

Association of Clinical Electron Microscopists

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**held at
Leeds University
3rd July 2008**

Committee Members Present: Tim Ryder (TR Chairman), Jill Moss (JM), Liz Curtis (EC), Bart Wagner (BW), Pat Tarpey (PT), and Tracy de Haro (TH)

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

2. Minutes of the previous AGM 5th July 2007: Accepted

Matters Arising: None

Minutes of the previous AGM 6th 2006: TR proposed that the minutes be agreed, seconded by JM: Minutes agreed

3. Treasurer's report:

Accounts were supplied to the meeting. Tricia Lovell proposed they be accepted and TR seconded. Accounts agreed. Thanks extended to AC for managing the ACEM accounts

4. Website Update:

EC informed the meeting that the membership has remained at 50 members; there are a few new members join each year but there are a few members each year who do not renew their membership.

EC reported that whilst some people visited the forum, overall there was little activity. EC requested articles for the web page from members and suggested that members check the website more frequently. TR stated that the website is important as a profile raiser for the organisation.

TR asked if there were 'visits' to the public area of the website and EC said she will investigate and bring facts to the next ACEM meeting

5. Workforce Confederation Update:

Discussions held and a presentation given by TR: the essential elements of the discussions and presentation were as follows:

There was some disagreement on how to take forward a strategy for the future of EM services. A decision was taken to go forward as follows

- a) Submit a 1 page summary of the issues around provision of EM services to Peter Furness, who is currently chairman of the Royal College of Pathologists.
- b) Support the production of a 'National Strategy Document' to give full details of ACEM views and proposals on the future of EM

a) TR referred to the prepared summary document and briefly reviewed the contents. TR noted a recommendation that ACEM maintain communication with Bill Gutteridge of the NCG, with the view to his passing the issues raised to Strategic Health Authorities

b) A full business case is being formulated by Anne Marie Lawrence and thanks were extended to her and to Tricia Lovell for her input. TR informed the meeting that a projected template had already been submitted for endorsement

Additionally TR stressed the need to review 'EM performance' and 'visions' with strategic aims and objectives. Also that there is a need to inform, via the strategy document, of the 'set-up' and ongoing costs of any submitted 'Improvement Plan'

The presentation additionally summarised the identified needs for EM services as: -

- Identification of central EM units with phased centralised investment in equipment
- Create supernumerary training posts at each of the centres to "fast-track" BMS to acquire the necessary advanced practitioner skills in EM before existing staff retire
- Create partnerships at the centres to cater for specialties other than renal pathology
- Continue NSCAG support for highly specialist units

The template for the National Strategy document has the following proposed contents

- Introduction
- Chairman's comments (Exec. summary)
- Review of performance
- EM Vision, strategic aims & objectives
- Financial summary
- Improvement plan
- Glossary of terms
- References

ACEM members to be updated via e-mail and the website

TR said that members will be asked to supply performance information to be used for the strategy document and stressed that members should comply and return the information to him as soon as possible. TR pointed out that without good current and relevant data a meaningful strategic plan could not be produced. It was suggested from the 'floor' that members being asked for information, should pass requests on to non members they may know of who are working in EM.

There was a general consensus that, whilst the strategic plan centred around diagnostic facilities, research applications should be kept in mind

6. Newsletter:

Requests made on behalf of AC that members be more pro active in providing articles for the ACEM newsletters. All articles should be forwarded to AC

7. AOB:

BW expressed a view that ACEM should hold a joint meeting with the Society of Ultra Structural Pathology and he will investigate the possibilities further

EC asked if any members were able to do immunogold staining for a third party and there was a volunteer from the 'floor'

Date of next meeting: *To be arranged*

ACEM

ACTION TABLE FROM 2008 AGM

ITEM	Actions by	Timescale	Status
<u>WEBSITE</u> Investigate approximately how many "visits" were made to the public area of the ACEM website	EC	June 2009	
<u>NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR EM</u> Submit a summary of the issues around provision of EM services to Peter Furness, who is currently chairman of the Royal College of Pathologists. A full business case is being formulated by Anne Marie Lawrence A questionnaire to be circulated to ACEM members for them to give performance information	TR TR TR	June 2009 June 2009 November 2008	
<u>JOINT MEETING WITH ULTRA STRUCTURAL PATHOLOGY</u> BW to investigate feasibility	BW	June 2008	