

West Midlands Region of the Association of Clinical Biochemists

**Minutes of 54th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2005,
Austin Court, Birmingham, 6.15 pm.**

Apologies of absence received from

A. Green, F. Mackenzie, J. Middle, J. French, P. Clark, S. Barber, G. Holder, A. Munro, S. Smith, M Petchey, D. Andrews, E. Legg, B. Bartlett, P. Gosling.

Minutes of the 53rd AGM 9th March 2004

The minutes were approved as a true record.

Copies of the 2004 minutes and annual reports are available at www.acbwm.org.uk

Matters arising from the minutes

None.

Chairman's Report (Dr J. Berg)

Written report was presented.

J. Berg stated that this year the committee had focused on the organisation of the scientific meetings, and that it had not been easy to get a good level of attendance.

The other main event in the region this year was Focus 2004, which was very successful, with good attendance, an excellent exhibition and scientific program and it also generated a lot of income for the ACB.

On the wider agenda, there has been limited impact on Pathology modernisation; this is especially difficult, as there are many disciplines within pathology. He commented that networking within the region is behind most others, and the SHA has only had infrequent meetings.

Secretary's Report (Mrs C. Darby)

Written report was presented.

There is a new position on the committee "Promoting laboratory medicine" for which D. Kennedy has been co-opted onto the committee for 3 years.

Meeting Secretary's Report (Dr. D. Kennedy)

Written report presented.

There have just been two meetings this year, one of which was at Austin Court for which feedback suggested a very good venue and hence we will be using it again.

There were few Biomedical scientists at the first meeting, therefore D. Kennedy had a specific aim to get more BMSs to the audit meeting (targeted via e-mail). Audit meeting had very good attendance, feedback, and there were no complaints regarding the charge for the meeting.

Overall he felt that meetings have been successful with good feedback.

P. Griffiths asked what his new PLM role would involve; D. Kennedy said that he had no information from the ACB yet so he was unsure. J. Smith said that there had not been many meetings so far, but there is likely to be one at Focus 2005. She also stated that LTOL is part of PLM and had been very successful

Treasurer's Report (Dr K. Evans)

A written report was presented. Accounts are very healthy at the moment, mainly due to successful audit meeting. D. Kennedy has also been successful at getting sponsorship for the scientific meetings. Peter Price was re-appointed as auditor.

Proposed: J. Smith

Seconded: D. Vallance

D. Bullock asked if the ACB could get hold of regional ACB money if they wanted to. It was agreed that this was very unlikely to happen.

Regional tutor's Report (Dr D. Vallance)

Written report was presented.

D. Vallance congratulated E. Legg and B. Bartlett on their hard work in getting more trainees in the region, there are now 5 trainees per year.

P. Griffiths said that they are currently reviewing the situation for paediatric training, looking at the length of time, etc. However it is important for the grade As to spend time at BCH.

ACB national training course was a success, and the region would be happy to organise it again in three years time.

D. Vallance thanked E. Legg for his time as regional tutor. He also reminded heads of departments to let himself or C. Ford know if they appoint any Grade B positions.

Workforce Planning Advisor (Dr C. Ford)

Written report was presented.

C. Ford asked to let her know of any new Grade B appointments, as she maintains a list of all Grade Bs in training (pre Part 1).

J. Berg asked how many meetings a year they were, C. Ford that there are 2 meetings (May and November).

Council Member (Dr J. Middle)

Not present - a written report was submitted.

J. Smith said that the change of name of the association would be proposed at the AGM at Focus 2005. An article on Code of Conduct will appear in the ACB news soon.

J. Berg stated that the work of the association was well represented in the ACB news.

Federation of Clinical Scientists Report (Mr.N. Anderson)

Written report was presented.

N. Anderson said that this year has been all about Agenda for Change. There is a comprehensive list of regional FCS representatives that have been developed (e-mail contact). He stated that AfC is still evolving, and new profiles are to come out soon. He suggested looking at final agreement on website. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/09/94/23/04099423.pdf>

D. Bullock asked if there was only generic job descriptions available, and if specialist jobs should wait before producing job description.

J. Smith said that the purpose of the generic JD was to minimise work for individual labs, she also suggested holding back with specialist JD until specifically asked for and then get help.

P. Griffiths asked if the ACB would be providing KSF information.

J. Smith said that there has been a meeting this week to match the NOS/KSF, a draft document will then be produced which will go out for consultation in the summer.

Further information on pension changes can be found on website.

http://www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndConditions/nhs_pension_scheme_review.asp

Trainee's Representative (Dr S. Barber)

Not present - a written report was submitted.

J. Berg welcomed new trainees to the region.

Audit (Dr D. Vallance)

Written report was presented.

D. Vallance said that the xanthochromia audit was a good example of the effectiveness of ACB audit group, i.e. audit, guidelines produced and then re-audited.

The ACB audit group is trying to be more formal, and to get adopted by ACB. There are also moves afoot to have a national audit group to include IBMS and RCPATH. J. Smith said that we are working closely with the college in regard to audit.

D. Kennedy asked if xanthochromia audit went to Immunology laboratories as well, D. Vallance said that it definitely did in this region.

Election of new officers

West Midlands Regional Committee Members 2005-2006

Chairman	Dr R. Gama
Vice Chairman	Mr. N. Anderson
Secretary	Mrs. C. Darby
Treasurer	Miss C. Jeffray
Meeting Secretary	Dr J. Middle
Regional Tutor	Dr D. Vallance
Workforce Advisor	Dr C. Ford
Council Member	Dr J. Berg
Federation of Clinical Scientists Representative	Dr N. Anderson
Junior Members Representative	Miss H. Hutton
Ordinary Members	Dr A. Munro
	Ms K. Hall
	Dr. S. Barber

Invited Members

Miss J. Smith	Chair of ACB
Dr S. Smith	ACB Treasurer
Dr. L. Smith	Regional Audit Lead

Any Other Business

J Berg thanked Committee members for their help over the last 2 years. He also thanked E. Legg for all his hard work over the years, and said that a card and his retirement collection will be sent to him.

J. Smith encouraged regional member to apply for money from the Gaddie fund for research projects, trips, etc; details are on the Gaddie website.

J. Smith welcomed 3 new members to the region, Craig Webster, Rachel Raynor and Helen Hawkes.

R. Gama thanked J. Berg for his work as chairman and said that it would be a hard act to follow, but that we had a good team on the committee.