BRITISH CONGENITAL CARDIAC ASSOCIATION

BCCA Business Meeting

Minutes

Meeting on: Wednesday 21 November 2007
Time: 1645 - 1745
Venue: Royal Armouries, Leeds

1. President’s Report (William Brawn)

Mr William Brawn thanked Dr John Gibbs for his significant contribution to the work of BCCA and its activities over the last four years. More tributes no doubt will be given to John at the BCCA gala dinner, which follows shortly after this meeting!

What does the future hold for BCCA?

There are now over 360 current members, of whom many are paediatricians with an interest in cardiology. This is promising.

However, there is now a need to restructure the way we work, especially, in the light of the Working Time Directive. Proper training, mentoring and job progression in each unit is essential to prevent loss of staff. But it is appreciated that it is not an easy task working in such a political climate.

CCAD – we need to compare data and full representation at a meeting on 18 January 2008 with RCP. Any feedback would be welcome.

2. Minutes of last meeting (Graham Stuart)

Nothing further to add and the minutes were approved.

3. Election Results (Graham Stuart)

Dr Shakeel Qureshi takes over from Mr William Brawn as President-Elect.

Dr Jo de Giovannni and Dr Graham Stuart were re-elected unopposed as Treasurer and Secretary, and will be in post for 2 years and one more year respectively.

Dr Trevor Richens, Dr James Gnanapragasam, and Professor Martin Elliott have all been re-elected for a further 2 year term.

The newly elected members of council are Dr John Simpson (Evelina Children’s Hospital) and Dr Jonathan Parsons (Leeds General Infirmary).
However, the election results have brought about an unprecedented tied result in BCCA’s history between Mrs Kerry Cook (Congenital Cardiac Nurses Association/Coventry University) and Dr Edmund Ladusans (Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital) for the vacant 6th council member position.

After considering various options, council agreed on balance that the only fair way of dealing with this tied result, would be to re-run the election process again just for the two candidates. The ballot papers will be posted out only by hard copy on this occasion, and the process to re-run the election will commence shortly.

There will also be a further election in the new year for co-opted posts. Details will be advertised in due course.

Thank you also to Dr Gurleen Sharland, Dr Frances Bu’Lock and Dr Brian Craig for all their hard work and commitment to BCCA, and are now stepping down from council, having served a four year term.

4. New Members (Graham Stuart)

24 new members have been proposed and seconded. The new members come from a range of different modalities and highlight the increasing breadth of the organisation.

- Dr Susan Rubin, Consultant Paediatrician, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn
- Dr Giles Peek, Consultant Surgeon, Glenfield Hospital
- Dr Jan Marek, Consultant Cardiologist, Great Ormond Street
- Dr Shaffi Mussa, SpR in Cardiac Surgery, Birmingham Children’s Hospital
- Dr Abdul Haium, Clinical Fellow in Paediatric Cardiology, Royal Brompton and Harefield
- Dr James Whitelaw, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist, Glenfield Hospital
- Ms Lucey Babey, Staff Nurse – Cardiothoracic Unit, Southampton General Hospital
- Dr Jan Till, Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Royal Brompton
- Dr Kuberan Pushparajah, SpR Paediatric Cardiology, Leeds General Infirmary
- Dr Jonathan Windram, SpR in Cardiology, Leeds General Infirmary
- Dr Ajay Upponi, SpR Paediatric Cardiology, Leeds General Infirmary
- Dr Aditya Rakhecha, SpR (LAT), Paediatric Cardiology, Leeds General Infirmary
- Dr Simon MacDonald, SpR in Cardiology, John Radcliffe Hospital
- Dr Cyriac Job, Consultant Paediatrician, St John’s Hospital, Chelmsford
- Dr Aidan Bolger, Clinical Fellow ACHD, The Heart Hospital, London
- Dr Maha Mansour, Consultant Neonatologist, Singleton Hospital
- Miss Sheryl Morris, Senior Chief Clinical Physiologist, Singleton Hospital
- Dr Niki Walker, SpR in Cardiology, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow
- Dr M. Tarique Hussain, SpR Paediatric Cardiology, Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow
- Dr Roy Sievers, Consultant Paediatrician, Portsmouth
- Dr Poothirikovil Venugopalan, Consultant Paediatrician, Hartlepool.
- Dr VS Mahadevan, Consultant Cardiologist (ACHD), Manchester
- Dr Jonathan Forsey, Registrar in Paediatric Cardiology, Bristol
- Mrs Alison Heads-Baister, Principal Clinical Physiologist Paediatric Echo, Freeman Hospital

5. Revision of Constitution (Graham Stuart)

Copies of the constitution were circulated to the membership prior to the meeting. Dr Stuart briefly outlined the amendments proposed, which included:
- BCCA are affiliated to the British Cardiovascular Society and not British Cardiac Society, as the BCS have since changed name
- Retired membership category has been added
- Affiliated group category has been added
- Membership subscription fees have increased

The above amendments were approved, and the revised constitution will be placed shortly on the BCCA area of the BCS website.

6. **Organisation of BCCA Annual Scientific Meeting (Graham Stuart)**

330 delegates have registered for this year’s annual meeting.

The event is becoming a major financial undertaking, and some options considered at BCCA Council include:
- holding the event at a different time in the year and perhaps use a cheaper venue (eg. a university)
- approaching the British Cardiovascular Society to help out with the event administration

There is also the issue of insurance if the event was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. A meeting in Sofia was quoted as an example of a major conference which was cancelled due to war conflict at the time, and consequently, the event organisers incurred a great financial loss. Dr de Giovanni is making further enquiries with the BCS about the cost implications.

7. **Core curriculum (John Gibbs)**

Council have spent the money from the BVM grant on this project. The high-tech approach is going to be very expensive for such a specialised event with low attendance from trainees.

However, council are keen for the core curriculum project to continue. Dr Andrew Cook has been appointed as Project Manager and is being funded by British Heart Foundation and other bodies.

Some issues to consider on how to deliver the training:
- the plan is to develop a rolling programme around the country and have 4 - 5 compulsory national training day sessions a year, and release trainees to enable them to attend. There will be some costs involved but hope to make this more affordable.
- BCCA are keen to make current stored material available on-line, though not all of this will be archivable due to the quality. Meetings have been held with BCS. BCS will host the archive material which can then be downloaded at high resolution. Stephen Yeats is leading on this, and BCS are keen to do this.
- Gurleen Sharland and John Gibbs have also met up with the E-Learning for Health (formerly RITI) group. BCCA have pulled out of the project for the time being, due to a lack of resources, but will consider re-joining in future.
- Martin Elliott has reported that CTS Net are looking at a similar on-line project.

8. **SAC Update (Frances Bu’lock)**

With the new curriculum, there are a number of formal assessments required for trainees, and these must be carried out, otherwise departments will get their training funds cut by PMETB etc. All department teams need to be responsible and ensure that these assessments are carried out
9. Reconfiguration of Service Update (John Gibbs)

BCCA have strong support from Department of Health (Roger Boyle and Sheila Shribman), and John Gibbs has written to Lord Darzi.

There was a spirited debate on the need for reconfiguration of services for congenital heart disease. It has been BCCA policy for several years to support a planned service reconfiguration and move to a reduced number of appropriately funded and staffed centres. The Paediatric and Congenital Cardiac Services Review group reinforced this proposal in 2003. In June 2006 there was a follow-up meeting hosted by Sheila Shribman and Roger Boyle (Paediatric and Cardiac “Tzars” at the Department of Health). This meeting was attended by representatives (at least 1) of every unit in the UK. The summary concluded “..we should aim for large centres of excellence with a minimum of five surgeons and eight cardiologists per centre. A transitional stage would be to have joint alliances of current centres.” BCCA Council would welcome comments any on this. If there are dissenting voices then it is important that these voices are heard and views openly debated.

10. Treasurer’s Report (Jo de Giovanni)

There will be an increase in membership subscription fees which has been approved by BCCA council.

To make it easier for members to pay their fees, BCCA are considering the direct debit option as well.

Finances are in reasonably good health.

The total current balance is £55,385.21, but taking into account an outstanding expenditure of £9,725.00 the balance is actually £48,660.21.

11. Madeleine Steel Travel Fellowship (Graham Stuart)

The fellowship is available to benefit the education of BCCA members. £5,000 is available per annum to anyone in the field of paediatric cardiology, however the fellowship should be linked to a centre in North America. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2008, and need to be submitted to Graham Stuart. All applications will be considered at the next BCCA Council meeting in February 2008. Further details can be found on the BCCA website.

12. BCS Annual Scientific Conference 2008 (Jo de Giovanni)

BCCA will be involved in 3 sessions, including 2 joint sessions:
- 1 on follow up
- 1 session with BCIS (standards and leaks)
- Teach-in with imaging group session for the trainees

13. BCCA Annual Scientific Meeting 2008 (William Brawn)

Birmingham will be hosting next year’s annual meeting from 19-20 November 2008.
14. **Future BCCA Annual Scientific Meetings 2009/2010**

Discussions are underway with Liverpool or Manchester suggested for 2009. Oxford has been noted for 2010!

15. **Any other business**

No further business and the meeting closed at 18.00.