

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

Charring Cross Hospital, London

11th November 2005

Present: Tim Ryder (TR Chairman), Jill Moss (JM), Liz Curtis (EC),
Bart Wagner (BW) and Pat Tarpey (PT)

1. Apologies: Alan Curry (AC); Brian Eyden (BE)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting 24th June 2005: Accepted

3. Matters Arising:

Pathology Alliance

JM reported that there has been no progress towards a working Pathology Alliance between the Royal College, ACS and IBMS

Workforce Planning/National EM Strategy

The workforce review team are trying to develop a database of all workers in healthcare science. A questionnaire for Clinical Scientists is currently on the ACEM website. LC is to modify this questionnaire for biomedical scientists and place this on the website.

Discussions ensued as to the validity of the results as the questionnaire will only reach members of ACEM and only those who visit the website. It was also put forward that staff who work in other disciplines as well as EM e.g. Histology would be counted twice. When collated, the data will be sent to the Royal College.

Action: PT to write short piece for Newsletter to draw attention to the questionnaires and ask that members please fill them in.

4. Treasurer's report:

TR read the Treasurer's statement : ACEM currently has £2,115:77p in the bank.

Netbanx required original bills from committee members rather than the copies originally sent. AC has submitted his documents and PT needs to submit hers

Action: PT to send utility bill to Netbanx

5. Website

LC reported that the website required re-building and that new software would enhance the site. A software package called "zoomify" was demonstrated. It was agreed that the likely cost of the up-date and re-build was not prohibitive.

Action: LC will supply the committee with a costing for re-build and software

Netbanx usage for membership fees was discussed. It was agreed that although there is a charge for the service, it may bring in new members.

Action: LC to write a short piece for the Newsletter on the availability of Netbanx system for paying fees

6. Programme for Manchester meeting

Ideas for subjects and speakers were discussed. It was agreed that there should be at least one microbiology/virology presentation, if possible.

Action: BW to approach Prof. Cyril Fisher re: haematological tumours and Edinburgh re: CJD talk

7. EQA

It was agreed that a feedback meeting to review the first set of results from the EM EQA scheme should be held in January 2006. It was felt that London would be a suitable location and that a 1:00pm lunch with a 1:30pm start was appropriate. In addition to EQA feedback, it was decided that an overview of the EM NOS's and associated topics will be presented

Action: PT to prepare NOS presentation

JM to secure venue and establish costs

 *BW to write an article for the Newsletter to advertise the Feedback Meeting*

BW to pursue the possibility of co-opting an ACEM member to attend ACEM meetings as an EQA representative.

8. Role of Trade Liaison member

No action required

9. December Newsletter

Committee members were urged to submit articles for the Newsletter by end November/ beginning December. BE has submitted a couple of publications and JM supplied PT with a few more.

Action: ALL submit articles to AC as soon as possible

10. NOS update

LC and PT reported to the committee on the work done at the October workshops at Padnell Grange:- The NOS's are now unchangeable. The module descriptors and the links to stages in the Healthcare Scientist Career Pathway were examined and amended where necessary.

Action: LC to e-mail committee members with the resultant paperwork for their views

PT to summarise the work done in a presentation for January EQA meeting.

11. Royal Microscopic Society Affiliation

PT informed the committee that the RMS had recently voted unanimously for ACEM to be an affiliated member. The benefits of this affiliation were discussed and it was decided that future ACEM meeting could be advertised by the RMS. TR suggested that an ACEM meeting dedicated to digital imaging could be organised with the help of the RMS.

It was felt that benefits from the affiliation may become clearer with time.

Action: LC to contact RMS re: website link

PT to write short piece on recent affiliation with RMS

12. AOB

- Some committee members will soon be up for re-election. This needs to be arranged for the 2006 Manchester AGM. Nominations for these officers can be done either by return post or on-line.
Action: JM to submit a short article for Newsletter to AC requesting nominations
- The reading list compiled by BW was reviewed and a few books added. BW to submit list for placing on ACEM website.

 *Action: BW to submit a short article for Newsletter to AC to inform members that the list is on the website*

Next Meeting: May 2006