

Association of Clinical Electron Microscopists
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
held at

The Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, Birmingham

24th June 2005

Present: Tim Ryder (TR Chairman), Jill Moss (JM), Liz Curtis (EC), Alan Curry (AC), Brian Eyden (BE), Bart Wagner (BW) and Pat Tarpey (PT)

Apologies: None

Minutes of the previous meeting 12th November 2004: Accepted

Matters Arising:

Cellular Science and IBMS exams in EM: A meeting of the ACS was held in January with members of the Royal College. Although there was widespread support for producing an MRCPPath curriculum there had been no feedback to date. BW and PT reported that the training guides for the IBMS Certificate and Diploma were complete and available to IBMS members upon application. The differentiation between the Certificate and the Diploma was outlined. It was felt that there would be overlap between the IBMS and the MRCPPath curriculum.

Action: BW to e-mail the IBMS study guides to the committee members for their consideration.

HPC registration: TR is on the panel as an adjudicator and assessor for clinical scientists NOS Standards: The EM NOS's have been finalised and it is expected that they will be circulated later this year. The last workshop held with Fletcher Consultancy group was attended by PT. The purpose of this was to do preliminary linking between the NOS and the KSF. PT reported that this exercise was by no means straight forward and that the results were not yet available.

Action: PT to circulate any communications from Fletcher Consultancy to the Committee members

Treasurers report:

AC reported that there was ~ £2000 in the ACEM account and that expenditure included speakers fees incurred by the Amsterdam meeting. There are 39 paid up members, 10 paid by cheque, 21 by standing order and 13 by Netbanx.

EC informed the group that Netbanx require ID from at least 2 members – photo driving licence or passport + utility bills. This to be discussed in Item 12

The Netbanx sponsorship deal expires in October. We still have money from Jeol but further sponsorship would be welcomed.

Action: EC to approach Jeol re: renewing sponsorship for following year

Newcastle Meeting:

BW informed the committee that at the last communication received from Path. Soc., 19 ACEM members had applied to attend the Newcastle meeting. Discussions followed regarding speakers fees. The Path Soc meetings are run at a loss but journals fund the society and they are in a position to waver their speakers fees but they have not wavered ACEM speakers fees this year.

Action After this years meeting BW will approach Path Soc to try and arrange waver of ACEM speakers fees

AGEM:

TR had circulated draft minutes to the committee members and these were agreed.

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ISSUE raised by AC – Succession planning. It was agreed that the committee needs younger members to ensure continuation of ACEM beyond retirement stage of present members.
Agreed: The newsletter could be used as a tool for recruitment

Newsletter:

The committee agreed that the layout of the ACEM Newsletter was good and that to minimise the cost of production it should be printed in Black and White.

AC informed the group that the cost ran at about £120.

- ◇ AC asked the members for suggestions for future editions. Ideas put forward were that:- Recent publications could go in Newsletter (and also put on website)
- ◇ AC could do a review of the SEMT meetings in the next issue

Agreed: the newsletter should be sent twice yearly to ACEM members– Spring and December

Best Practices Summary:

Discussions re variation of practices between workplaces.

Action: BW to circulate his ideas for consideration

IBMS Advanced Practitioner/Certificate:

(This item also discussed in 'matters arising' and 'action' minuted.

BW had asked the IBMS if there had been any applications for the new qualifications. He was told that a number of people had requested applications but to date none had been returned.

JM told the group that the Pathology Alliance – Royal College, ACS and IBMS – had not yet had a meeting. She reported that the IBMS had dissolved it and that the ACS was unhappy at this outcome. The Alliance was re-instated but under a different name and JM thought that this group also had not met. BW had made attempts to contact the IBMS about the situation but had no success.

Action: BW will try to speak to Alan Potter, IBMS about the 'Alliance'

Workforce Planning:

TR attended the DOH Workforce Planning Body of the Royal College of Pathologists.

The outcome was that 2 areas of severe deficiency were identified –

- a) there is no good data as to who is working in the field of EM
 - b) there is no national strategy
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- a) Royal College have funding for a database for all HCS scientists to take information fed in by professional bodies – ACEM for EM workers. This requires ACEM to access information which it currently does not have, e.g. grade, employer, qualifications etc. JM pointed out that the numbers submitted from ACEM could overlap with those from other bodies e.g. IBMS, ACS. The data is required by January

Agreed: the need to 'harden up' data

Action: TR to reproduce Royal College Questionnaire for circulation

- b) See following section

National EM Strategy:

As required by the DOH Workforce Review Team. TR reported the concern that there is no 'hard data' on the existing EM units – e.g. list of units existing; work carried out in these units etc. TR stated there was a need to form a 'working party' which would be responsible for devising a strategy for EM. Discussion ensued as to who should be on this working party/committee. It was felt that there should be a pathologist, a clinical scientist and a BMS.

Action: TR to send BW the Royal College Questionnaire Template

Action: BW to send questionnaire to e-mail list

Web Site:

LC reported that there had been 582 visits by July 2004 and over 2000 visits by July 2005. She reported an additional very high volume on one particular day in May which must have been due to an anomaly. It was thought by the committee that, in general, the Forum is under-used and that the membership generally should be higher.

Action: PT to include an article advertising the website and CaseForum in the next edition of the Newsletter

LC suggested that EQA results could be sent via the e-mail list and also put onto the website. The need for ID information required by Netbanx was discussed

Action: PT and AC to send ID to EC to accommodate Netbanx requirements

AOB:

AC suggested making formal enquiries to SEMT about making links with them. The need for this to be formalised was discussed. BE suggested that each should advertise the others meetings and have links on the IBMS, ACS and Royal College websites

Action: BW to check if ACEM is on the IBMS page.

Action: LC to contact Dave McCarthy re links with SEMT

Date of next meeting:

AGM following the ACEM meeting in Newcastle, 7th July.