



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### MINUTES

**ACC Spring Conference, Maritime Museum, Liverpool  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008**

The meeting was held in the presence of >100 members.

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Teresa Davies, Rob Morgan & Gordon Lowther.

**2 Minutes of the previous AGM held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Agreed.

**3 Chairs Report**

See presentation

**3.1 Modernising Scientist Careers (MSC)**

This project aims to change the structure of Healthcare Scientist (HCS) Training and produce a more flexible workforce. The project is led by Professors Sue Hill (Chief Scientific Officer at DH) and Shelley Heard (MSC Lead and Director of Training at Royal College of Pathologists). The proposal is to replace the current clinical scientist training and the proposed technologist training with the following single structure training and career pathway:

- support workers (career grades 1-4)
- Pre-registration training posts – competitive entry at degree level. Training to include a significant period of rotation through several disciplines within healthcare group (eg life sciences) and a period of specialist training. Successful completion of training will lead to first registration and application for posts within their chosen speciality.
- Registered individuals can apply for fast track Higher Specialist Trainee (HST) positions – these will be five year fixed term, funded posts with dedicated training time leading to FRCPath (Parts 1 and 2) and higher registration. Individuals with MRCPPath and higher registration are eligible for consultant grade posts. As such, the number of HST posts will be workforce managed against the number of anticipated consultant post vacancies.
- Alternatively, registered individuals can apply for permanent establishment posts. These individuals will undertake service work. It will be possible to work towards MRCPPath and higher registration over a longer period whilst undertaking service work.

The MSC leads plan to pilot the new structure in selected locations in 2009 and launch in England in 2012.

The ACC is participating in all MSC consultation meetings and giving feedback on the proposals, highlighting concerns and issues. MSC plans to circulate a consultation document on the proposed structure in May/June – this will be circulated to all Heads of Laboratories for comments and these will be collated into the ACC response.

**3.2 Registration**

**Clinical Scientist Registration** - ACS assessments will now operate to a fixed date timetable (15<sup>th</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> August & 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008) – details can be found on the ACS website. Fees will increase in 2009.

**Genetic Technologist Registration** – the Department of Health has slowed the application process for this group in view of the future MSC changes and need to link into the new system.

**3.3 ACC Research Project Grants**

Two grants were awarded in 2007 – Array CGH Studies in X-linked mental retardation (Birmingham) and non-invasive prenatal diagnosis (Nottingham).

ACC currently inviting applications for the second round of grant funding (details on ACC website - deadline July 2008)

### 3.4 **Updates and consultations**

- Update on use and funding of array CGH for UKGTN / DH
- House of Lords Science & Technology Committee – call for evidence on Genomic Medicine
- DH Health Care and Associated Professions (No 2 order 2008)
- Ministry of justice – Use & sharing of personal information in the public and private sectors

### 3.5 **National Assessor Scheme**

ACC endorses the Royal College of Pathologists proposal to continue the use of DH recognised external assessors in recruiting staff for posts at AfC Band 7 and above. The recommendation is for one external DH assessor for posts at AfC 7, 8a & 8b and two external DH assessors for 8c and above.

### 3.6 **Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme (FASP)**

Down syndrome screening and ultrasound screening have merged into the Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme. New guidelines from NICE and FASP are scheduled for publication in Spring 2008.

### 3.7 **Council Committees**

Council consists of:

- Elected members
- Chairs of Sub-committees
- Representatives of affiliated groups (eg AGTC)
- Trustees
- President

Standing sub-committees are:

- Education & Training
- Professional Standards
- Membership Liaison

Members of Council and the sub-committees were thanked for their work and time for the ACC. Gordon Lowther, Ros Hastings, Simon McCullough were thanked for their contributions as Council Members.

John Wolstenholme was thanked for his work and time, especially the many years of acting as ACC Treasurer. Treasurer activities will be shared between John and Amanda Dixon-Mclver for one year as part of the handover process.

## 4 **Education & Training Committee Report**

See presentation

## 5 **Professional Standards Committee Report**

See presentation

## 6 **Membership Liaison Committee Report**

See presentation

## 7 **Genetic Technologists' Report**

See presentation

## 8 **Treasurer's Report**

- **The Financial statements** for year ended 31 December 2007 were presented.
- **Adoption of Accounts** The accounts were audited by Wilkins Kennedy. The accounts remain healthy. Proposal to adopt accounts: Proposed by Carolyn Campbell, Seconded by Peter Howard. Passed unanimously.
- **Travel Awards**  
There have been no recent requests in the last financial year.
- **Research Project Grants**  
Two research project grants have been awarded in the past year.
- **Reappointment of Auditors**  
Proposed by Una Maye, Seconded by Val Davison. Passed unanimously.

## 9 **Correspondence**

Notification of future Spring Meetings: Edinburgh April 2009 & Oxford April 2010

10 **Matters arising** – none

11 **Any other business**

The death of John Edwards was noted and his great contribution to Clinical Genetics acknowledged.

12 **Next AGM**

ACC Spring Conference, Edinburgh, 2009

The meeting closed at 12.30pm