



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry

South West & Wessex Region

Minutes of the SWW Regional Committee meeting held on the 21st September 2015 R D & E Hospital, Bramble Seminar room

Committee Members:

Dr Mike Waterson – Chairman - P
Dr Andrew Day – CPS Representative - A
Dr Paul Thomas – Workforce committee representative - P
Dr Anne Armston – Wessex regional tutor/audit - P
Dr Tim McDonald – South West regional tutor - P
Mrs Rebecca Hopkins – Trainees representative - A
Liz Burgess – Audit - A
Dr Sadie Thomas – ordinary member - A
Dr Mathangi Balasubramani } Joint meetings secretary & treasurer - A
Dr Aabha Sharma } - A
Dr David Sinclair – Wessex FCS representative - A
Dr Nicola Pullan – Webmaster - A
Miss Anna Barton – ordinary member - P
Dr Angie Cooper – Secretary (maternity cover for Anthea) - P
Dr Anthea Patterson – secretary - A

Minute secretary: Dr Angie Cooper

Agenda Item		Action
1. Apologies	Apologies were received from A. Day, R. Hopkins, D. Sinclair, S. Thomas, A. Sharma, M. Balasubramani.] No response from L. Burgess.	AC
2. Minutes	Minutes from the previous committee meeting (AGM 24 th March 2015) were accepted and approved. AGM minutes have been submitted to the ACB and uploaded to the regional website.	AC
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes	No other matters.	AC
4. Standing agenda items		
4.1 Report from Chair/Council Representative	<u>Report from Chair/Council Representative</u> MW was unable to attend Council meeting on 9th July due to local UKAS inspection. MW has not seen the minutes, just action points but key issues discussed included: Focus – Cardiff meeting excellent but poor attendance. It was noted a	MW



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significant reduction of corporate support, suggested to be that they now gain little from attending these events.

The 2016 meeting in Warwick is at an advanced stage of planning, and we will do all that we can to attract delegates and reduce costs, though bearing in mind any impact of the latter on the former.

Finance report—“It must be clear that we cannot allow our national meetings to run at a loss. Until we have fully analysed the reasons for recent trends, I suggest that it would be imprudent for us to embark on any expenditure in planning a standalone meeting for 2017.”

Membership

Declining membership.

The Association does not currently capitalise on opportunities to recruit members, such as scientific meetings and Annals subscribers. The ACB may need to consider how it can broaden membership such as attracting GPs as members who interact on many levels in their professional life.

More members are retiring or leaving the professional than new trainees are being recruited. One area discussed is whether all trainee biochemists are being encouraged to join the ACB, and a second point discussed is that fees for trainees were considered inappropriately high. A recent workforce review suggests reducing numbers of clinical scientists are being recruited.

It was discussed whether scientific meetings and other events should be opened to non-ACB members

It was discussed whether there was enough being done to provide more pan-pathology content in the Annals/at scientific meetings to encourage membership from other specialities. Events organised by Geneticists appear to be much better attended by medics.

It was felt that dates/programmes for committee meetings and scientific meetings need to be advertised far earlier in advance than has been more recently, to try and encourage as many attendees as possible and to secure key speakers.

ESK to request that regional committees appoint a committee member responsible for membership, possibly trainee.

Strategy

“To assure the future of the Association as an effective professional organisation, we must develop a strategy that will allow it once again to be an effective business. I suggest that the directors authorise the setting up of a small group to develop a strategy for the Association that will allow it to continue to function effectively, whether as a standalone organisation or in association with another. In commerce, merged organisations often perform more successfully than their previously separate components.” No indication as to who the partnerships may include.

Marketing Communication Strategy – need to capitalise more on annals/books etc.

Academy of Healthcare Scientists – concerns were expressed at a



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	<p>perceived loss of input from the ACB regarding training syllabus.</p> <p>Meeting with IBMS- IBMS stated that they have applied to HCPC for an equivalence route to allow BMSs to become registered as Clinical Scientists. It was suggested that this route would likely only recruit small numbers.</p> <p>Recruitment - inability to fill medical training posts which may result in the posts being lost.</p> <p>Communicating Critical Results – group to update guidance</p> <p>Demand Optimisation –‘Choosing Wisely’ is a US initiative to reduce inappropriate interventions. A Steering Group has been established consisting of the Royal Colleges of Pathologists, Physicians, Surgeons and GPs to take this forward.</p> <p>Regions Potential restructuring of TNY and Southern regions 4th September, University of Westminster (new collaboration agreed for meetings) – Is collaboration a possible way forward for our region? It was suggested that the region should be interacting more with the SW schools who offer programmes for Biomedical Sciences/Clinical Sciences.</p> <p>It was suggested that 2 rather than 3 regional scientific meetings may be more appropriate. It has been suggested that the next planned regional scientific meeting is going to be a joint meeting with Wales. It was discussed that this event should have the regional AGM beforehand the same as this year.</p>	
4.2 Tutor's report	<p><u>South West region tutor report – Dr Tim McDonald</u></p> <p><u>2015 intake:</u> 2 x STP trainees at Exeter & Plymouth, MSc for both at Birmingham (comparable syllabus to the Manchester MSc, however accommodation, which was a big problems for trainees on the Manchester MSc, is now included at Birmingham, which will hopefully be far less stressful and expensive).</p> <p><u>2014 intake:</u> 1 x STP trainee Southmead</p> <p><u>2013 intake:</u> 4 x STP trainees Plymouth, Bristol, Gloucester</p> <p><u>2012 intake:</u> 6 x STP trainees Exeter (2), Gloucester (2), Southmead & BRI</p> <p>Trainees are progressing well. I undertook appraisals for all the trainees during the summer except for the Gloucester trainees (Ben & Emma). The decision was made that they did not need an annual contact session. It was considered that these contact sessions with an independent tutor are beneficial to trainees, especially if they may be experiencing issues in their host-trust.</p> <p>All performed extremely well and raised no serious issues. One 2012 trainee (Olivia) is still on maternity leave. Becky (Southmead) is on secondment to Bath and is completing her training there.</p>	TM/AA



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	<p>All passed their OSFAs with mixed feedback, all are expecting to secure HCPC registration this autumn.</p> <p>Both 2012 Exeter trainees have secured band 7 posts at Plymouth & Midlands.</p> <p>HSST – This has been a bit of a disaster. Funding for wages has been withdrawn and the taught doctorate poorly organised. In 2014 there were 2 x HSST nationally and one has dropped out due to ‘lack of clarity’. Genomics England has fully funded posts for Genetics STPs.</p> <p>Gloucester are now looking to become a registered training centre for STPs in the future.</p> <p><u>Post-registration Trainees</u> Tracy Keys has left the profession (Cheltenham & Gloucester). Francesca Mills and Mandy Perry both passed FRCPATH practical exams.</p> <p><u>Training Days/Course/Regional Meetings</u> We have introduced a new series of trainee days which are principally run by the trainees at a local training location. The turn to host training days rotates around the Peninsula. The format is mornings are exam preparation and in the afternoons, specialist speakers are invited to cover ‘not in the text book’ materials. The third training day is scheduled to take part in Gloucester on Monday 12th October, organised by Emma and Ben. The ACB will again be kindly providing support for travelling and lunch expenses. Again, it was stressed how important it is to encourage trainees to join the ACB.</p> <p><u>Other issues</u> The possibility of using video conferencing for training events was discussed.</p> <p><u>South West region (Southampton, Poole, Bournemouth) tutor report – Dr Anne Armston</u> Dr Anne Armston is joint regional tutor with Dr Tim McDonald. She has agreed to review all students in her area and provide a list of their e-mails to ensure they are included to regional events.</p> <p>Poole and Salisbury currently have not recruited any STPs to date, but Salisbury are hoping to recruit one STP next year.</p> <p>There is 1 x medic planning to take FRCPATH part II, 1 x 2013 intake STP trainee, 4 x post STP trainees aiming to take FRCPATH part I next year. 1 x 2012 STP has secured a current Band 6 (until HCPC registration) position in Lewisham.</p>	
4.3	<p><u>Report from the Trainees representative</u> Pre-registration Trainees</p> <p>2015 intake: 1 STP Portsmouth, Biochemistry</p>	RH



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	<p>2014 intake: 2 STPs (1 Bristol (NBT, biochemistry), 1 Southampton)</p> <p>2013 intake: 4 STPs (2 Plymouth, 1 Bristol, 1 Gloucester)</p> <p>2012 intake: 6 STPs in Biochemistry (2 Gloucester, 2 Exeter, 1 BRI, 1 Southampton, 1 RUH Bath (from NBT)). 5 have secured jobs (two outside the region), 1 on maternity leave will complete with 2013 intake.</p> <p>2012 intake expect to gain HCPC registration end of September 2015/ Beginning October 2015</p> <p>1 trainee from Gloucester has begun HSST post in Gloucester</p> <p>1 trainee from Gloucester has permanent senior post at Gloucester</p> <p>NBT trainee has fixed term senior post at RUH Bath</p> <p>1 Exeter trainee has fixed term senior post at Plymouth</p> <p>1 Exeter trainee has left the region</p> <p>Southampton trainee has permanent senior post in London</p> <p>BRI trainee plans to come back full time in November, to complete STP in September 2016</p> <p>Post-registration Trainees</p> <p>Francesca Mills (NBT) and Mandy Perry (Exeter) passed FRCPATH part 2 module 1</p> <p>Training Days/Courses/Regional Meetings</p> <p>The SW&W region has begun biannual training days, organised by trainees and hosted by different centres each time. We have had two so far, the first at NBT and the second at RD&E (6th Feb). Both were very well received by all and considered to be very useful.</p> <p>The third training day is scheduled to take part at Gloucester on Monday 12th October</p> <p>SW&W regional spring meeting (24th March) was poorly attended – held at RD&E. Believed poor attendance was due to timing (close to MSc. Project deadline for third year trainees, soon after last training day) and location (SW&W region is very spread out with poor transport).</p> <p>The next regional meeting will be held on 17/11/2015 in Exeter.</p>	
4.4 Scientific meetings report	A summary of feedback/evaluation was obtained from the last Regional Scientific Meeting in Exeter on 24th March 2015 was provided (attached).	AC



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	The next ACB SWW Regional meeting is scheduled due on 17/11/15. Topics include neurology in morning and hepatology in the afternoon.	
4.5	FCS Report – nothing provided. Concerns were again expressed that we do not have a regional FCS representative. No-one is clear who our regional/national reps are, and this means a loss of input from the region. MW will aim to find out names/contacts for a local representative.	MW
4.6	Audit - nothing provided. It was believed that Liz Burgess is the ACB representative on the national Audit committee. AC was asked to contact Liz to see if this role is an area she is still actively involved in. It was noted that regional audit sessions used to be held at the scientific meetings. It was suggested that pooling specific local audits, and disseminating them around the region may prove useful. MW will e-mail the region to get some ideas and feedback for audit input.	MW
5.0 Other agenda items	<p><u>Appointment of officers</u> A call for nominations for the vacancies of microbiology and immunology committee members was sent accompanied by ACB nomination forms on 24/09/2015. Completed nomination forms and enquires will be directed to M.W. A deadline of 2nd November 2015 has been set.</p> <p>At the same time, a call for nominations for treasurer and meetings secretary was sent, to begin making provisions for the end of 3-year term of the current joint treasurer/meetings secretary AS/MB at the end of March 2016.</p> <p><u>Report from the Treasurer</u> AS indicated the finance statement will be available from the ACB in January 2016.</p> <p><u>Request from Becky Hopkins to add the following to AOB.</u> E-mail from Claire Bradshaw, Public Health England Bristol Trainee Clinical Scientist – Infection Science Year 3 of STP to finish summer 2016 Proposed date to take part 1 exam Spring 2016</p> <p>Also I am a member of the South West Healthcare Science Trainee Network steering group; we are organising a welcome event for all STP trainees in the region at the end of November. The day will focus on providing generic advice to new trainees, allowing existing trainees to present their work and opportunities for networking. This would be an excellent opportunity for the ACB to raise its profile with new and existing trainees in the region and so we were wondering if the society would consider providing a small contribution to the funding of the event. In addition the ACB could provide promotional material/information about society activities and membership benefits etc for us to hand out on the day. I have already tried contacting the ACB directly through the website but have not received a response. Would it be possible for you to make the regional committee aware of this event and our request for contribution to funding?</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AS</p> <p>AC</p>



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	<p>This request for funding has been forwarded to MB/AS/MW to pass on the ACB head-office.</p>	
<p>5. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>AC has set up a Doodle poll to select a date for the next committee meeting in January 2016.</p> <p>MW will discuss with MB/AS about setting up a similar poll and liaising with AC and the Wales meeting secretary, as the next regional scientific aims to be a joint scientific meeting with Wales, and the next AGM will need to be held before-hand. To encourage better attendance, and given the logistical difficulties in organising across two regions, this needs to be actioned as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>MW</p>