



Association for Clinical Cytogenetics

<http://www.cytogenetics.org.uk>

**ACC Council Meeting
Canterbury Hall, Cartwright Gardens, London
Tuesday 3rd June 2008**

Kim Smith

Chair

Amanda Dixon-M ^c Iver	<i>Ordinary Member</i>	Karen Thompson	<i>Genetic Technologist</i>
Peter Howard	<i>Ordinary Member</i>	Ann Reilly	<i>Genetic Technologist</i>
Ros Hastings	<i>Ordinary Member</i>	Val Davison	<i>Trustee</i>
Philippa May	<i>Junior Member</i>	Rod Howell	<i>Trustee</i>
Suzanne M ^c Phee	<i>Junior Member / Chair MLC</i>	Lorraine Gaunt	<i>Chair, PSC</i>
Simon M ^c Cullough	<i>Junior Member</i>		
Stephen Mountford	<i>Junior Member</i>	Nick Bown	<i>Ordinary Member (Obs)</i>
Mandeep Bahra	<i>Junior Member</i>	Ian Cook	<i>Junior Member (Obs)</i>

- 1 **New members**
Nick Bown and Ian Cook were welcomed as incoming Council members (Observers at June meeting).
- 2 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Rob Morgan, John Wolstenholme, Gordon Lowther, John Crolla, Sandra Birdsall, Teresa Davies & Maj Hulten
- 3 **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 2008**
RH attended, VD not attend
3.1 professions
9 Clarify RH
- 4 **Chairs Report**
 - 4.1 Successful Spring Conference – Thanks to Peter Howard and Liverpool Laboratory
 - 4.2 KS has submitted a written ACC response to the House of Lords call for evidence on Genomic Medicine.
 - 4.3 Tony Parkin has suggested collecting local prices to produce anonymised data to inform local commissioning discussions. It was agreed that this information may be collected on an informal, individual lab basis but did not support an ACC tariff data collection.
ACTION: KS to respond to Tony Parkin
 - 4.4 More ACS assessors are required: Heather Ward and Ingrid Simonic have volunteered. Their nominations were supported.
 - 4.5 It was noted that the HPC fee would increase in 2009.
 - 4.6 The FHCS subscription is due. As the role and effectiveness of FHCS is unclear, it was agreed to defer payment and ongoing membership.
 - 4.7 Mark Leech from NOWGEN has enquired whether their courses could be integrated into the ACC training programme. It was agreed that this was inappropriate however the high quality of courses was recognised and continuing use as study days endorsed. It was suggested that the study day co-ordinator on ETC works with Mark Leech to identify other course topics.
 - 4.8 DH has written to ACC confirming that it will not be funding any more White Paper trainees but will redirect any unspent money into the 'Modernising Scientist Careers' project.
 - 4.9 Eileen Roberts attended a Modernising Scientist Careers (MSC) meeting on behalf of ETC & ACC. Genetics representatives have expressed concerns over Genetics being placed in the cellular sciences module rather than blood sciences.
 - 4.10 Publications noted: Review of the White Paper, Evaluation of diagnostic laboratory tests & biomarkers, UKGTN first report.

- 4.11 Jacqui Westwood has requested possible standards that could be used in the provider designation process. It was agreed that the CPA assessors on Council would prepare a list for Council circulation.
ACTION: CPA assessors on Council prepare and circulate draft standards list.
- 5 **Education & Training Committee**
Report circulated. No issues arising.
- 6 **Professional Standards Committee**
Report on website. No issues arising.
- 7 **Membership Liaison Committee**
Report circulated. No issues arising.
- 8 **Genetic Technologists**
Report circulated. KT raised concerns over low VRC funds and level of interest from other aspirant groups. It was agreed that AGTC should clarify their position with respect to fulfilling eligibility criteria and potential of pursuing an independent application to HPC.
ACTION: KT to work with AGTC to identify application criteria met and outstanding, intentions of other aspirant groups in continuing with VRC and HPC support for an independent GT application. KT to update Council next meeting.
- 9 **Scientific and Governance items**
Maj Hulten has proposed establishing an ACC working party to collect suitable samples for evaluation of non-invasive prenatal diagnosis techniques. It was agreed that this was in line with research and outwith of the professional organisation.
NQAAP – two ACC members completing terms of office. It was agreed to ask Katie Waters to continue and Tony Parkin to join NQAAP. ACC has been asked to nominate the next NQAAP Chair.
ACTION: KS to contact Katie Waters and Tony Parkin.
- 10 **Networks & European Issues**
Tony Parkin and Ros Hastings are liaising with Heads of Laboratories about reference materials for array CGH. NIBSC had volunteered to produce reference materials if there was sufficient demand. It was suggested that this might be a task for the National Genetics Reference Laboratories.
- 11 **Report back from external meetings**
JCMG – Response to the House of Lords call for evidence on Genomic Medicine. Public Health Genetics Unit (PHGU) publication on genetic ophthalmology. PHGU meeting on free fetal nucleic acids for non-invasive prenatal diagnosis. NIHR – no clear funding stream for R&D in diagnostic laboratories. BSHG - Response to the House of Lords call for evidence on Genomic Medicine and Ministry of Justice data sharing enquiry. BSHG will promote gift aid as source of extra income. Proposal for Executive Officer post however concerns raised over breadth of remit so job description will be redrafted. GenCAG – DH rewriting Terms of Reference. No Quality Marker survey for 07/08. The Genetics Definition set no 20 is being reviewed - Katie Waters has volunteered to contribute for cytogenetics. Katie Waters at end of term of office – Tony Parkin proposed as new GenCAG representative.
ACTION: KS to invite Tony Parkin to represent ACC.
NGRL – It was agreed that a higher level of communication and consultation was needed from NGRL.
FASP – new FASP guidelines and NICE antenatal guideline weblink had been circulated to all Heads of Laboratories.
- CMGS representatives (Graham Taylor, David Baty & Anneke Seller) and MSC representatives (Graham Beastall & Nicky Fleming) joined the meeting.*
MSC representatives gave a presentation on the current proposals for MSC.
Graham Beastall, Nicky Fleming, Val Davison, Lorraine Gaunt & Anneke Seller left the meeting to attend a MSC meeting with Chief Scientific Officer and MSC lead.
Graham Taylor and David Baty agreed to joint ACC/CMGS responses, representation and position for all MSC issues. *Graham Taylor and David Baty left the meeting.*
- 12 **Treasurers Report**
ADM working with JW.

- 13 **Correspondence / Applications for Membership**
16 applications – all agreed by TD & KS.
- 14 **Matters Arising**
It was agreed to defer further work on Associate Practitioner role until MSC structures better defined.
Nominations for President were required.
- 15 **Any Other Business**
The timing of a Heads of Departments meeting was discussed and agreed to schedule when more detail on MSC is available.
It was agreed that MLC should distribute an agreed summary of Council issues, after each meeting, to update the membership. Agreed updates could also be printed in the ACC/BSHG newsletter.
MLC agreed to contribute to National Pathology Week.
- 16 **Next Meeting**
Tuesday 2nd Sep 2008
Canterbury Hall, London

The meeting closed at 4pm