

**Minutes for the West Midlands Region of the Association of Clinical Biochemistry Committee Meeting  
held at Birmingham Research Park, Tuesday 16th March 2010 at 13.00am**

**Members of the Committee**

Prof. A. Fryer	Chairman
Mr. C. Webster	Vice Chairman
Mrs C. Tomkins	Secretary
Dr. J. Middle	Meetings Secretary
Mr. J. Waldron	Treasurer
Dr. O. Driskell	Trainees Committee Representative
Dr R. Webster	Regional Tutor
Dr. D. Vallance	Workforce Advisor
Dr. D. Andrews	FCS Representative
Mr. N. Anderson	Council Member
Dr. A. Munro	Ordinary Member
Mrs K. Gordon	Ordinary Member
Dr. D. Kennedy	Ordinary Member
Miss K. Chatha	Promoting Laboratory Medicine

**Invited Members of Council**

Dr. M. Bignell	Audit Committee
Mr. J. O'Meara	ACB Government Affairs Officer

**Present**

A. Fryer, C Tomkins, J. Middle, J. Waldron, O. Driskell, D. Andrews(part), J O' Meara, M. Bignell, K Chatha (part), D. Vallance

**Apologies**

C. Webster, R. Webster, D. Kennedy, K. Gordon, N. Anderson.

- 1) **Minutes of previous meeting**  
Minutes of last meeting were approved.
- 2) **Matters arising out of the minutes**

Agenda	Action	Action required	Comments	Status
4	MB and TF	Compile a program for the audit meeting/AGM.		Closed 16-03-10
4	MB	Contact Roberta Goodall to ask if she is willing to come to our AGM to present the regional data from the national thyroid audit, and also do a short talk on changes to NHS Pensions, on behalf of FCS.		Closed 16-03-10
4	JM	Liaise with Austin Court and the Research Park Conference facilities for a affordable venue for the June meeting.		Closed 16-03-10

- 3) **Chairman's report**  
A written report was presented. See attached.  
Nominations are invited for Honorary ACB membership (e.g. Emeritus, Fellow, etc) from the region. J. Middle and J. Smith were suggested as nominees.

ACTION: AF to investigate which honorary positions are suitable for which people and nominate.

There is a possibility for Benchmarking data and data from other cost improvement projects could be usefully combined, providing that laboratories are happy for that data to be collected and used.

4) **Scientific meetings**

A written report was presented. See attached.

The November meeting still made a net loss, due to low numbers of delegates. The Birmingham University Research Park conference facility is much cheaper than Austin Court, but only has a maximum capacity of 60 people. Recently we have not had more than this number attending our meetings anyway. The WMACB will need to set up an account with the Research Park, since J. Middle will soon no longer be a member of staff. If he continues to be Meetings' Secretary, D. Bullock at Birmingham Quality will need to be remunerated for costs of printing for meeting documents.

**AGM 2010 (16-3-10):**

A good number have registered for the audit meeting. However there is a lack of more senior members of the profession in the region. This may be a combination of meetings (the Leadership Course) and laboratory responsibilities.

**June Meeting (proposed 16<sup>th</sup> June)**

A tentative booking has been made at the Research Park for this date. AF suggested a theme of pregnancy/fertility/menopause. Sarah Heap, who is working at the Womens' Hospital, was suggested as a possible coordinator.

ACTION: AF to contact S. Heap and/or find someone to lead on the program for the June meeting.

**November Meeting (proposed 17<sup>th</sup> November)**

AF suggested a theme of Intensive Care, in honour of the retirement of Peter Gosling. Ideas for speakers were requested.

ACTION: AF to put together plans for November meeting program.

5) **Regional Audit**

A written report was presented. See attached.

6) **Finance Matters**

A written report was presented. See attached.

7) **Council**

Not present. AF gave a report on behalf of Council.

There are still issues of getting financial and meetings information between the regions and central ACB office. Changes to the membership are also being discussed, there will be a vote at the national AGM regarding the joining of Clinical Microbiologists.

8) **Trainees committee**

A written report was presented. See attached.

It was suggested by DV that at the next change of office, the regional trainees representative should also be the Grade B representative on the MSc committee to ensure coordination. This was agreed to be a good idea.

9) **FCS**

A written report was presented. See attached.

There has recently been a shift in emphasis in FCS matters away from AfC and more towards organizational change, mergers and partnerships. The need for Clinical Scientists is being questioned in some quarters, or roles are being down-banded. There have also been some recent disciplinary cases. Local FCS reps must be recognised by their HR department and thereby accredited.

- 10) **Regional Tutor's Report**  
Not present  
A written report was presented. See attached.
- 11) **Workforce Advisor report**  
A written report was presented. See attached.
- 12) **Website**  
Not present. Written report was submitted as follows:  
Website usage is minimal but this is expected due to its nature. There are slight increases in activity when meetings are advertised. Stability has been much better in the last 6 months, with minimal downtime reported.
- 13) **Clinical Practice Committee**  
Not present.  
A. Munroe has decided to step down at this AGM. Nigel Capps has been nominated for the role Alistair vacates, and will attend the forthcoming CPS committee meeting.
- 14) **Any other business**

Government Affairs Officer:

A written report was presented. See attached.

The original funding for the Media Training has now been used up, however there is still a need for this kind of training. There is a possibility to combine media training with a regional scientific meeting, and/or in collaboration with other organisations. If delegates from other organisations were to pay even below the market value for such training, then that would subsidise ACB members to also do the training.

Possibilities of working more closely with other similar professional organisations are being explored. For example, going out to joint tender for a meeting organizing company would bring down the cost of national meetings, and having joint meetings would probably attract more sponsorship.

Postcards for lobbying prospective Parliamentary candidates in each local ACB region have been prepared. Local champions are needed to get the details of candidates in their area, and be the contact at their local lab for any feedback.

Promoting Laboratory Medicine:

A written report was presented, See attached.

New trainees were encouraged to get involved with promoting laboratory medicine, and to get registered as a STEM ambassador for such events.

Committee:

CT suggested that to save paper and printing costs, the documents for the AGM 2011 would be sent only electronically, and displayed by projector at the AGM for those present. This was agreed to be a good idea.

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th June 2010.**