British Junior Cardiologists’ Association
Minutes of the council meeting held
Monday 28th April 2003

Venue: British Cardiac Society Annual Scientific Conference
Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow

Chair: Dr Paul Kalra, President

Present: Paul Kalra, John Greenwood, Kate English, Clare Hammond, Shrilla Banerjee, Duncan Hogg, Raj Khiani, Darrel Francis, Grant Heatlie, Rosie Swallow, Andrew McGavigan, Phil Spurrell, Saul Myerson

Apologies for absence: Matt Faircloth, Andrew Sutton

Annual Meeting: Kate English gave a summary of her progress so far in planning the inaugural BJCA meeting, which will become an annual event. She reported that everything was going well (all speakers confirmed) although there had been some issues surrounding funding. Lilly have agreed to come on board as a sponsor but it will be necessary to charge £75 per head for those attending. Funding is still being sought for drinks and prizes.

A flyer for the meeting will be placed on the BJCA stand at the BCS conference and a flyer emailed to deanery representatives for distribution to BJCA members after BCS conference.

A rough programme was discussed and it was agreed that Friday evening should be an informal social event with the meeting officially opening on Saturday. There will be abstracts and speakers all day on Saturday, and beginning again on Sunday morning at 10am. Saturday night’s entertainment was discussed and KE said that they had decided upon a ‘Who wants to be a Cardiology Millionaire’ type quiz followed by an informal dinner. All approved this idea.

KE said that BJCA committee members would be chairing each of the sessions. All sessions had now been allocated but she still needed someone to chair the EP session with Professor John Camm. Shrilla Banerjee put forward Matt Faircloth and KE will approach him regarding this. Rosie
Swallow volunteered to chair the District General Hospital slot and Phil Spurrell the revascularisation slot.

KE noted that BBraun have provisionally booked 70 rooms in the hotel and they shall be allocated on a first come first served basis.

BJCA committee members were asked to encourage researchers to send in abstracts.

Paul Kalra thanked Kate for her hard work in organising the conference so far.

**Action:** Kate to continue to source areas of funding for the conference and approach Matt Faircloth regarding chairing the EP session. All committee members to encourage researchers to submit abstracts and to forward on flyers for the meeting to BJCA members.

**Financial dealings with pharmaceutical industry:** Paul Kalra raised the issue of financial funding from pharmaceutical companies and wanted to know how the committee wished to stand on this matter. Roche and Astra Zenaca were two companies said to be interested in funding the BJCA as well as Leap Frog Medical an intermediary company. It was decided that there would be many possible financial incentives behind allowing third parties to target BJCA members. It was suggested that multiple companies should be asked to sponsor and exhibit. Kate English also suggested that a company such as Leap Frog should be asked to organise future conferences with industry funding.

**Possible links with British Journal of Cardiology:** Paul Kalra said that he had had discussions with the British Journal of Cardiology regarding possible links. The journal would be interested in receiving articles from the BJCA and place advertisements for BJCA events. They would also mail the journal to all BJCA members. Similar links have been set up with other BCS affiliated groups.

The journal Cardiology News is also interested in receiving articles from BJCA members.

**Action:** Paul Kalra to write to John Camm and Huon Gray regarding these possible links.

**Election to committees/council:** British Society of Echocardiography are interested in having a BJCA member on their council. It was felt it would be appropriate to have someone who was interested in echo (and preferably BSE accredited). Grant Heatlie volunteered and was approved by the committee.

BCIS are also interested in having a BJCA member on their council, for which Phil Spurrell has been standing in. Andrew McGavigan, Andrew Sutton, Shrilla Banerjee, Phil Spurrell were all interested in taking on this position.
They have been invited each to write a paragraph on why they feel they are suitable for the position and members shall vote on it by e-mail. They should send these to John Greenwood.

John Camm has written to Paul Kalra asking for someone from the BJCA to stand on the Speciality Cardiologist Committee for the Royal College of Physicians. Shrilla Banerjee volunteered for this.

Paul Kalra invited people to nominate someone to replace him as his two-year term as president has come to an end. It was unanimously decided that John Greenwood should take over this post and that a replacement should be sought for his replacement as Secretary and also to sit on the SAC.

Clare Hammond volunteered to replace John Greenwood on the SAC committee. Paul Kalra then asked that someone consider taking over John’s position as secretary with a view to taking over as president in two years time. This should be formalized by or at the June AGM.

**Cardiology MSc at Imperial College**: Paul Kalra had been approached by Imperial College to give the BJCA’s backing to an MSc in Cardiology. This course had been previously aimed at foreign students but due to the lack of applicants they have decided to extend it to accommodate UK graduates not keen on leaving clinical medicine. The committee thought that it would be best to leave this to the SAC. John Greenwood believed it had already gone to the SAC for consideration.

**A.O.B**

**75% attendance at meetings**: Raj Khiani was keen to discuss the barriers to SpRs attending study days and the BCS meeting, which they are now required to attend 75% of. The main barriers were believed to be obtaining funding/study leave and the non-cancelling of routine clinical work. RK pointed out that Astra Zeneca only had 100 sponsored places for both SpRs and Consultants making it difficult to for trainees to obtain these places.

RK put forward that the BJCA strive to make consultants aware of the 75% rule so that it will be easier for juniors to obtain study leave in the future. JG pointed out that The SAC would be supportive of the issue of attendance at the BCS annual scientific meeting. If this is felt by anyone to be a particular problem in their Deanery then they should contact JG directly (before next SAC meeting in October). It will be discussed with Peter Mills (new chairman of SAC) and we could suggest that the SAC write to regional STA’s if trainees cannot attend the minimum of 75% of BCS meetings during their training programme.

(Paul Kalra left the meeting at this point to help set up the SAC/trainees session)

The SAC claim that funding for attending study meetings should come from their study leave budget. RK suggested that a method be formulated for
taking better advantage of cancelled industry places. It was felt that it was unlikely that the BJCA could influence this, as it was industry controlled.

**Feedback from committees:** John Greenwood invited feedback from anyone involved in any other groups or councils. It was reported that BCIS had warmly welcomed the BJCA onto their council.

JG requested that anyone who sits on any of the committees write a short summary of the meeting for the BJCA newsletter and website.

**Meeting closed 10.00am**

**Additional Points**
The new Cardiology Curriculum is now available on the JCHMT website (jchmt.org.uk) for all to see.

**Further Contact Details**
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