

ACGS Annual General Meeting Minutes



**Arena and Convention Centre
Liverpool
Tuesday 23rd September 2014
5.45pm**

Present: Angela Douglas (AD), Chair
Ann Dalton (ADal), Chair Elect
Simon McCullough (SM), Elected Secretary
David Cockburn (DC), Elected Treasurer
Dom McMullan (DM), Chair, Scientific Subcommittee
Sandi Deans (SD), Chair, Quality Subcommittee
Hazel Dinning (HD) Elected Chair, Communications Subcommittee

37 ACGS ordinary members

1) Chair's report

AD welcomed the members to the ACGS AGM.

100k genomes project

AD outlined the process and timescales for the awarding of contracts to laboratories delivering the 100k genomes project.

NHS England Laboratory reconfiguration

AD outlined the scope of the reconfiguration and the timescale for reconfiguration.

Clinical reference group (CRG)

AD discussed the Genetics Dashboard, the CRG and new specifications arising out of this group.

Kevin Ocraft

AD noted with regret the passing of Kevin Ocraft the past treasurer of the ACGS and the ACC. AD gave a summary of Kevin's contribution to the profession and to the Executive teams of the ACC and the ACGS. AD announced a travel fund set up in remembrance of Kevin.

2) Treasurer's Report

A report was delivered by the newly elected treasurer, DC. The finances of the ACC and ACGS are still in the process of merging. There have been problems establishing access for DC to the account resulting in slower expenses payments. DC apologised for this delay. DC presented the total amounts in the ACGS and ACC bank accounts. Need to propose and second the proposal that Wilkins Kennedy are appointed as auditors for the ACGS accounts. This will be done by email as not enough members were present to vote.

3) Quality Committee report

SD delivered the Quality committee report.

- **Best Practice Guidelines**
 - New pipeline for reviewing and initiating new guidelines

- Completed – NGS/Fragile X syndrome
- Currently under review - Lynch syndrome/AML/ALL/CML
- New guidelines - General Genetic Reporting/Sarcoma by RT-PCR/Arrays/Internal Quality Control/Hypertrophic cardiomyopathies
- **Audits**
 - ACGS activity audit 2013-14 to include all activity of genetics laboratories
 - Working day/calendar day TAT audit which has resulted in new General Genetic reporting time guidelines which are out for comment
 - Fragile X syndrome/array testing audit
- **Genetics Dashboard**
 - Reviewed and changes being recommended.
- **Workshops**
 - NGS BPG workshop with UKGTN
 - General Genetic Reporting workshop
- **GenUs**
 - Review of cytogenetic bandings and changes implemented – ongoing
- **MRC-Holland MLPA probe incident**
 - Reported to MHRA and worked with them to ensure the Dutch authorities activated follow up

4) **Communications committee report**

The report was delivered by SM, the outgoing Chair of the committee.

- **Election results**
 - Treasurer – David Cockburn from Leeds elected 2014-2017
 - Secretary – Simon McCullough from Belfast elected 2014-2017
 - Communications subcommittee – Hazel Dinning from Nottingham elected 2014-2017
 - No nominations for Chair Elect – call for nominations to be sent again
- **New members of subcommittee**
 - Gareth Masson from Birmingham and Peter Logan from Belfast
- **Website**
 - Website training for Simon McCullough, Gareth Masson, Peter Logan and Jenny Barrett took place on 10th April. Now have 4 webmasters able to upload content.
 - Migration of content from ACC website to ACGS website is complete
 - ACC website will close 28th November 2014
 - Migration of content from CMGS website continues
- **Newsletter**
 - Two editions published on-line

- Please send articles to Martin Schwarz (martin.schwarz@nhs.net) and Emma Huxley (emma.huxley@bwhct.nhs.net)
- Deadline for next edition is 30th November 2014
- **Future work**
 - Questionnaire on ACGS membership for non-members
 - Lab roadshow
 - STEM presentation

5) Scientific committee report

DM delivered the Scientific committee report.

- **ACGS Spring meeting**
 - Austin Court, Birmingham May 2014. 2 days: Germline and Cancer which was co-organised with the MolPath working group of the Association of Clinical Pathologists. The meeting was sold out and the feedback was good.
 - Many thanks to the Scientific Pgm Committee: Maggie Williams, Simon Williams, Susanna Akiki, Carolyn Tysoe, Ed Atack, Ingrid Simonic, Rachel Butler, Sandi Deans, Newton Wong, Emma Huxley
 - In 2015 there will be focussed study days due to ESHG
- **BSGM 2014**
 - Scientific Pgm Committee - Dom McMullan (Chair), Maggie Williams, Ingrid Simonic
 - Variant Interpretation Workshop – organised by Debs Morrogh, Carolyn Tysoe
- **Data Sharing**
 - DECIPHER NHS consortium option
 - NHS variant sharing without need for consent
 - 4 centres set-up so far (CNV and SNV)
 - Contact Dom McMullan for more information
- **Planned specific data-collations**
 - Incidental DMD deletions in unaffected patients
 - Incidental Ca risk variants
 - FH mutations
- **IMAGINE Study (PI Lucy Raymond)**
 - Longitudinal outcome study for patients with common CNV disorders

6) Workforce Development committee Report

The report was delivered by the Chair, AD.

- **Training**
 - Alison Taylor-Beadling designated as the Lead Training Officer for the ACGS, ensuring there is good communication between the WDC and the network of training officers.
 - A Training Officer day has been organised for the 13th October in Birmingham.

- FRCPATH Part 2 written options training day took place at GOSH on 5th Sept. Alison finalising facilitators for a Part 2 self-help day either in Birmingham or GOSH.
 - Organising a GT Training day either in Manchester or Birmingham.
 - The WDC will be looking at additional training for GT's.
- **Assessments**
 - The WDC is completed assessment arrangements for the final two cytogenetic trainees that underwent the ACC training programme and require a certificate of completion.
 - All new trainees should be STP's.
- **Workforce**
 - Submitted data to RCPATH Clinical Science Workforce Committee. Genetics had the most comprehensive workforce data.
 - WDC will go out to labs requesting further data in near future.
 - Submitted reply to RCPATH in response to Health Education England workforce requirements, June 2014.
 - Submitted comments to HCPC in response to the consultation - Standards of Proficiency for Clinical Scientists. June 2014.
 - The WDC has drafted career level descriptors for genetics – Career Framework – Circulated for comment.
- **Registration**
 - Developing the Equivalence route with the AHCS. This is now established and open for applications
 - The AHCS establishing an accredited Register for Practitioners. WDC is represented on the Academy Regulation Council for this register.
 - Discussions between the VRC and similar registers and the AHCS about establishing a cluster model for the register.
 - The VRC currently has three options:
 1. Remain as a voluntary register
 2. Apply to PSA for accreditation
 3. Join the AHCS cluster model of assured voluntary registers and become accredited by PSA
 - The register of Genetic Technologists is currently owned by the professional body (ACGS). The VRC seeking support to move the register to the AHCS. with title of Genetic Technologist retained
 - Working on a register for Associates, assistants and HSST.

7) Any other business

Fiona MacDonald informed the meeting that Alison Taylor-Beadling was looking at e-learning and that Sian Ellard was now Chair of examiners at RCPATH.

Best poster prizes were given to:

Poster 111 – Helen Lord, Oxford

Poster 116 – Sarah Burton Jones, Bristol

At this stage Angela Douglas welcomed Ann Dalton as the incoming Chair of the ACGS and handed the meeting over to the new Chair.

8) New Chair's presentation

ADal thanked AD for her hard work on behalf of the profession and in establishing the ACGS.

ADal gave a presentation focussing on the future challenges and opportunities of the ACGS. Huge progress has been made on the 100k genomes project and the ACGS is at the forefront of this work. The demand for genetic testing will increase and this cannot be delivered without the ACGS. With the financial constraints labs will have to work together to deliver services more efficiently and effectively. There are not enough genetic scientists in training and therefore the ACGS will have to re-think how we deliver services to respond to this. There will be opportunities to work with the private sector and for ACGS members to be involved in research and see new developments translated into service. Pathology is becoming more integrated and there will be the opportunity for ACGS members to learn new things.

Whatever the outcome of reconfiguration, we need to have a viable business with robust business models. We need to work as a network to achieve what we need to achieve and deal with the workforce challenges. As a profession we need to work together and be flexible and responsive. We need to work together in improving and supporting patient pathways to find the right answer for patients. We need members to engage with the ACGS and draw in new members.