

Minutes of ACEM Executive Committee Meeting Birmingham, 04/04/03

Present; Brian Eyden, Chairman, Jilly Moss, Alan Curry, Bart Wagner, Liz Curtis, Val James, Tim Ryder, Jill Sparke.

BE opened the meeting at 12.30pm and thanked everyone for coming.
Phil Hinson had not been able to attend.

The minutes of the last meeting on 29/11/02 had previously been circulated. It was noted that it was not TR, but BE and JM who were going to contact Keith Miller. With this correction, the minutes were deemed to be correct.

Matters arising from these minutes

JM, as President of ACEM, had written to Prof. Herrington to thank him for the opportunity to present EM based articles in Diagnostic Pathology. She had taken the opportunity to point out that all the contributors are ACEM members, as this had not been mentioned in the journal.

Nominations for Chairman

JM proposed TR as the next Chairman. Seconded by AC and BE.

It was agreed that the election of Chairman should take place at the AGM and that TR would be presented as the Executive Committee's unanimous nomination.

TR said he would accept the post if elected. There might be a perceived problem of the President and Chairman coming from the same department, but it could have practical advantages.

BE will chair the AGM and hand over to the new Chairman immediately afterwards.

Meetings Organiser

BW had started to coach Phil Hinson in the role. PH had seemed very keen but had not been able to give the job sufficient time, so BW was organising the Bristol meeting.

BW to contact PH before the AGM to ascertain whether he would like to be Meetings Organiser and whether he feels he will be able to give the job sufficient commitment. If not, we will have to find someone else.....Keith Miller was mentioned as a possibility.

Bristol Scientific Meeting

Thanks were offered to BW for taking on this responsibility again.

BW has a provisional program but several things await confirmation. As soon as it is finalised he will circulate the program as it needs to go out to the membership.

Commercial organisations, Gattan and Jeol, had expressed some interest in attending our meeting..

BW thought they would need to go through Path Soc. It might be possible for them to have a trade stand within our meeting, but this rather depended on the size of rooms.

Gattan had offered to give a talk on Digital Imaging. This had come too late to be included in the Bristol meeting, but it was likely to be a topic of considerable interest.

JM said there had been a reasonable amount of support for a second meeting (in addition to the companion meeting with Path Soc), probably in London, and this might be a meeting that could be funded by the trade and a talk from Gattan would fit in well.

BW wondered if it could be a joint meeting with SMET

JM and Ian Shore will be going to the next SMET meeting on 16th April in London.

Ian will hand out invitations to join ACEM, stressing that it is the recognised Professional Body for electron microscopists. Depending on what response we get to this, we can pursue the possibility of another meeting, independently or jointly with SMET.

JM; Report from ACS and FHCS meetings

Current provision of formal training in EM appears to be limited to a degree course in Wales and 2 IBMS courses of 1 week. This is clearly inadequate.

We should all be registered with the HPC by May 2003, when the new increased fee will come in. Re-registration will be required 3 years later, for which membership of a professional Body and a Certificate of Attainment will be needed.

It was agreed that a JM should give a report on the current situation as regards the HPC, FHCS and the ACS at the AGM.

JM asked whether she would still be President. The view was that as the draft constitution has yet to be put to the members, there is no reason why JM should not continue as President for another 3 years. JM was thanked for agreeing to do this.

Draft Constitution

TR was thanked for producing the draft constitution, which had been previously circulated to committee members.

A few minor modifications were suggested and the modified version is to be posted on the website, so people have a chance to look at it before the AGM, when it will be put to the membership.

Treasurer's report.

AC said the balance on 27/3/03 was £875.30

There had been a problem with the Standing Order form, entirely due to inaccurate instructions from Royal Bank of Scotland. Hopefully it will now work.

AC has sent a request to Pete Lander at Jeol for £355, the set up cost for the On Line banking, which Jeol had agreed to sponsor. AC awaits a reply.

AC asked if item 15 of the draft constitution could be altered so that BE could still countersign ACEM cheques once he ceases to be Chairman, it being much easier if the 2 signatories are close geographically. It was agreed to alter item 15 to add "a nominated member of the Executive."

BW said DR R. King would need travelling expenses to Bristol.

Progress with development of NOS

JM pointed out that NOS and the ACEM training program will contain much of the same material but presented in different ways, for NOS things need to be fixed, but for ACEM they need to be much more flexible.

TR summarised the current position re NOS. The draft standards had been sent back to him for revision, but his revisions had not been incorporated in the version sent out to field testing. A revised version will be made incorporating comments from the field testing and TR's earlier comments.

The next stage will be a Workshop on Assessment. EC, VJ, TR and JM are to go to the first meeting on 15th April. Then in the second half of 2003, it is planned that those labs that did the field testing should do the Piloting.. Comments arising during this will then be incorporated into a final version in 2004.

Progress with the Training initiative

We are all to send the standard protocols used in our respective labs to TR. While acknowledging that there is no one correct procedure, these can be put out as protocols that work.

BE recommended the Society for Ultrastructural Pathology's Handbook for Residents. He said the Introductory Cell Ultrastructure section provides a good introduction to the vocabulary and the correct use of terms.

VJ went through the organisational features and details of the Training initiative, which she had prepared and circulated.

It is proposed to create a data-base of electronmicrographs on the web site for members to use and contribute to and also to be used as part of the training.

We need to establish at the beginning the precise mechanism and format for putting images on the website, including labels, text, scale/magnification and key words for search purposes. The format should be such that the images are good enough for viewing but cannot be downloaded as high resolution pictures. Some light micrographs will also be needed. BE and AC as overall co-editors to discuss this.

All material will be completely anonymous so there will be no need for consent.

All material will be posted on the website by EC.

There will be Specialist Subject Coordinators (SSC) for each section, with overall co-editorship by BE and AC, to ensure uniformity of terminology etc.

SSCs will need to include the uses of EM within their subject area and a bibliography of useful sources, in addition to collecting and selecting images and providing advice.

All those present who were proposed as SSCs agreed to take on the work. VJ is to write to all other proposed SSCs.

JM felt we need to have a deadline of 4 -5 months for putting up a minimum amount on the website. The articles written for Current Diagnostic Pathology could form the basis of this. We could then say that as part of our training scheme we are creating a reference database of electron micrographs on the ACEM website, but meanwhile, look at Current Diagnostic Pathology for articles illustrating the value of EM in diagnostic pathology.

Web site

Links to Histonet and ACS web sites are coming.

Possible reduced personal subscription to Ultrastructural Research.

BE expressed his strongly held view that there is no point in having a link with SUP as individuals were very unlikely to pay even a reduced fee for the journal.

We already have a link with Current Diagnostic Pathology and an indirect link to J Path, which has in the past always accepted EM articles.

The point was raised of whether J Path might publish abstracts from our companion meeting.

It was agreed that this subject should be revisited at the AGM.

Any Other Business

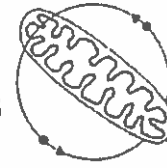
BE asked if the ACEM headed paper could be standardised. EC to email all committee members the template.

JS suggested the Bristol meeting should be listed in the IBMS Gazette, even though it is too late to get it on the list of CPD approved events.

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm.

The next meeting will be the AGM immediately after the Bristol meeting, 3rd July 2003

Association of Clinical Electron Microscopists



Statement of Accounts

Prepared by Alan Curry, ACEM Treasurer, on 24th June 2003.

Current balance from latest RBS statement 27 th May 2003 -	£975 - 10
Cheques and SO payments submitted to bank since 27 th May -	£575
Cheque awaiting submission to the bank -	£20
Total ACEM balance -	£1570 - 10

Of this total £966 - 00 was the surplus from the Sheffield meeting and £355 - 00 has been recently received from JEOL to sponsor on-line banking.

Expenses paid out:

Path Soc Meetings in Liverpool and Dublin -	£175 - 00
Conference of Clinical Scientists Organisation -	£50 - 00
ACEM Committee travelling expenses -	£130 - 70
ACEM domain name expenses -	£35 - 20

Total expenses to date - £390 - 90

* Set up charges for NetBanx (sponsored by JEOL) - £146 - 88
(not yet debited from ACEM account)

Total ACEM turnover since formation - £1981 - 00

Developing a training programme

It will be necessary for all electron- microscopists to follow standard training procedures that are accepted as complying with the NOS documentation passed by the Health Professions Council.

These will have to involve specific E.M. disciplines such as :-

Preparation techniques .

fixation, dehydration, embedding, polymerisation, sectioning, staining, photography.

Use of E.M. for diagnosis

This will involve a very detailed description of diagnostic features to search for, depending on the tissue involved, and the suspected diseases being investigated. This discipline needs to be divided into the relevant categories thus:-

Virology

Bacteriology

Protozoa

Renal

Muscle

Nerves and brain

Skin and Hair

Eyes (cornea)

Blood Red Blood cells

White Blood cells

Tumours. Further subdivisions.

Storage diseases e.g. Batten's etc.

Cilia and flagella

Miscellaneous

to include:- amyloid, desmosomes, neurosecretory granules, cadacil , glycogen, microfilaments, mitochondria, lysosomes, Birbeck granules, collagen fat, mast cell granules, myelin , endothelial cell granules ,melanin

Immunology

E.M. Specialists in the fields listed above.

Virology. Dr.Alan Curry

Bacteriology

Protozoa

Renal. Dr.Jill Moss

Muscle. Dr. Caroline Sewery; Dr. Liz Curtis.

Nerves and Brain

Skin Prof. Robin. A.J. Eady

Eyes

Blood

Tumours. Dr S Cameron, Dr.Brian Eyden

Storage diseases. Mr. G Anderson Great Ormond St.

Cilia and Flagella . Ann Dewar Dr. Tim Ryder.

Immunology. Dr Jill Moss.

Co-ordinating the training programme Val James and Bart Wagner.