



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry

Scotland Region

Meeting of the ACB Scotland Regional Committee
Friday 4th June 2010
Perth Royal Infirmary

MINUTES

Present: Ian Godber (IG), Anne Pollock (AP), Sarah Jarvis (SJ), Frank Finlay (FF), Kim Heathcote (KH), Karen Smith (KS), Marianne Barr (MB), Fiona Brandie (FB), Joy Johnstone (JJ), Susan Knox (SK), Ellie Dow (ED)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Received from: W. Simpson, S. Mackenzie, B. Croal, J. Allison, P. Cawood, J. McNeilly

2. **Welcome**

IG chaired the meeting in WS's absence and welcomed MB, FB and KH to the committee

3. **Dr John Fyffe**

The committee noted the sad news of the death of Dr John Fyffe earlier in the week and recognised that some members would be attending his funeral today.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting (5th November, previously circulated and on website)**

Accepted as a true record of events – it was also recognised that the March meeting had to be cancelled due to a lack of availability of committee members

5. **Matters arising and not specified below**

5.1 **Timing of Members Papers Meetings**

It has been noted that a number of trainees still haven't completed their MSc projects by the time of the June meeting so in future it is proposed that the members papers meeting should occupy the November time slot.

5.2 **RITAs and HST clinical scientists**

A question has been raised on the inconsistencies which exist on how the progress of clinical scientists in training is monitored across Scotland. Glasgow currently extends the RITA process to a proportion of the trainees in the West of Scotland although this model does not include all and is not replicated on the East. It was suggested that IG write to Jim Allison, Bernie Croal, Bill Bartlett, Simon Walker and Denis O'Reilly with a view to standardising arrangements across Scotland.

6. **Committee Membership**

FF has spoken to Graeme Phimister who is now an ACB Member and is willing to stand as an immunology representative on the committee. IG will liaise with FF regarding the appropriate nomination procedure. It was noted that current regional representative's geographical areas do not correspond with health board areas, it was decided to review boundaries if recruitment to the committee ever became a problem.

7. **Forthcoming meetings**

Autumn 2010 – Glasgow – 9th November – KS and SK are putting the programme together

Spring 2011 – Inverness/Aberdeen – AP to work with WS on agreeing a time and venue – subject Diabetes

8. **Reports**

Council tabled (AP) also available on website - AP reported on her last meeting as Council representative. Key points for discussion included the fact that Council endorsed the proposal that labs adopt Pathology Harmony reference limits. Ian Barnes also spoke to council on the challenges facing laboratories as significant amounts of money are taken out of the lab budget (200-£500 million in England). In Ireland there is a push towards moving all 'cold' work to large central laboratories.

Federation of Clinical Scientists – tabled (PC) and available on website. FF had also attended the FCS AGM where it was mentioned that there had been a legal challenge in England to some of the AfC bandings, however this had been lost.

Trainees – reports provided (JMcN and FB) also available on website – nothing to add

Clinical Practice Session – nothing to report – email from SMcK – no meeting since AGM report

Regional Tutor – report provided (JA) and on website

Audit Group – verbal report from KS – Still meeting twice a year. The group is looking for HST volunteers to help with audits

Treasurer – no further transactions since AGM report – currently accounts are with the auditors

Specialty Advisor – tabled (BC) and available on website

9. **Scottish Clinical Biochemistry Managed Diagnostic Network (MDN).**

The group has had its inaugural meeting and will meet again on the 22nd June – BC will feed back on this at the November committee meeting.

10. **AOCB.**

11. **Date of next meeting**

Stobhill, Glasgow 9th November

Dr Ian Godber

ACB Scotland Regional Secretary

Department of Clinical Biochemistry

Monklands Hospital, AIRDRIE,

Lanarkshire, ML6 0JS

tel. (01236) 712109

ian.godber@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Association of Clinical Biochemists

Scotland Region

Council Report

Council met in March 2010. Pathology Harmonisation was discussed and it was agreed that Council would recommend that laboratories implement the reference ranges agreed in phases 1 and 2.

There was discussion of the situation in Ireland where the proposal is that all cold work be analysed in 2 or 3 laboratories spread around the country, with small hot labs serving the acute sector needs. Currently it is thought likely that if this goes ahead the private sector will be the providers.

Ian Barnes attended Council to discuss the 'Quality and Improvement Challenge' of maximising the use of NHS resources whilst continuing to meet patient need, and improve the quality of care. Ian was very clear that Pathology is one of the priorities in this programme and that the view is that the second Carter report provided evidence that £200 - £500 million can be saved from pathology by service re-design and modernisation. Ian was also very clear that there is an opportunity for Pathology to take the lead in re-designing services and there is a recognition that one size does not fit all. We need to be able to show how we add value to to avoid the clear danger of becoming a results-only service.

Anne Pollock
March 2010

**ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY
MEETING REPORT
DR BERNIE CROAL
JUNE 3RD 2010**

SPECIALTY ADVISOR REPORT

- Theme at meetings this year has been “Leadership in Medicine”.
- Annual Specialty Reports due in next month – Blank template attached – please circulate and any comments for inclusion can be forwarded back to me before end of June.

MANAGED DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK

- First meeting took place on 22nd of February 2010 – next meeting planned for 22nd June 2010.
- Network manager still to be appointed – Job description currently being AfC banded by NHS Grampian – job advert soon (half time seconded 2 year post).
- Early days for network but very clear indications from Scottish Government that they expect the network to drive change and modernisation through Scottish Labs.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGISTS

- Pathology modernisation is the main theme of most meetings within the College – significant rationalisation of laboratories in England is occurring with in many cases private companies coming in as “partners”. Significant downscaling of labs in many hospitals as a result and reduction in posts – especially clinical scientists. One forecast put the reduction in clinical scientist posts over the next 10 years as possibly as high as 50%. Medic posts although not free from this rationalisation are being squeezed to provide more clinical sessions for their trusts with formal laboratory links being minimised. The new Coalition government is reported to be working up “emergency measures” and asking SHAs to put forward plans for radical rationalisation within the next month!
- National Pathology week planned again this year for first week in November. Bernie Croal (as Chair of Scottish Path) is the overall coordinator, however 4 regional coordinators have been identified (see list below) – anyone interested in getting involved should contact the relevant person. 2012 will be the final National Pathology series of events – this has been designated National Pathology Year to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the college – the theme is likely to be centered around sports and the Olympics.

National Path Week Regional Coordinators

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| i) | Professor Stewart Fleming | (Dundee and East) |
| ii) | Dr Kevin Deans | (Grampian and North) |
| iii) | Dr Clair Evans | (Glasgow and West) |
| iv) | Dr Angela Thomas | (Lothian and South) |

FCS report for Scotland Regional Committee AGM – Friday 4th June 2010

Agenda for Change:

The appeals process is coming to an end, although Lothian still have 12 posts with final appeals pending. It is clear that there are major differences in the outcomes across Scotland, especially within the Principal Scientist grade. An example are the Principal posts in Genetics, where all posts are funded by NSD, Lothian posts are currently 8a (final appeal still pending), Glasgow are 8b and Grampian are 8c, with NSD funding these posts at 8b. Biochemistry is almost no better with all Glasgow and Lothian posts graded 8a with most others 8b or 8c.

Pensions Choice exercise:

- All NHS employees in Scotland should have received their choice documentation. The process will close shortly and individuals will remain with the old scheme unless decide to move to the new scheme.

Pay and Terms & Conditions:

Pay:

There are no details of next years pay round but there are rumours of a pay freeze. Inflation is currently over 5% so a 2 year pay freeze would in effect be a 10% pay cut.

Modernising Scientific Careers:

The 4 National Governments have now signed up to Modernising Scientific Careers. There was a stakeholder meeting in Edinburgh on 15th April 2010 resulting in the following statement:

“The forum welcomes the publication of “Modernising Scientific Careers. The UK way forward.” Together with the Chief Health Professions Officer in Scotland, NHS Education Scotland, the local area HCS forums and other stakeholders, the forum will be taking forward discussions on what this might mean for Scotland. The future development of healthcare science in Scotland was set out in 2007 with the publication of “Safe, Accurate and Effective. An Action Plan for Healthcare Science in NHSScotland”. Significant progress has already been made in implementing the recommendations of that document, including those referring to education and training. That work will continue. We will now look at how the principles set out in “Modernising Scientific Careers” align with the Scottish plan for healthcare science education and training. We will continue to take this work forward in a transparent and inclusive manner. There will be opportunities for all who wish to do so to contribute. The overriding aim must be to develop a service that is first and foremost best for the patients in NHS Scotland.”

FCS National Committee:

There has been no meeting since January – next meeting is 8th June 2010.

There is a training day for local reps on Monday 21st June 2010 – I would encourage as many as possible to attend.

Paul Cawood
Dept of Clinical Biochemistry
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
51 Little France Crescent
Edinburgh
EH16 4SA
0131 242 6851
paul.cawood:luht.scot.nhs.uk

Regional Tutor's Report to the ACB Scottish Region, June 2010

Current Trainee Activity Level:

As of 17th May 2010 there were ten trainees in post.

I) First Year Pre-Registration Posts

Dr Rebecca McCann, Fife Area Laboratory [Supervisor - Dr P Wenham]
Dr Neil Watson, Glasgow Royal Infirmary [Supervisor- Prof AM Wallace]
Dr Gemma Gallacher, Yorkhill Hospital [Supervisor- Prof AM Wallace]

II) Second Year Pre-Registration Posts

Dr Neil Syme, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary [Supervisor - Dr S Walker]
Dr James Logie, Wishaw General Hospital [Supervisor - Mr E Carlyle]
Dr Fiona Brandie, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee [Supervisor -Dr WA Bartlett]

III) Third Year Pre-Registration Posts

Dr Janice Reeve, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary [Supervisor – Mr J Allison]
Dr Heide Mendoza, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee [Supervisor – Dr WA Bartlett]
Dr Catriona Clarke, Western General, Edinburgh [Supervisor – Dr P Ashby]

IV) Fourth Year Pre-Registration Posts

Dr Barry Toole, Glasgow Royal Infirmary [Supervisor- Prof AM Wallace]

Interviews for the September 2010 intake of trainees were held in April at Dundee by Dr Bill Bartlett, the Training Scheme Co-ordinator, Mr Jim Allison, the ACB Regional Tutor, and Ms Cathy Shearing from the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. The candidates appointed were Dr Laura Russell (Ninewells Hospital, Dundee), Dr Allan Dunlop (Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen) and Dr Helen Falconer (Western General Hospital, Edinburgh)

V) Current B Grades In Pre-Registration Training

Recent Higher specialist trainee appointments-
Miss Claire Rees (Glasgow Royal Infirmary)
Miss Jane Armer (Southern General Hospital)
Dr Marianne Barr (Yorkhill Hospital)
Dr Jennifer Lochrie (Glasgow Royal Infirmary)
Dr Michael Crane (Royal Infirmary Edinburgh)
Katherine Sellar (Wishaw General)

VI) Current HST Grades in Training

Neil Squires (Sick Children's Edinburgh)

Examinations

There is excellent news, for all Scottish candidates, with regard to the outcome of the FRCPath examinations sat in May: Congratulations to Helen Turner, Jane Armer, Jane McNeilly and Maria Warner for their success in the Part I examinations and also to Donna Chantler, Sarah Jarvis, Cathy Dorrian, Scott Blackwell and Suzanne Mackenzie for passing their Part II vivas. Again a special thanks to the organizers of the mock practical exams in Glasgow in helping the candidates in their preparations.

Jim Allison
ACB Regional Tutor

East of Scotland Trainees report 09-10

Grade 'A' Trainees

2009

Kirkcaldy: Rebecca McCann

In her second term in Guildford and has successfully passed the exams from the first term.

2008

Dundee: Fiona Brandie

Edinburgh: Neil Syme

Completed the three terms in Guildford and have successfully passed all of the exams.

2007

Aberdeen: Janice Reeve

Dundee: Heidi Mendoza

The other 2007 intake trainee, Catriona Clarke, has been appointed to a permanent band 7 post in Edinburgh.

Pre-registration Trainees

Aberdeen: Elaine Davidson

Edinburgh: Catriona Clarke
Mike Crane (Full FRCpath part 1)

Post-registration Trainees

Aberdeen: Helen Turner (FRCpath written)

Roy Peake (Full FRCpath part 1)

Dundee: Eleanor Oakes (Full FRCpath part 1)

Sharon Jenner

Edinburgh: Leigh Campbell (Full FRC path part 1)

Maria Warner (Full FRC path part 1)

Louise Brown

Neil Squires (Full FRCpath part 1)

Specialist Registrars

Aberdeen: Dr Rehan Muhammad

Dundee: Dr Fiona Jenkinson (Full FRCpath part 1)

Edinburgh: Dr Suzanne McKenzie (Full FRCpath part 1 and FRCpath part 2)

Trainee related issues to note 09-10

- The FRCpath examinations are to adopt a new style as of spring 2011.
- Trainees are reminded that they are eligible to be audited by HPC as soon as they reach two years post registration. It is important to keep records of all CPD activities.
- The ACB Management and leadership course will take place from the 27th to the 2nd of July. This is fully booked.

- Training courses are now four days – running from Monday afternoon until Friday lunchtime. The next course will take place in Bristol from the 6th to the 10th of September.
- National Pathology Week has the theme ‘The building blocks of life’ and will take place from the 1st to the 7th of November.

Scotland - West

- **Pre-Registration Trainees**

2010 No new Grade A trainees appointed in West of Scotland.

2009 2 trainees (GRI and Yorkhill) are currently in their 2nd term at Guildford.

2008 1 trainee (Wishaw) passed the final MSc exams and is writing up his MSc project.

2006 1 trainee (GRI) has 3 months left of his Grade A contract.

5 trainees are compiling their portfolios for State Registration (submission Sept 2010)

- **Post-Registration Trainees**

There are 8 post-registration biochemists working towards obtaining FRCPATH in the West of Scotland. 2 trainees are working towards Part I; 6 are working towards Part II

* 3 trainees recently obtained full FRCPATH therefore are longer registered under the trainee status.

- **Specialist Registrars**

There are 5 SPR's based in the West of Scotland.

2 are currently on research secondments (both working towards Part II); 2 are working towards Part I and 1 recently obtained full FRCPATH

- **Tutorials/Meetings/Conferences/ Training Courses**

The tutorial programme for pre-registration trainees has been successfully running for the past 8 months. Trainees are keen for these to continue. Trainees are encouraged to attend local ACB meetings, West of Scotland Biochemistry Colloquia and other regional and national meetings as appropriate. The majority of trainees managed to attend some/all of Focus & training day. The next ACB training course is being held in Bristol, (6th-10th Sept).

- **RCPATH**

1 trainee passed the written exam in March

1 trainee passed the practical exam in April

* 3 trainees and 1 SpR passed the oral exam in May

The new MRCPATH exam format is being introduced in January 2011. Trainees who have not obtained full Part I exam by Dec 2010 will have to apply for Part II under the new exam format.

- **Other issues**

National Pathology Week 1st -7th November 2010. The theme for this year is "Pathology: The building blocks of life". A WoS group (Clair Evans, Consultant Paediatric Pathologist, Claire Rees, GRI and Jane McNeilly, Yorkhill) are meeting to discuss potential ideas for this year's event(s).

HST Mentor Scheme: Due to the vast number of HST's at present, it has been suggested that a mentor scheme might be beneficial towards HSTs. This could provide an external additional source of support/guidance for trainees if they required.

Focus 2010 Trainees Questionnaire/Quiz: This appeared to be a success, giving trainees the impetus to approach corporate members. Hopefully this format can be carried on at future Focus conferences.

RCPATH mock practical exam: GRI provided a very useful mock practical which all Scottish trainees who took the Part I practical attended. Hopefully this will continue for future trainees. Thanks to Susan Knox and Neil McConnell for organising the mock exam.