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Dear Jilly, Alan and Bart

Here is an Agenda (with notes) for the ACEM Executive meeting Thursday 23 August 1030 am at Charing Cross Hospital.

Whatever its inadequacies or omissions, please bear in mind that the Agenda has been hastily put together given that the meeting itself has been hastily arranged ...

Brian

Thursday 16 August 2001

Agenda for ACEM Executive Committee Meeting, 23 August 2001, Charing Cross Hospital, London, 1030.

- 1a Basic principles of procedure for developing and implementing policy
- 1b Revising the Mission Statement as a Constitution
- 2 ACEM 2002 meeting
- 3 Herrington proposal for published EM symposium
- 4 Diploma in Ultrastructural Pathology
- 5 Any other business

Notes on the Agenda

Revising the Mission Statement as a Constitution

As ACEM is becoming more of an established organisation, it needs to tighten up on its procedures, and we need to re-write or develop the current Mission Statement as a Constitution, to show the outside world that we have acceptable procedures and an acceptable organisation, comparable to those of other similar representative bodies.

Proposed Constitution

Objectives of the Association

The objectives of the Association are to promote the good practice of clinical electron microscopy by holding educational meetings, and establishing a website for facilitating communication, problem-solving and the dissemination of knowledge.

Membership Conditions

Membership of the Association will be open to all individuals who have a professional interest in clinical electron microscopy, ie who use electron microscopy on clinical material for the purposes of diagnosis and research. This criterion, however, is to be applied flexibly, in the sense that scientists carrying out electron microscopy on animal tissues and working in the private sector are nonetheless welcome to join.

Membership will be conditional upon payment of an annual subscription of £10 per annum payable by standing order.

Development and Implementation of Policy

Policy will be developed by an Executive whose officers will act for the good of the wider membership of ACEM. They will collect ideas for policy from both themselves and from the wider membership of ACEM. They will discuss these amongst themselves, and the Executive will propose them as policy at the ACEM Annual Business Meeting. Any policy requiring urgent attention may also be discussed in meetings (Executive Meetings) convened in between the Annual Business Meetings. These Executive Meetings will not number more than two per year.

Executive decisions at Executive Meetings will be by majority voting and proposals will be communicated to the wider ACEM for their agreement by Email.

16 August 2001 AOL: MrBWagner

Agenda 23rd August 2001 ACEM Executive meeting

1. Basic principles of procedures for developing and implementing policy.

2. Revising the mission statement as a constitution.

Already included on the web site

3. ACEM 2002 meeting.

Canvass opinion of membership regarding:

1. Going to Dublin.
2. Holding additional mid-year meeting in London.
3. Both

Path Soc need to be asked (preferably by someone with a vested interest) if our meeting is automatically validated for RCPATH or IBMS CPD or do we have to apply.

Regarding speakers suggestions were made for Stuart Cameron, Barry Dowsett, Laura McWilliam., possibly Glenn Anderson or Dr Gaffney.

Regarding organising joint meetings with Path Soc instead of satellite meetings it was felt that it would be better to wait for them to approach us than the other way round at the moment.

4. Herrington proposal for published EM symposium.

1. Infectious diseases: Alan Curry and Bart Wagner
2. Muscle: Stuart Cameron, if not, Caroline Sewrey
3. Tumour: Brian Eyden
4. Renal: Jill Moss

Whilst this included most of the current committee it was felt that the next time we were to be asked (possibly in three years time) other subjects to be covered by others in the association.

5. Diploma in ultrastructural pathology.

1. Contact IBMS to see if they are currently in the process of organising anything jointly with the RCPATH regarding training courses and validation of competence.
2. Before ACEM would organise anything there would have to be a demand for such a diploma.
3. It was felt that a PhD would be more beneficial to the careers of clinical electron microscopists.

5. AOB

Association of Clinical Electron Microscopists Newsletter, March 2002

Following the Executive Committee Meeting in Birmingham on February 1st, it was suggested that a brief Newsletter might be a useful means of informing the wider ACEM membership on developments and issues being implemented or discussed by the Committee.

New Committee Members

The Committee has enlarged recently, to include Jill Sparke as Secretary and Tim Ryder as the ACEM representative for the National Occupational Standards initiative (this, put simply, is aiming to develop standards in training). On the question of training, Committee members have felt for some time that ACEM would come under pressure to develop a training program. This would be difficult given the diversity of interests within ACEM. Nevertheless, it was decided to ask Valerie James to become ACEM's Training Program Development Officer, she has accepted and will act as a Committee member in this capacity.

Website Development

Jim Wetton, working with the ACEM Webmaster, Liz Curtis, has made a number of developments to the website, most notably in the area of site security and the member forums. Work on both the membership and image databases is continuing.

The forums are one of the most useful aspects of the web site. Here discussions can be held on current topics of interest, problematic cases, and so on, in the secure part of the web site. It is possible to upload images, so seeking a second opinion on unusual micrographs is possible and easy.

A user name and password is required to access the secure part of the site. This information will be sent to members on payment of their subscription fee. It is planned to offer online payment facilities, although payment by standing order will also be possible.

The web site is not complete, and the development is a continuous process, requiring contributions from the membership. This will make it an active and informative resource, so please let us know your views and ideas.

Our web addresses are:

<http://www.acem.org.uk> <http://www.electron-microscopy.org.uk>.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, many thanks to Jim for all his hard work on the website.

Financial Matters

Alan Curry has reported a modest positive balance, largely owing to the transfer to the ACEM account of the surplus funds from the Sheffield meeting. An annual membership fee of L10 will become payable in due course, either through a standing order system, or via the Website.

EM Symposium issue in Current Diagnostic Pathology

Following the Liverpool ACEM meeting, Professor Herrington invited a selection of reviews on electron microscopy topics to appear in a forthcoming issue of Current Diagnostic Pathology. Jilly Moss was chosen as the Guest-Editor, and four reviews have been invited: infectious

diseases (Bart Wagner and Alan Curry); renal disease (Jilly Moss); neuro-muscular disease (Caroline Sewry); and tumours (Brian Eyden). It is hoped that there will be additional special issues in future years, written by other members of ACEM, to deal with most of the main areas of diagnostic utility of electron microscopy.

Committee membership changes

Bart Wagner and Brian Eyden have intimated their wishes to relinquish their positions as Meetings Secretary and Chairman respectively. Nominations for these vacant posts will be invited for the next full Business Meeting at Dublin. Everyone will want to thank these Committee members for their respective contributions to the establishment and development of ACEM.

Summary

The Committee feels that ACEM is undergoing a steady and positive development in a number of ways. It has formalised membership arrangements, a website is up-and-running, we have undertaken an initiative for developing a training program, and we have consolidated our relationship with the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland in terms of the satellite-meeting arrangement with them. We have also initiated a relationship with the journal, Current Diagnostic Pathology, for publishing at least one specialised electron microscopy issue.

The future development of the Association will significantly depend on the enthusiasm and input from the wider members of ACEM, and you are encouraged to contribute to ACEM by attending future meetings and making contribution via the website.

Brian Eyden and the ACEM Executive Committee
March 2002