

Association of Clinical Electron Microscopists
Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, Birmingham
28th November, 2003

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

Minutes of Committee Meeting on 4th April 2003.

There was a correction in JM's report from ACS and FHCS meetings. JS
Corrected version to be circulated.

There were no matters arising from these minutes that were not
covered in the rest of the agenda.

Minutes of the AGM, Bristol. JS
A draft of these had been circulated.
BE and JM corrected points.
Corrected version to be checked, then sent out with mailing before
next AGM

Image Database

(this item was brought forward as BE had to leave early)
LC outlined the procedure for uploading images to the database.
Members' home page, click 'admin' button at the bottom, then click
on 'upload image to database'. This gives boxes to complete, partly
for use for search terms. Image then goes to temporary database,
where it can still be edited. Click button to alert moderators.
When all details are agreed, moderator can post image on final
database, where it cannot be altered.
LC identified a potential problem in deciding which moderator deals
with which images.
It was agreed that we substitute 'database editor' for 'moderator'.
BE and AC to come to see LC for a session on use of the image
database

BE, AC,
LC

BE made the point that we need a statement of the objectives of the
database, so that it will have a structure. There is otherwise a
likelihood of much wasted effort. BE and AC to write a suitable
statement . BE,AC

JM said we should not aim to duplicate ultrastructural pathology
books and as far as the training aspect of the database is concerned,
we need to wait till the NOS etc have been finalised, as we could

become involved in 3 training schemes.

A formal training scheme has to have assessment and examination.

We are not set up for this, so the database cannot be seen as part of a formal training scheme, yet.

JM felt that at the moment the value of the database is as somewhere to show interesting cases. The forums could also fill this roll.

JM/TR to ask RCPATH re posting these sort of images on website... could it be on public part of the site?

JM, ?TR

In general it is each contributor's responsibility to get permission from their Trust for publication of images.

ALL

JM felt we need to get something good on the website quickly.

The four articles on the diagnostic value of EM written by ACEM committee members for Current Diagnostic Pathology were ideal.

JM to contact the Editor to get permission to put these articles on the ACEM website. These to be separate from the image database.

JM

The articles will need to be in pdf format. Authors might be able to get them from the journal / electronic journal in that format.

Authors

Similar articles covering other fields should be prepared.

?volunteers

Amsterdam meeting

The next scientific meeting of ACEM will be a satellite meeting with Path. Soc. in Amsterdam on 8th July 2004.

The usual financial arrangements will apply.

Suggestions for Program

BE to give a short talk on myofibroblasts, followed by Catherine Sarraf on Tissue Engineering in relation to myofibroblasts.

BE

Patrick Costigan to give the Virology talk he was unable to give in Bristol. AC to contact him.

AC

BW to ask Neil Wilkinson from Gatan if he would like to give an overview of digital imaging for EM, (not a sales talk for Gatan specifically). Also to ask if Gatan would sponsor one of the other speakers, eg cost of flight to Amsterdam.

BW

? Muscle ...JM to ask Caroline Sewry

Richard Bonschak to talk on eyes, but he is very busy so might be more likely to agree to doing it in 2005

AC

As JS will be retired before the Amsterdam meeting, BW asked if someone else could take on the job of sending out the mailing for that. AC to ask in his unit

AC

ACS and FHCS

FHCS. JM has been presenting the problems of ACEM members and has had discussions with Alan Potter, Chief Executive of IBMS.

Electron Microscopy is a recognised subdivision of Life Sciences

HPC registration fee has been fixed at £120 every 2 years.

Re registration will be brought in when they have sorted out standards of proficiency and competency.

For the HPC registration of Clinical Scientists, there is a grandparenting clause, admitting people who have been working for 3 of the last 5 years in certain fields. This does not apply to EM because ACS has no EM modality. Previously it was held that EM could not become a recognised modality without the approval of the Privy Council.

On 1st October 2003 JM had a meeting with the Chief Executive of the HPC and his secretary, someone representing the Minister of Health and a lawyer from the DOH, and 3 people from ACS. They were told there is no limit to the number of modalities recognised by HPC and it does not have to go through the Privy Council.

A new submodality of Electron Microscopy will be created by ACS. This is a really important step forward.

There is a need to develop ways of assessing Clinical Scientists, NOS may be helpful.

Graham Beastall from RC Path will drive these changes forward.

Manpower Planning

RCPath has been involved with succession planning for medics. They are now starting to build a database for Clinical Scientists in EM and Biochemistry. (Age, Discipline etc). IBMS is to undertake a similar exercise for Biomedical Scientists.

TR

ACEM has been asked to attend the inaugural manpower planning group at RCPath. TR to go.

RCPath needs to know how many Clinical Scientists there are. LC to email details of ACEM Clinical Scientists to TR.

LC, TR

NOS.

Several departments at AC's Trust have volunteered to Pilot the NOS, including EM. Assessors have been named.

AC recently had a meeting with Shirley Fletcher who said 4 or 5 EM units were going to pilot the EM NOS.

AC said there was still very little in the NOS about photographic techniques.

Piloting is due to be finished by the end of March 2004

Affiliations

JM had rung J Path to ask what would be involved if ACEM became affiliated to J Path. It appeared from their response that this was a new idea to them. It was agreed to drop this idea.

IS gave out copies of emails received re discounted personal subscription rate to Ultrastructural Pathology. Apart from the initial answer from the Editor, there was no mention of affiliation and

EM members could get the journal for £139 per year. The publishers offered to inform our members of the offer. It was decided there appeared to be no reason to reject the discounted rate, but

that we should contact our membership rather than pass our members' details to a third party. JS to do this and to write to the publishers.

JS

EM questionnaire AC

The results are not yet fully analysed but Virology EM units tend to have older microscopes, >20 years old and are relatively pessimistic about the future of EM, whereas histology EM units tend to be more optimistic and have microscopes with an average age of 13.5 years. About 40% of EM units have some sort of succession planning, but the 2 units in the country with Category 4 facilities have none. Industrial EM units seem to be as bad as Virology .

IBMS Advanced Practitioner grade in EM

The Chief Executive of IBMS , Alan Potter, has been in discussion about this.

The route to follow is on the IBMS website.

There will be a limited period of grandparenting when people who are already very experienced in the field can submit a professional portfolio.

Website development, LC

Already largely covered under database.

Re the online banking, we need to decide which cards are accepted Mastercard, Visa, Switch and Delta were agreed.

At no stage does ACEM have any card details.

Statements from the bank will go to AC,the Treasurer, who can administer the account online.

There will be automatic emails reminding members when their membership is about to expire, at 1 month, 1 week and 1 day before it expires. These reminders have a line at the bottom saying 'for other methods of payment contact.....'

It was decided that this should be the Treasurer rather than the Secretary.

Would it be possible to put a Standing Order form as an attachment to the reminder, so that it is clear that payment does not necessarily have to be made online.

LC

AC please to send LC a list of the Standing Orders

AC

Grid Club

BW had another suggestion. That there should be a list of members willing, at least in principal, to cut some extra grids of interesting cases, either to help answer an inquiry or to show interesting material to others.

Would it be possible to have this as a box on the membership

database. LC to look into it.

LC

The forums are also a means of doing a similar thing. The forums could be more used. JS to remind members .

JS

BW asked if it might be possible to alert other members by email if one posted a case on the forum with which one required urgent help.

Grateful appreciation was expressed to Jim for all his hard work on the website. LC to pass this on.

LC

The meeting closed at 5pm.