



# The Association for Clinical Biochemistry

## Scotland Region

Meeting of the ACB Scotland Regional Committee  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010  
Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow

### MINUTES

**Present:** Bill Simpson (WS), 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), Bernie Croal (BC), Paul Cawood (PC), Jim Allison (JA), Jane McNeilly (JMcN)

1. **Apologies for absence**

*Received from: S. Mackenzie*

2. **Minutes of previous meeting (4<sup>th</sup> June 2010, previously circulated and on website)**

*Accepted as a true record of events*

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

3.1 Marking the passing of members

*A moment of silence was observed in memory of Prof Mike Wallace who will be greatly missed by the members of the ACB. SJ and IG had sent flowers on behalf of the region however it was recognised that the region does not have an agreement on how to mark such events. It was agreed that if the region or the ACB office are informed of the death of a member within an appropriate time period this should be marked by the committee.*

3.2 RITAs and HST clinical scientists

*IMG had hoped to work with Prof Wallace on inconsistencies which exist on how the progress of clinical scientists in training is monitored across Scotland however this has obviously now been delayed. IG has collated the processes across Scotland and will now produce a document with JA. IG has taken over Prof Wallace's role on the RITA assessment panel in the West. Trainees found the assessment process useful this year however some supervisors have not been informed of outcomes. IG will write to Dr Denis O'Reilly to resolve this. FB will survey the East of Scotland trainees on the matter too.*

4. **Committee Membership**

*IG has put out a nomination form for vacant positions on the committee come the AGM. It was approved that the committee will propose AP as the next chair of the region at the AGM .*

5. **Forthcoming meetings**

*Spring 2011 – 28<sup>th</sup> March - Aviemore – AP working with WS and SJ. Subject was Diabetes but clashes with Diabetes UK meeting. New topic of renal/fluids.*

*Autumn 2011 – 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> October – Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh – SJ circulated a list of possible topics and has asked for expressions of interest from possible session organisers.*

*The topic of meeting insurance was also discussed and it was concluded that we should take up the quotation from Hiscox.*

*The Gemmell Morgan Award was also discussed – as Glasgow Royal Infirmary are no longer able to fund this it will not be part of the 2011 programme, however a plenary lecturer will be invited as part of the meeting budget.*

6. **Reports**

**Council** tabled (FF) also available on website – It is proposed that regions move to Pathology Harmony Ranges by 1<sup>st</sup> April, this will be discussed at the MDN. Dr Robert Hill is looking for interested parties to aid with EBLM.

Nominations are requested from the region for awards – the Scotland Region will make a nomination.

EurClinChem membership is being promoted

**Federation of Clinical Scientists** – tabled (PC) and available on website. New OC arrangements come into force in March

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

**Clinical Practice Session** – report tabled (SMcK) and on website

**Regional Tutor** – report tabled (JA) and on website. There is a risk with MSC that the MSc course in Guildford may cease in the near future. Also reorganisation of health boards is making Grade A supervision difficult.

**Audit Group** – verbal report from KS – The audit group met in July, Prof Callum Fraser is reauditing FOB requesting by the end of the year.

**Treasurer** – full accounts and summary provided by KH. KH appealed the expenses forms should be sent to her rather than the ACB Office so she can take note of these before forwarding on.

**Specialty Advisor** – BC reported that specialty advisor meetings were not productive. The theme this year has been the patient safety programme and projects may be more likely to gain support if they link to this. A short working group will look at POCT, AP attended this.

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

The group had three meetings this year, the next is mid-December. Pathology Harmony has now been endorsed by the college, BC is awaiting a response to the comments made on this by the MDN. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February there will be an open meeting and AGM in Edinburgh.

8. **AOCB.**

9. **Date of next meeting**

Aviemore 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Dr Ian Godber**

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## ACB Scotland Region

### Report to Council – November 2010

#### 1) **Managed Diagnostic Network (MDN) for Scottish Clinical Biochemistry.**

The MDN held its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September in Edinburgh with representatives from all Health Boards in Scotland present, apart from Orkney and Shetland. The Job Description for a Network Manager has finally been agreed and banded at 8b under AfC. It is hoped to proceed to advert as soon as possible.

Issues currently under discussion within the MDN include:

- Consensus PTH Targets in Renal Failure: agreed to use EDTA plasma as sample of choice and reporting units of IU/L.
- Consensus equation for adjusted calcium: List of all current equations in use being compiled.
- Rationalisation of Specialist testing within Scotland: The current list of tests and providers is to be reviewed by a subgroup within the MDN.
- Diabetes Action plan: The Chair Dr Croal has submitted a detailed response to the public health network, highlighting the limitations of HbA1c testing for the intended purposes and the potential financial impact on Scottish labs.
- Appointment of external advisors for Medical and Clinical Scientist appointments.
- Keele Benchmarking: The Scottish Exec considers this data could/should be used to inform and direct laboratory services in Scotland. However the MDN have concerns with the inconsistencies and discrepancies within the data and the effect of this on the comparisons drawn.
- In-Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Consultation (15<sup>th</sup> Sept): Dr Croal had submitted a response on behalf of the MDN and The Scottish RCPATH.

#### 2) **Pathology Harmonisation**

There is general agreement on the need to move to wider standardisation with the recommendations from Pathology Harmonisation forming the basis of discussions. A questionnaire will be sent to all labs in the region to see if they are using the Harmonisation ranges and if not what ranges they are using.

#### 3) **Electronic Requesting/Reporting**

The TrakCare Patient Management System supplied by InterSystems is being implemented across approx 70% of Scotland over the next 2 years and is a significant opportunity to introduce a standardised laboratory electronic requesting/reporting solution across much of Scotland (initially only secondary care).

#### 4) **Scientific Meetings**

Autumn 2010 – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November “Endocrinology and Oncology” to be held at Stobhill General Hospital Glasgow.

#### 5) **National Pathology Week**

A number of events are planned around the region aiming to build on the success of last year. In Glasgow this will be a combined “pathology” weekend with Pathology, Medical and Clinical Genetics at the Kelvingrove Museum on 6-7<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Clinical Practice Section: Report to ACB Scottish Region committee November 2010**

The ACB CPS met by teleconference in October 2010 & discussed a number of ongoing issues:

- The CPS continues to promote Clinical Biochemistry: It presented a session on 'Interpreting Lab Results' at the BMJ Masterclass for GPs again this year, which was very successful. It is anticipated that the CPS will participate in the 2011 Masterclass too.
- The CPS are going to arrange education sessions at FOCUS 2011 in Harrogate which will be aimed at consultant level practice. Possible topics might include Hypoglycaemia, Hypertriglyceridaemia, Demand Management, Novel therapies for Diabetes etc. Anyone with suggestion for sessions should email them to the CPS Director, Dr Smellie: [director.clinicalpractice@ACB.org.uk](mailto:director.clinicalpractice@ACB.org.uk)
- The opportunity for the ACB to contribute to the Laboratory Medicine Catalogue has been discussed. Although this is not an NHSScotland project, members from north of Hadrian's Wall are welcome to contribute vignettes and clinical cases to the project. The CPS felt this could be very suitable experience for trainees and encourages them to get involved.
- The CPS are concerned that the ACB may miss the opportunity to be involved with NICE consultations, so has decided to register the ACB office with NICE, and any consultation invitations would then be disseminated through named intermediaries. Members who might like to become involved in consultations may wish to ensure they are subscribed to the ACB CPS mailbase. To have your name added please email the ACB at [admin@ACB.org.uk](mailto:admin@ACB.org.uk).
- Other issues discussed included out of hours work for Speciality Trainees as medical registrars on HAN rotas. This raises many issues including CPD and appraisal problems (will the trainees receive CPD in general medicine and who should appraise their work in this area?) also the effects on daytime training due to rest days after these shifts. The CPS is only aware of one region of the UK where this is happening already, but it has been raised as a possibility in others. It would therefore be keen to know if this is going to happen (has already happened??) in Scotland.
- Finally, the CPS is aware of the pressures on Clinical Excellence Awards, which are becoming very competitive and we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

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## FCS report for Scotland Regional Committee – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010

### Pensions:

The Choice Exercise is now completed in Scotland. These changes have been taken into account in Lord Huttons' Interim Review of Public Sector Pensions published in October 2010. There will be a further report next year. It should be noted that NHS employees have contributed more into the NHS Pensions scheme than has been taken out in every year that the pension scheme has existed. No further change can affect pension rights and benefits already accrued.

### Pay:

The Pay Review Body are gathering evidence for the next round of pay negotiations, despite the Government stating that the Public Sector will be subject to a pay freeze for the next 2 years.

### On-Call:

The Principles for On-Call arrangements were published on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2010 and these have been incorporated in the Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions Handbook. They can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.nhsemployers.org/PAYANDCONTRACTS/AGENDAFORCHANGE/ONCALLREVIEW/Pages/ReviewOfOn-CallArrangements.aspx>

This will affect everyone in the NHS who gets any payment for on-call or out-of-hours cover - including anyone who was paid under the AfC Interim arrangement for on-call. The fundamental principle is based on the statement:

"Guiding principle should be that the harmonised arrangements should be consistent with the principles of equal pay for work of equal value. The effect of this should be that schemes agreed by local partnerships should provide consistent payments to staff at the same pay band available on the same on-call pattern."

This will be negotiated "locally" - it is too early to say what this will mean in Scotland as it could be at Health Board level or possibly even at the Scottish level. Everyone must be paid the same rate for covering the same type of shift i.e. Nurses, Midwives, Pharmacists, Radiographers, BMS, Clinical Scientists etc must be paid the same on-call rates. It is therefore vitally important that when these arrangements are negotiated that FCS reps are fully involved in the process. Transitional arrangements will also be negotiated locally i.e. how long it will take to move to a lower or higher on-call rate of pay - there is no mention of pay protection beyond this transitional arrangement.

### Modernising Scientific Careers:

Scotland are playing a waiting game on this issue. However the Dept of Health press release on the Spending Review included the following statement:

"We will increase the use of highly qualified clinical scientists in the NHS to free up doctors to focus on the work that only they can do, as part of the Modernising Scientific Careers programme. This programme will save the NHS in excess of £250 million per year".

### FCS National Committee:

There will be a Healthcare Science National Event on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on the theme "Why Healthcare Science must continue to develop its profile". Registration closes 10<sup>th</sup> November.

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## Treasurer's Report to the ACB Scottish Region November 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

Please see attached the detailed statement of accounts for the Scottish Region of the ACB, dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

To summarise this statement:

- The opening balance of the account on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 was £19075.74. This included all income / sponsorship for the Crieff meeting (November 2009).
- After processing all debits associated with the Crieff meeting, the account balance was £8884.72.
- After processing all transactions associated with the Spring (Edinburgh) and Summer (Perth) meetings, the account balance was £9180.08
- Closing balance as of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 after varied additional expenditure was £8923.67.

I have noticed a few expenses on the attached detailed statement that I have not received a claim form for. In future, could all expenses claim forms be sent to me directly and I will forward them on to the ACB office accordingly. This allows me to ensure that all reimbursements are accurate.

To this end, I have noticed several small anomalies with regard to reimbursement to ACB members over the past few months (under-payments), which I have recently taken up with the ACB office.

Kim Heathcote  
Treasurer ACB Scottish Region

## **Scottish Regional Tutor's Report to the Regional Tutors' Meeting 09.11.2010**

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

As of 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2010 there were twelve pre-registration trainees and two Higher Specialist Trainees in post.

### **I) First Year Pre-Registration Posts**

Dr Laura Russell, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee [Supervisor – Dr WA Bartlett]  
Dr Allan Dunlop, Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen [Supervisor – Mr J Allison]  
Dr Helen Falconer, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh [Supervisor – Dr P Ashby]

### **II) Second Year Pre-Registration Posts**

Dr Rebecca McCann, Fife Area Laboratory [Supervisor - Dr P Wenham]  
Dr Neil Watson, Glasgow Royal Infirmary [Supervisor- Dr R Spooner]  
Dr Gemma Gallacher, Yorkhill Hospital [Supervisor- Dr P Galloway]

### **III) Third 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]

### **IV) Fourth 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, in a substantive post at the Western General, Edinburgh  
[Supervisor – Dr P Ashby]

### **V) HST Training Posts**

Dr Neil Squires, Edinburgh's Sick Childrens Hospital [Supervisor – Dr Jean Kirk]  
Dr Barry Toole, Glasgow Royal Infirmary [Supervisor- Dr R Spooner]

Appraisals for pre-registration and HST trainees were held on 22nd October at Dundee by Dr Bill Bartlett, the Training Scheme Co-ordinator, Mr Jim Allison, the ACB Regional Tutor, and Dr David Robershaw from Bradford Royal Infirmary. Reports will be issued to all trainees and their supervisors on week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### **VI) Current B Grades In Pre-Registration Training**

Recent Higher specialist trainee appointments-

Claire Rees (Glasgow Royal Infirmary)  
Jane Armer (Southern General Hospital)  
Marianne Barr (Yorkhill Hospital)  
Jennifer Lochrie (Glasgow Royal Infirmary)  
Katherine Sellar (Wishaw General)  
Barry Toole (Glasgow Royal Infirmary)

Many of the above are awaiting their ACS/HPC interviews in December

Jim Allison  
ACB Regional Tutor

## **East of Scotland Trainees report 2010**

### **Grade 'A' Trainees**

#### **2010**

New intake started in September 2010.

Laura Russell	Ninewells, Dundee
Helen Falconer	Western Infirmary, Edinburgh
Allan Dunlop	Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen

#### **2009**

Kirkcaldy: Rebecca McCann

About to commence her MSc project at Ninewells. Has passed the exams from the first and second term in Guildford.

#### **2008**

Dundee: Fiona Brandie

Edinburgh: Neil Syme

MSc completed and passed pending ratification by the University of Surrey.

#### **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.

### **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)

Mike Crane (Full FRCpath part 1)

### **Specialist Registrars**

Aberdeen: Dr Rehan Muhammad

Dundee: Dr Fiona Jenkinson (Full FRCpath part 1)

Edinburgh: Dr [Fathel Musa](#)

### **Other issues**

No other issues to report.

## Scotland - West

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- **Pre-Registration Trainees**

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

2009 2 trainees (GRI & Yorkhill) passed 2<sup>nd</sup> term exams and are currently working on their MSc projects.

2008 1 trainee (Wishaw) obtained his MSc has completed 2 month placement at RHSC Edinburgh.

2006 1 trainee (GRI) obtained a 3yr HST post at GRI.

5 trainees submitted their portfolios for State Registration (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

- **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 with full FRCPath is actively seeking a Consultant post.

- **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. Two trainees attended the ACB training course in Bristol (6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Sept).

- **RCPATH**

2 trainees are awaiting results of the written exam.

2 trainees are awaiting results of the practical exam.

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 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The theme for this year is "Pathology: The building blocks of life". Biochemistry are holding a weekend of "pathology" at Kelvingrove Gallery on 6-7<sup>th</sup> November.

Grade A Appraisals - All are progressing well through their training. Dr Spooner has temporarily taken over as Supervisor for Glasgow Trainees following the untimely death of Prof Wallace.