



**The Association for  
Clinical Biochemistry  
Scottish Region**

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**Annual General Meeting  
AGENDA**

**12.30 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**

**Lecture Theatre B, Chancellors' Building, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh,  
49, Little France Crescent, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 4SA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous meeting (available on website)
3. Chairman's report
4. John King award
5. Report from Regional Member on Council
6. Report from Regional Member of Federation of Clinical Scientists
7. Report from Regional Treasurer
8. Report from Trainee Committee Members
9. Report from Regional Tutor
10. Report from Audit Co-ordinator
11. Report from Clinical Practice Section
12. Membership of Regional Committee
13. Future Scientific Meetings
14. AOCB

## **Scotland Region: Report-2010**

**(Annual regional report printed in ACB yearbook, available online)**

The ACB Scotland Region had a busy and successful year in 2009. In addition to hosting two excellent scientific meetings, the Region, in collaboration with the Scottish Senior Clinical Biochemists, continues to develop the Scottish Clinical Biochemistry Diagnostic Network, to facilitate and foster cooperation between Clinical Biochemistry departments in Scotland. Some work has already commenced, including standardisation of reference ranges and decision points and overseeing introduction of the new HbA1c units.

The Spring meeting, held at the Crichton in Dumfries, went straight to 'The Heart of the Matter'. The meeting focused on biochemical aspects of cardiology, including natriuretic peptides and Familial Hypercholesterolaemia. This meeting included the Region's AGM, and saw the presentation of the 2008 John King award to Dr Jennifer Lochrie who described the development of an LS-MS/MS method for the diagnostic screening of creatine transporter deficiency.

The Region revisited its Constitution in 2009, and one change was to create a new position of 'meetings secretary'. This position was ably filled by Miss Sarah Jarvis, who set to work straight away organising the Region's second 2-day Autumn meeting at Crieff Hydro. Topics covered Primary Care, POCT, Paediatrics and Toxicology, as well as a session devoted to contenders for the John King Award. This meeting also saw the return of the Gemmel Morgan Memorial Lecture, which was delivered this year by Professor Alan Shenkin on the nourishing subject of micronutrients. Like the first in 2007, this meeting was very well received.

Members of the region were also involved in organising an extraordinary scientific meeting held in April to celebrate the retirement of Dr Graham Beastall CBE, bringing together speakers and delegates from around the world.

The Regional committee met on three occasions in 2009. With regular reports from Representatives from Council, the FCS, Clinical Practice Section and Trainees Committees, together with reports from the Regional Tutor, Treasurer and Secretary, the committee continues to support and promote the practise of Clinical Biochemistry in Scotland. Once more I am indebted to my colleagues for all their hard work and support, particularly our secretary Dr Ian Godber.

We look forward to a stimulating new decade, starting with our Spring meeting in Edinburgh in March, and to welcoming the whole membership to Scotland when FOCUS returns to Glasgow in May (<http://www.focus-acb.org.uk>).

Bill Simpson  
Chairman of the ACB Scotland Region  
January 2010.

## ACB Scotland Region

### Report to Annual General Meeting

ACB council has met twice since the last regional AGM. This year there have been many important topics to discuss.

1. The amended Rules of the Region were agreed by Council.
2. Following the centralisation of regional accounts there is now no need to have these audited separately. The Association Treasurer is to provide more general information to regional treasurers and to have greater dialogue. Discussions are taking place re the information to be provided. However Council will continue to be the main conduit of information.
3. Regions are asked to encourage members to provide vignettes for Labs are Vital. Graham Beastall is now the Chair.
4. Mike Hallworth is leading a group for the Royal College on how the provision of clinical advice, including phone calls, should be considered in the context of revalidation of clinical scientists.
5. All departments are encouraged to purchase a copy of the new calculations book.
6. Discussions have taken place on the challenges facing both the profession of clinical biochemistry and the ACB as an organisation in the near and medium term.
7. Consideration has been given to the idea of setting up combined groups/societies with other organisations. A special interest group has already been set up with the British Endocrine Societies. It is also felt appropriate to explore again the idea of a combined laboratory medicine organisation and discussions are proposed between interested parties.
8. An exciting collaboration between the Scientific Committee and the Clinical Practice Section is developing, with the aim of producing good practice guidelines that will provide a strong evidence basis for what we do. New ways of publishing these guidelines are also proposed. This would involve internet-based publishing with associated peer reviews of the documents also available. The recent guidelines on the validation of new analytical equipment have recently been published on the ACB website on this basis.
9. The decision has been made that patients will have access to their results in England. The IT systems are in place. It is unclear if this decision also applies to Scotland.
10. The Association of Clinical Microbiologists has recently decided to disband and approach the ACB about membership possibly using the immunologists model. Further discussion with the membership of the ACB about how this might be taken forward are to take place. Council supported this.
11. Substantial changes have been made to MSC. However there is no infrastructure to support MSC so the future remains unclear.
12. Financial support will be required to ensure the future of LTOL.

This will be my final AGM as Council Representative. I am grateful to the Scotland Region of the ACB for the opportunity to undertake this role.

Anne Pollock  
Regional representative  
March 2010

## FCS report for Scotland Regional Committee AGM – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010

### Agenda for Change:

There is a directive from Scottish Government that the appeals process must be completed by end of June 2010. Whilst there has been some successes with appeals, overall appeals have been disappointing, especially in Glasgow. Lothian appeals are in process. Once the final appeal has been completed at Health Board level there is no further right of appeal unless it can be demonstrated that agreed procedures have not been followed.

### Pensions Choice exercise:

- The rollout started in late January in Scotland and should be completed in March 2010.
- Details can be found on the Scottish Pensions website ([www.sppa.gov.uk](http://www.sppa.gov.uk)).
- Individuals will have 4 months to reply. Those who do not respond will remain on the old scheme.
- The decision must be made the individual – the FCS is unable to give advice. Any advice must come from an independent financial advisor.

### Pay and Terms & Conditions:

**Pay:** The pay circular for April 2010 has been released and salary scales have been uplifted by 1.9%. ([http://www.nhsemployers.org/Aboutus/Publications/PayCirculars/Documents/Pay\\_circular\\_AfC\\_2-2010.pdf](http://www.nhsemployers.org/Aboutus/Publications/PayCirculars/Documents/Pay_circular_AfC_2-2010.pdf))

Negotiations have not yet started for the 2011 pay round.

### Modernising Scientific Careers:

It is expected that all 4 National Governments will sign up to Modernising Scientific Careers shortly. A meeting of the Scottish Healthcare Scientists Forum has been arranged on 10<sup>th</sup> March to discuss MSC. At the last FCS National Committee meeting there was a presentation by Peter Jackson of NHS Employers who will implement MSC in England and are planning a series of meetings with Strategic Health Authorities in March.

Discussions with Regulatory bodies have been taking place and it has been proposed that the Biomedical Scientists and Clinical Scientists state registrations will close and be replaced with a new 2 stage registration. It is unclear at this stage whether the current registers will be kept or whether there will be transfer to the new register.

### FCS National Committee Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010:

There is an increasing number of members issues, mainly relating to redundancies due to Trust mergers and transfer to private sector employment (particularly Sisco who now provide laboratory services to several Trusts).

Scottish NHS has confirmed that there is a no compulsory redundancy policy in Scotland and both salary and salary scale protection when staff are displaced due to organisational change.

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## **ACB SCOTLAND REGION**

### **2009 Treasurer's Report to Annual General Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010)**

The Region ended the year in a strong financial position, with an overall balance of £17,495.42 which is up over £5000 on this time last year. This is largely due to attracting generous sponsorship for scientific meetings and in general keeping the running costs of meetings and committee expenses etc down.

The Spring meeting in Dumfries broke even thanks to commercial sponsorship and an additional donation from local endowment funds (many thanks to Dr E Bell). This left the Region in a firm position financially, to undertake the two day Autumn meeting at Crieff, which in 2007 had a turnover of about £15,000 and so has the potential to seriously hit the Region's finances should things not work out. However swine flu did not materialise and the organisers (Dr I Godber and Sarah Jarvis) ran a highly successful meeting in all aspects bringing in 5 major sponsors, and significantly lowering the overall meeting costs from 2007 to show a healthy profit.

The Capitation fee remained similar to last year and the other receipts and payments are as outlined in the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

2009 also saw the introduction of a single centralised bank account with the ACB office handling all invoices and payments. Overall I have found this new arrangement to have worked well and the ACB office has been quick to respond to any queries I have made. It does mean however, that the Regional Treasurer is one step removed from actually issuing expenses cheques, etc so I hope no-one has experienced any delays, certainly no-one has complained to me. It is important that all expenses claims, though using the "national claim form" are submitted via the Regional Treasurer, as the claim needs to be authorised locally and it is still the Treasurer's job to ensure the Region's finances are in good order.

Having said that, I have come to the end of my (second) term as Treasurer and am handing over the role of Treasurer at this AGM. I would like to thank all the organisers of Regional meetings over the last few years for their strenuous efforts to maintain sponsorship levels and to the ACB office for their support, which has made my job straightforward.

Frank Finlay

15<sup>th</sup> February 2010

## Scotland - West

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- **Pre-Registration Trainees**

2010 The closing date for 3 new Grade A Trainees was 26<sup>th</sup> February.

2009 2 trainees (GRI and Yorkhill) have completed their first term and exams at Guildford. Their second term starts in April.

2008 1 trainee (Wishaw) is currently in Guildford for the final term and exams.

2006 1 trainee (Glasgow Royal Infirmary) has 5 months left of his 4 yr Grade A contract and is actively looking for an HST or Grade B position.

2 Grade B trainees have successfully obtained state registration. One has recently been appointed to a Principal post at GRI. A further trainee is re-applying for state registration.

- **Post-Registration Trainees**

There are 11 post-registration biochemists working towards obtaining FRCPath in the West of Scotland. One trainee has successfully been appointed to an HST post at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

4 trainees are working towards Part I; 8 are working towards Part II

- **Specialist Registrars**

There are 6 SPR's based in the West of Scotland. One has successfully obtained a Consultant post in Aberdeen. Two are currently on research secondments. Two are working towards Part I; 3 are working towards Part II. (1 is sitting the oral exam in May).

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

The tutorial programme for pre-registration trainees has been successfully running for the past 5 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. It is hoped trainees will be able to attend Focus and the Focus training day. The next ACB training course is being held in Cambridge, (Oxford 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April).

- **RCPATH**

1 HST passed the written exam in September

2 HST's passed the practical exam in September

1 HST is sitting the written exam in March (1<sup>st</sup> attempt)

2 HST are sitting the practical exam in April (1<sup>st</sup> attempt)

- **Other issues**

National Pathology Week: The event appeared to be a success with over 100 members of the public attending. Many thanks to all those who helped.

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 Quiz: Junior members will be asked to complete a "questionnaire" of scientifically based questions provided by corporate members. A prize for the best response will be awarded at the conference dinner on Wednesday evening. It is hoped that this may help corporate members "connect" with trainees.

## East of Scotland Trainees report 09-10.

### Grade 'A' trainees

#### 2009

Kircaldy: Rebecca McCann

#### 2008

Edinburgh: Neil Syme

Dundee: Fiona Brandie

Both in their last term at Guildford and have successfully passed the exams from the first two terms. (The Guildford MSc is now examined each term instead of final 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

Edinburgh: Mike Crane (Full FRCPATH part 1)

Catriona Clarke

### Post-registration trainees

Aberdeen: Roy Peake (Full FRCPATH part 1)

Helen Turner (FRCPATH written)

Dundee: Eleanor Oakes (Full FRCPATH part 1)

Sharon Jenner

Edinburgh: Maria Warner (FRCPATH written)

Leigh Campbell (Full FRCPATH part 1)

Louise Brown

Neil Squires (Full FRCPATH part 1) will be starting a HST post at RHSC.

### Specialist Registrars

Edinburgh: Dr Suzanne McKenzie (Full FRCPATH part 1)

Dundee: Dr Fiona Jenkinson (Full FRCPATH part 1)

Dr Rajeev Srivastava (Full FRCPATH part 1)

### Trainee related issues to note: 09-10

- Trainees were 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 Guildford Management training course will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2010.
- [www.metbionet.net](http://www.metbionet.net) The metbionet website has been updated and now includes training documents for various levels of training and specialisation, including Grade A training.
- Training course will now be only four days – running from Monday afternoon until Friday lunchtime.
- As of spring 2010 the award DipRCPATH will no longer be awarded on completion of FRCPATH part 1. The term 'Associate' will now be used.
- NPW 09 – with a heart theme, was a big success with events taking place across Scotland. NPW 10 has the theme 'mothers and babies'.

## **Regional Tutor's Report to the ACB Scottish Region, March 2010**

### **Current Trainee Activity Level:**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 there were ten trainees in post with applications currently being received for three new trainee posts in Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh.

#### **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 new trainees will be held in April at Dundee by Dr Bill Bartlett, the Training Scheme Co-ordinator, Mr Jim Allison, the ACB Regional Tutor, and Dr Peter Ashby from Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. It is pleasing to report that all current trainees are making very good progress and on target to obtaining their training completion certificates within the next few months.

#### **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)

Congratulations to Roy Peake, Helen Turner, Karen Wall, and Fiona Stefanowicz for obtaining their health professions council registration

#### **VI) Current HST Grades in Training**

Neil Squires (Sick Children's Edinburgh)

#### **Examinations**

Congratulations to Roy Peake, Michael Crane, Karen Wall and Neil Squires for passing the practical exam and Helen Turner for passing the written exam of their first part FRCpath examinations in September. Also a special thanks goes to the organizers

of the mock practical exams in Glasgow, these were well attended and very much appreciated by all the trainees.

**Accreditation of Training Sites**

Applications for training centre accreditation have been submitted from Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Ninewells Hospital and North Glasgow.

**Future Planning:**

NHS Education in Scotland (NES) continues to support the Clinical Scientist training programme and has funded the HST post for three years at Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital.

There has been no update on the Modernising Scientific Careers initiative since our last meeting in November.

Jim Allison  
ACB Regional Tutor

## **Report from Clinical Practice Section to ACB Scotland AGM 2010.**

The ACP CPS continues to be very active and has had a successful year. Open to medical and scientific ACB members, its aim is to inform the healthcare community of the essential relevance of clinical biochemistry and its value to patient management, and of direct patient care being provided by Chemical Pathologists. The section also strives to encourage best clinical practice within the profession, supporting moves towards national harmonisation. Stuart Smellie sole nomination for Director of Clinical Practice from after the AGM at Focus in May 2009.

The Specialist Interests Division delivers its work through the Specialist Interest Groups, which include Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, Endocrinology and Diabetes, Nutrition, Bone Metabolism, Inborn Errors of Metabolism, and Best Practice in Clinical Biochemistry. Consideration is being given to creating a Primary Care SIG. If you would like to be involved in any of these SIGs please let me know.

In early 2009 we finally managed to complete the long-planned mailbase for CPS members, which we hope will facilitate bringing people together around issues of common interest. The mailbase gives us a valuable tool to contact medics and scientists specifically involved in particular clinical fields. To have your name added to the mailbase, or to receive the quarterly e-newsletter, please email the ACB at [admin@ACB.org.uk](mailto:admin@ACB.org.uk).

The CPS were asked to talk at the 2009 BMJ Masterclass series. This was an excellent opportunity to address over 2000 GPs, and was such a success that the session has been recommissioned for this year. It has also been heavily involved in setting up Metabolic Medicine training days, the first of which is happening on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, at the College. These days are intended for both consultants and trainees, and further details will be published in next month's ACB news.

Traditionally, the CPS has a major input to the meeting of consultants and registrars in Chemical Pathology, & MM, which in 2009 took place in Northampton. The meeting was a great success with joint registrar/consultant sessions as well as separate sessions to discuss topical issues with colleagues. Any registrars or consultants who would like to attend the 2010 meeting would be welcome, please let me know if you are not already on the mailing list for this event.

Finally, the CPS would like to remind those accepting consultant grade jobs that Chemical Pathologists appointed to Metabolic Medicine posts must still engage in regular Chemical Pathology sessions or there is a risk of failing revalidation.

Suzanne MacKenzie, March 2010  
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