



The Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists

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

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ACC Council Meeting
ACB Offices, Tooley Street, London
Tuesday 5th September 2006

Tony Parkin	Chairman
Teresa Davies	Secretary
John Wolstenholme (JWo)	Treasurer
Rob Morgan	Assistant Secretary

Jonathan Waters	Kim Smith	Gordon Lowther
John Crolla	Sandra Birdsall	Chris Wragg
Stephen Mountford	Karen Thompson	Suzanne M ^c Phee
Simon M ^c Cullough	Fiona Harding	Mandeep Bahra
Amanda Dixon-McIver	Hazel Harvey-Smith	Val Davison
Rod Howell	Lorraine Gaunt	Ros Hastings

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Maj Hulten, Peter Howard, Michelle Fenlon and Edna Maltby. TP welcomed new ordinary members elected to the Council, Sandra Birdsall, Amanda Dixon-McIver, Peter Howard and Kim Smith and the new members of the JLC, Mandeep Bahra, Stephen Mountford and Suzanne M^cPhee.</p> <p>Karen Thompson was welcomed as the first elected Technologist member of Council.</p> <p>All members of Council were reminded by TP that all proceedings are confidential, as are all draft minutes and papers circulated to Council members.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2006</p> <p>Add Ros Hastings to the list of attendees.</p> <p>3.2 Change £250 to £510</p> <p>4 Delete bracketed sentence in Paragraph headed Executive.</p> <p>5.1 Change sentence beginning ‘The role of the junior representative....’ to ‘The role of the junior representative would be to advise on post registration training issues.’</p> <p>Change ‘....– this needs to be picked up urgently as training needs to be formalised.’ to ‘Genetic Technologist representative will be Sarah Keyne.’</p> <p>5.7 Delete second sentence.</p> <p>6.1 Change ‘...but some ACS help...’ to ‘...but some ACS assessor help...’</p> <p>7.4 Change final sentence to read ‘It is the remit of the Best Practice group to counsel the appropriate grade for authorising reports.’</p> <p>8 Delete sentence beginning ‘Louise Newport ...’</p> <p>8 Amend last sentence to read ‘Katie Waters is leading the ACCs work on tariffs and has suggested that they could be piloted during 2007.’</p> <p>9.2 Amend to read ‘A paper on the CVS database is to appear in Prenatal Diagnosis’</p>

	9.31 insert ‘...to be applied in the laboratory...’ after ‘Expect ISCN 2005...’ 10 Correct numbering
3	Chairs report
3.1	<p>Association of Clinical Scientists ACS met on 11 July. There was a report from the ACS training lead, Derek Pearson, who is also a member of the DH Clinical Scientists think tank. He tabled a generic Clinical Scientist Scope of Practice. There was discussion of new models of training, possibly following the medical model, 3 years leading to a first degree, followed by 3 years to registration. The exit qualification could be a ‘Professional Doctorate’ with academic and validated work components. Trainees could receive either a salary or a bursary. It is not yet clear how this would deliver the workforce plan.</p> <p>HPC was expected to audit the ACS this year, but this has not happened so far.</p> <p>There are 3983 registered Clinical Scientists, of which 477 are registered in Genetics. There are 518 registered Clinical Scientists with no recognised modality. The ACS is working with HPC to consider options for this group.</p> <p>ACS have published a draft set of descriptors for consistency in assessment across disciplines. These will be discussed at the next assessors meeting on 23 November.</p> <p>The ACC has paid £720.00 subscription to ACS.</p>
3.2	<p>FHCS JWa attended the meeting on 13 July.</p> <p>There was discussion of PbR, which was very much a scoping exercise. Version 4 is to be published in January and it will include pathology tests. The Carter report also mentions PbR for pathology. There was some exploration of how tariffs may get paid for in Molecular Genetics and Cytogenetics, and some members of GenCAG expressed the view that tests should be seen as an overhead, although Council felt that this would not be good for the Cytogenetics laboratories.</p> <p>The Career Framework Pathway was being used as a model, but not much progress has been made as more attention has been paid to SfH and training.</p>
3.3	<p>JCMG No meeting</p>
3.4	<p>BSHG No meeting</p>
3.5	<p>Antenatal Screening – Work Standards Draft Consultation Document The draft Down’s Screening Document has been published by the National Screening Committee. Responses are invited by 6th October. Comments made by members of council included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No mention of accreditation of diagnostic laboratories ▪ The main text refers to rapid testing as QF-PCR, while the appendix describes it as QF-PCR, FISH or DNA ▪ High risk is defined as <1 in 250 in appendix, may affect technology transfer ▪ QF-PCR on CVS not fully validated yet

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ? exclusion of sex chromosome abnormalities <p>JCo reported that JCMG has had its deadline extended until after its next meeting.</p> <p>Action John Wolstenholme to consolidate ACC response</p>
3.6	<p>White Paper Review</p> <p>A small working party is to produce the ACC's input into the review. This will be chaired by Val Davison, other members are Jonathan Waters, Kim Smith and Tony Parkin.</p> <p>JCMG has had its deadline extended for this also, until after their next meeting.</p> <p>JCo reported that there will be no new money available, but there has been an under spend on scientific recruitment and IT, and we may be able to get this money re-allocated. The professions also need to ask for funding to be picked up by PCTs. It may also be worth pointing out that the White Paper appeared to be aimed at Molecular genetics and may not have served Cytogenetics very well.</p>
3.7	<p>UKGTN</p> <p>John Barber could not attend the meeting, but asked if the invitation to cytogenetics laboratories could be sent out. This invitation has still not been sent out. UKGTN is currently expecting tests for single genes, and is excluding arrays and karyotyping. A sub-committee is to report on array testing.</p>
3.8	<p>Registration of non-medical professionals</p> <p>The <u>Foster review</u> makes the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-validation of registration for professionals, which should be formative and summative, based on KSF and undertaken by employers. ▪ Relevant post-registration qualifications should be recorded on the register ▪ Role for the professional bodies, in leadership and standard setting and they should work with their regulatory bodies e.g. HPC
3.9	<p>Developing UK Genetic Services</p> <p>The paper by Rob Elles was distributed to council members prior to the meeting. It discusses providing services to the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) which have been recognised by the DTI and DH as large and growing economies, as possible trading partners. Comments on the paper from ACC would be welcomed.</p> <p>Points discussed included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economy of numbers ▪ Scoping including expansion of service and clinical gate keeping ▪ Duty to NHS patients ▪ Provision of training rather than service ▪ Reporting and invoicing alongside NHS service <p>Action TP to summarise points and circulate to council and Rob Elles</p>
3.10	<p>Manchester IT project</p> <p>Andrew Devereau (NGRL Manchester) has met with Connecting for Health to agree data transfer standards.</p>
3.11	<p>AGM York</p> <p>A number of rule changes have been proposed, only one response has been received which proposed a change in the wording to include private laboratories, this will be raised at the AGM. Reports to the AGM should be circulated in advance.</p> <p>Action All reports to be circulated to TP, TD and RM</p>
4	<p>New Chair Person</p> <p>Kim Smith was nominated as the new Chairperson for Council.</p>

	<p>Nominated by Tony Parkin Seconded Lorraine Gaunt VD expressed the thanks of the trustees to Tony Parkin who has worked tirelessly in the background on behalf of the ACC.</p>
5	<p>Education and Training Committee Report presented by Kim Smith</p>
5.1	<p>Modernising Training Two meetings have been held between Clinical Scientists and Andrew Butcher (Skills for Health) and Sue Hill (DH). Andrew Butcher has produced a Scope of Practice for Clinical Scientists at the point of registration, based on work done by the CS think tank at the DH. The initial response from the professions has been cautious. Sue Hill would like to see a more flexible force, receiving as much generic training as possible. Some training would be the same across all CS groups; there would then be some generic training across e.g. the Life Science group (Genetics, Biochemistry, etc) and then specialist training e.g. Genetics. This was put to Clinical Scientists, and there was discussion about whether this would produce scientists fit for registration. Genetics is to act as pilot for the new training structure. By the end of September areas of common training at all levels need to be agreed, and the location of the training (which can be done in the laboratory and which in a University). LG has produced a scope of practice for consultant clinical cytogeneticists (circulated prior to meeting) and the scope of practice for technical staff has been debated and agreed. There will be an all clinical scientists meeting in October, to attempt to agree the best training package that can be used for all clinical scientists. It will then be entered as a bid for the government spending plan in January 2007. The ETC and CMGS TAB have broken down the training into a list of topics at each level, this was distributed prior to council. Workforce planning will match the numbers of recruits to the numbers of consultants (allowing for drop out), although there may need to be an expansion in the number of consultant scientists in cytogenetics. The first recruits could be enrolled in 2008, but it is thought more likely to be 2009, with the first trainees registering in 2012. Action All comments to Kim Smith on spreadsheet by September 19th.</p>
5.2	<p>Revised scientist training programme This was launched on 31 August. The programme and all documentation are on the ETC website. Those who are early in training can swap, if not it is best to stay on the programme they are on.</p>
5.3	<p>Technical Training Val Davison, Sarah King, Michelle Fenlon and Marcus Allen have produced the first draft of the technical training programme, which is linked to the NOS. Sarah King and Marcus Allen are to ensure that there is comparability between the Molecular Genetic and Cytogenetics components. Val Davison reported that the full time trainer was helping. The draft is to be reviewed by ETC then circulated to Council.</p>
5.4	<p>Other Training News The IDEAS knowledge Park will no longer provide MRCPPath training for cytogenetics, but their training material is on the ETC website. NOWGen (Helen Middleton-Price) is to provide some training for cytogeneticists. The courses</p>

	<p>are to be 2 days, and can be attended on either or both days.</p> <p>JWo enquired about continued funding for the National Training Officer, as there will be a necessity to intake trainees up to 2008 (to complete training in 2011), TP reported that he has signed 5 PCCCs since the last meeting.</p>
5.5	<p>Eurogentest Training</p> <p>RHa reported that this is at a basic level, but does have some good parts. The ETC will look at it. It will be in the final form at the end of the year.</p> <p>Action ETC and Ros Hastings to work on response</p>
6	<p>Technologists Report</p>
6.1	<p>Study Day 28 June</p> <p>This went well and the presentations are on the ACC website.</p>
6.2	<p>AGTC 16 August</p> <p>Karen was welcomed to Council. There were three expressions of interest from Cytogenetic technologists. This would leave the AGTC with 4 ACC members and 6 CMGS members. One of the CMGS members has offered to represent cytogeneticists, if Council approved, this was agreed.</p> <p>Action TD to inform</p>
6.3	<p>Contacts</p> <p>A list of laboratory contacts is to be drawn up to facilitate communication with Technologist staff .</p>
6.4	<p>Website</p> <p>This is to be discussed at the next AGTC meeting. If separate it will cost £94.00, or could be hosted on the ACC/CMGS websites. It was agreed that some could be hosted on the ACC website.</p>
6.5	<p>Membership applications</p> <p>There have been none so far</p>
6.6	<p>VRC</p> <p>This has now been accepted. Thanks were recorded for Michelle Fenlon for the work she has put in.</p>
7.0	<p>Professional Standards Committee</p>
7.1	<p>General Guidelines</p> <p>RHo reported that these were not yet ready for approval.</p>
7.2	<p>CVS and Haemato-Oncology Guidelines</p> <p>Council discussed these and some amendments suggested. The guidelines were returned to PSC to incorporate these comments.</p>
7.3	<p>Document Control and Corporate Identity</p> <p>LG suggested that there should be an ACC template for the Professional Guideline and other official ACC documents. It was also suggested that there should be some document control.</p> <p>Action Kim Smith to produce document template.</p>
7.4	<p>Audit (Part 1 data)</p> <p>The forms are with the chair of PSC.</p> <p>Action TP to contact Edna Maltby</p>
8	<p>GenCAG</p> <p>GenCAG have not met since the last council meeting.</p> <p>The DH is waiting for guidance on reporting time targets, which can be used as quality markers.</p> <p>There has been no progress on tariffs, and their development seems to be on hold. SCOBEC and</p>

	UKGTN are piloting the molecular tariffs. Katie Waters is discussing cytogenetic tariffs with Jackie Westwood.
9	Scientific items/UKNEQAS/UKCCG LG has joined the NEQAS steering group. An overseas assessor has been recruited from Portugal. ISCN 2005 must be used from October 2006. The ALL round has been delayed.
10	Report back from meetings
10.1	RCPATH There has been no meeting. LG has been re-adopted to SAC. MRCPATH Part 1, four people gained part 1. The examiners are meeting in November to review the exam. From 2007 the written paper will be in the Spring and the practical paper in Autumn. Feed back from this years exam will appear in the Newsletter.
10.2	JCMG There has been no meeting.
10.3	BSHG There has been no meeting.
11	JLC Report Information on study groups has been updated on the ETC website . An information letter for trainees has been written. JLC have organised a meeting before the AGM at BSHG, TP is to talk about the ACC and the JLC will talk about the role of the JLC. The JLC will be present at the training meeting in October. SM thanked the retiring members of the JLC and ADMs partner for producing the JLC flyers. A draft JLC remit was circulated to council. Action KS and JLC to refine remit.
12	Treasurer's report
12.1	ACC accounts The accounts remain healthy, and have been signed off by the auditors. They are now ready for approval at the AGM. A few items require completing from the Spring Conference, and there are two outstanding cheques.
12.2	Travel awards There have been no applications.
12.3	Bursaries There was discussion about the provision of a bursary for research to fund a fulltime PhD. Studentship. This may make take more than the ACC can afford. Action JCo to bring options to the next meeting.
12.4	ECA JWo is to be the new treasurer of the ECA.
13	Correspondence Anne Jackson has written inquiring about the Chartered Scientist award which is now available from the ACB. ACC has no plans to pursue this at present.
14	Applications for membership No applications since the last council meeting
15	Matters arising from previous meeting

15.1	CMGS The approach to CMGS about reciprocal attendance at each others meetings has been deferred.
15.2	KSF These have been circulated. They are not prescriptive and can be adapted for local use. JWa laboratory are willing to share their outline. Action Contact JWa by e-mail if required.
15.3	Structure of Council The structure of Council document needs finalising. The location of sub-committee remits needs recording, and details on how sub-committee members are chosen are needed. The remits need collating and putting into the same corporate style. Action: PH
15.4	Scottish Forum for Healthcare Science GL circulated a report from the SFHCS AGM held in August.
15.5	Calman Review This is the Scottish version of the Genetics White Paper. It provides £10 million for genetics, of which £1.4 million is earmarked for cytogenetics. It provides central funding for cytogenetics and states a commitment to training.
16	Any other business RoHa reported that the OECD guidelines on terminology may be a useful tool.
17	Date and Venue of Next Meeting 5 th December – Cartwright Hall, London 2007 Council meetings will be held on:- Tuesday March 6th Tuesday June 5th Tuesday September 4 th Tuesday December 4 th
18	Tony Parkin thanked Michelle Fenlon, Lorraine Gaunt, Hazel Harvey-Smith and Chris Wragg who were all standing down.
	The meeting closed at 4pm