

## **Minutes of BJCA national committee meeting September 2002**

**Date:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2002  
**Venue:** British Cardiac Society, Fitzroy Square, London  
**Attendees:** Paul Kalra  
John Greenwood  
Andrew McGavigan  
Raj Khiani  
Zaheer Yousef  
Grant Heatlie  
Rosie Swallow  
Kate English  
Helen Simpson  
Claire Hammond  
Philip Spurrell  
Andrew Wragg

1. Representatives from Scotland and Wales and 8 deaneries in England were present.
2. Paul Kalra opened the meeting outlining the history of the BJCA, its structure and its relationship with the BCS who currently provide financial and administrative support for the BJCA. Proposed changes to the structure of the BCS were also discussed, and in particular a proposed expansion of membership to include affiliated groups thereby providing a stronger voice representing UK Cardiology. The BCS is extremely keen to attract trainees to its membership. Whilst it was acknowledged that it is important to support the proposed structural changes within the BCS, it was agreed that a specific group (i.e. the BJCA) representing the needs of trainees was extremely important. It was generally felt that the BJCA was in a strong position to ensure the voice of trainee Cardiologists was heard within the BCS and beyond, and that the BJCA may help mould future BCS policy with respect to training issues.
3. The database of trainees in Cardiology is almost complete, with all bar three regions having submitted details of trainees including email addresses. The three remaining regions will be contacted to ensure the database is completed as soon as possible. It was felt that this was a considerable resource allowing the Association to disseminate information quickly and canvas opinion directly.
4. It was agreed that the creation of an annual national meeting for Cardiologists in Training should be the major focus for the Association. This meeting represents a unique opportunity to combine discussions on pertinent training issues, an innovative educational programme and social gathering. It was agreed that the meeting should be open to all trainees including SpRs, Research Fellows, LAT, LAS and VTNs. The Committee discussed ways of funding such an event and agreed that external funding would be required.

5. As such, representatives from ACADEMIA (a non-profit making subsidiary of B Braun Ltd) and B Braun Ltd (a surgical supplies and device company) were invited to discuss a potential partnership/sponsoring of a national meeting. They have helped organised similar national meetings for the association of surgeons in training (ASIT) and the partnership in this regard has been very successful. It was made clear that funding is from ACADEMIA, which is a non-profit making organisation created to further medical education and training, and that no direct marketing will be employed by B Braun Ltd. They outlined the support they were prepared to offer which included conference facilities at their Sheffield offices and accommodation/catering for attendees. The degree of support was open for negotiation. ACADEMIA and B Braun were keen to ensure that the meeting was a success and that a partnership could be developed over several years. The Committee agreed that we should accept ACADEMIA's offer of financial and logistical help in setting up the first meeting, and that this meeting should be somewhere in the Midlands/Northern England. Kate English volunteered to liaise with ACADEMIA, who will provide her with details of venues they are willing to fully support financially. The venue will therefore be decided within the next few weeks.
6. The format for the meeting was decided as arrival on Friday night with drinks/buffet, scientific meeting on Saturday with evening reception and home on Sunday. To keep costs down, it was felt inappropriate to include partners and children. The date of the first meeting was discussed and the weekend starting Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2003 was decided upon. Success of the first meeting is essential and will relate to programme (and speakers), venue and cost. The Committee felt that the first meeting should be free of charge or have a nominal fee, so as to encourage attendance. It was felt that endorsement of the meeting by the BCS would help encourage participation. Paul Kalra will write to Professor Camm and Dr Mike Petch (BCS education committee) to obtain the Societies approval. Recognition of the meeting as an integral component of training (along the lines of pan-Thames training day in London) would also attract delegates. It was also felt that the speakers must be of the highest calibre. Suggestions included Prof John Camm and Dr Keith Dawkins. A debate along the lines of "CCU is for cardiologists and not general physicians", and discussions/presentations e.g. "My first year as a consultant" were suggested. Early advertising was felt to be imperative and it is anticipated that the final venue and programme should be confirmed by the end of this year with the first mail shot occurring in the New Year. Further advertising will take place at the Trainees' day at the BCS AGM.
7. Andrew Wragg outlined the proposals by the RCP/SAC on training, in particular the new curriculum and methods of assessment and it was felt that the BJCA might have a valuable role in shaping this. Close links will be maintained with Andrew Wragg's successor to enable dissemination of information to trainees.
8. New appointments for various positions were agreed:  
Rosie Swallow was elected to sit on the BCS Education Committee  
Helen Simpson was elected to sit on the SAC alongside John Greenwood.

It was also felt desirable that a member of the BJCA should sit on other Committees of the BCS and affiliated societies to ensure a strong voice for Cardiology Trainees. In this respect Paul Kalra will write to BCIS, BPEG and BSE to request that one of our Committee members could attend their meetings.

9. Zaheer Yousef was elected as Treasurer and will open a Bank Account in the name of the BJCA. It was agreed that pharmaceutical sponsorship would be needed in the future to meet the administrative costs of the Association.
10. All members of the Committee will keep in touch electronically and will help in the organisation of the National meeting in June. The next meeting of the Committee would be at the AGM of the BCS in April 2003.

Andrew McGavigan