of the manifold other activities in the renal arena was provided by the National Clinical Director. He would aim to provide this information on the Czar's blog, and also in an upcoming eNEWS article. (ACTION POINT DONAL O'DONOGHUE).

11. Home HD – BMJ Bragg article, letters and replies

Chair of Renal Registry

Some discussion centered on the authorship of a letter ("Trustees of the RA) to the BMJ in response to an article on Home Dialysis by Professor Blagg (Jan 2008 BMJ). In future any such letters, articles and responses would be on behalf of the RA eg the President or Clinical Vice-President and not normally on behalf of the Trustees or Executive of the RA.

Education, Training & Research Matters

12. Report from the Academic Affairs Board / Committees **[enc 5]**

Academic VP

There will be a UK Kidney Research Network, with regional "renal lead" representation mirroring the UK Clinical Research Network. The CLRN's have all now appointed directors, and in these there are Renal Specialty Groups with renal leads.

13. SAC Report **[enc 6]**

Chair of SAC

Tabled. No substantive comments.

14. UK Kidney Research Consortium **[enc 7]**

Academic VP

Caroline Savage is the current Chair of the UKKRC (the chair will alternate between RA and KRUK). The UKKRC comprises representation from RA, RR, BTS, KRUK and BAPN.

A pilot study (REN-1) testing beta-blockade in haemodialysis patients is being spearheaded by Colin Baigent. A grant application to the MRC is underway. REN-2 will examine biomarkers of CKD and progression, and may be linked to the Biobank.

Other Business

15. Meetings 2007-2009

Hon Secretary

- Feb 28-29 2008 London RSM
- May 13-16 2008 Glasgow
- April 20-24 2009 Liverpool
- September 2-5 2009 Birmingham (Polycystic Kidney Disease – the road from discover to treatment)

In addition, there are three more meetings for 2009 - a CKD-NICE meeting organized by Paul Stevens and RCP in February 2009, a British Cardiovascular Society-RCP-RA meeting in September 2009 and a Vasculitis meeting in November 2009.

A record number of abstracts was received for the Glasgow meeting (453).

16. Disclosures of Potential Interest

Hon Secretary

These will shortly be placed on the website for public scrutiny. The new position regarding Trustees, Executive members and Committee members was explained (full, and open disclosure of all potential competing interests, with censure and possible loss of RA office for those who can be shown materially and deliberately to have withheld relevant information, or, to have profited from their position representing or serving the RA

17. AOB

- 2008 Meetings for Executive Committee

President

May 13th 2008 (not everyone will be able to attend as ERA-EDTA ends on 13.5.08) probably starting 3.30pm and probable venue Thistle Hotel Glasgow

25TH September 2008, venue Novartis Foundation, London.

- National LCP Renal Symptom Control Guidelines

Clinical VP

Attempts have been made to make representations about this document

- Research in UK Dialysis

Chair of Renal Registry

Some rumours of issues over research projects in Fresenius dialysis units. Charlie Tomson to write to Nick Richards, the medical director of Fresenius UK, for clarification (ACTION POINT CHARLIE TOMSON)

18. Date / Time of the next meeting

May 13th 2008 (not everyone will be able to attend as ERA-EDTA ends on 13.5.08) probably starting 3.30pm and probable venue Thistle Hotel Glasgow

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 19. NPSA Report [enc 8] | Paul Rylance |
| 20. Report from National Specialty Reference Group of
Choose & Book [enc 9] | Paul Rylance |
| 21. Joint Specialty Committee [enc 10] | John Feehally |
| 22. BAPN | Mark Taylor |
| 23. BRS Report | Paul Stevens |

Prepared by David Goldsmith, Hon Sec assisted by MCI-UK