

Welsh Intensive Care Society

Minutes of Meeting Held on

Wednesday, 6th November 2002

Present:-

Dr George Findlay
Dr Dermot Hughes
Dr David Hope
Dr Richard Self
Dr Chris Thorpe
Dr Anton Saayman
Dr Ed Major
Dr Brian Tehan

Action

1 Apologies

None were received

2 Minutes of Previous meeting

It was pointed out that there are two DHs on the Council, so a request was made to differentiate between them

Point 3b is blank and needs deleting.

No. 9 was changed to read as follows:-

Sepsis Meeting in Cardiff arranged for 4th November.

Dr Findlay has organised this meeting and wanted to promote it as a forum for WICS. WICS Council thought that conflicting interests would make this undesirable.

3 Matters Arising

3a - All Wales Critical Care Development Group

Dr George Findlay and Dr Ed Major reported on the meeting of the Group on 25th October 2002. The Group had received approximately 35 responses to the draft Standards document during the consultation period. These were analysed in detail at the meeting.

Nursing Standards at Level 0 and Level 1 were identified as a particular area of concern and the question of minimum staffing levels will need to be addressed. There were also some issues regarding Professions Allied to Medicine.

The Standards will now be slightly modified regarding these two areas and then formally adopted by the Welsh Assembly. They will then be publicly available.

The next stage is a baseline review and then an implementation plan. The baseline review of existing services will be conducted by the AWCCDG. The Welsh Assembly has produced a document describing managed clinical networks for Critical Care. This was distributed among the Council.

One outstanding issue is the need to define a Standard, or at least describe possible models for "outreach" or ward based critical care. Dr George Findlay and Dr Les Gemmell are preparing a draft document. Dr Findlay has written a letter, as WICS Chairman, supporting the Standards document.

3c - Transport Standards

Dr Ed Major will provide Dr Findlay with the WICS Transport Standard, which he will modernise and provide to the AWCCDG.

EM; GF

4a - Manpower Planning

Dr Major reported on a recent meeting he had attended of the Welsh Assembly's Medical Workforce Development Expert Advisory Group (MWDEAG). The function of this Committee is to match up supply of qualified SpRs to anticipated Consultant vacancies. Dr Major had been invited to a meeting considering the creation of a new CCST post in Emergency Medicine. The Committee approved the establishment of one such post and the training programme will include six months Intensive Care Medicine. Dr Major saw the Committee as a very influential body in terms of creation of new SpR posts. The gateway to the Committee is through the Postgraduate Dean. Dr Major was able to examine the data the Committee had regarding training in Intensive Care Medicine. Their data was completely inaccurate and underestimated both present numbers of clinicians working in Intensive Care and greatly underestimated the future needs for SpRs over the next few years. A table was circulated showing the best estimates that Dr Major could make, both in terms of present establishment and projected needs over the next five years. In particular, he projected the need for 35 WTE Consultants by 2006, representing 105 Consultants working in the field. These figures and the shortfall has been highlighted in a letter to the Postgraduate Dean from Dr Major and the Postgraduate Dean will inform the Committee of these figures.

Council agreed with the various assumptions on which these projections were made and thought that, if anything, the figures were a conservative estimate.

4 Election of Officers

Council unanimously asked Dr David Hope to stand for election as Chairman of WICS, at the next AGM. In the event of his election, Dr Brian Tehan volunteered to take on the post of Treasurer and Dr Richard Self volunteered to become Secretary.

Dr Anton Saayman is leaving the Council and was thanked for his excellent contributions. Dr Paul Temblett will be the next Chair of WITS.

5 Activated Protein C Meeting

Dr Findlay described the recent meeting under the WICS umbrella in Cardiff with representatives on the Assembly, Trusts and other interested parties, regarding funding and logistics for Activated Protein C. The meeting was thought to be a success. The main outcomes were that APC would be considered at the next meeting of the All Wales Prescribing Strategy Group, chaired by Professor George Walker on December 6th. Several people at the meeting requested that WICS produce some guidance on the use of the drug. After some discussion, Council supported a drafting of a position statement on APC. Dr Findlay offered to summarise the recent meetings on the subject.

[GF]

Dr Chris Thorpe will draft a position statement, based on the Intensive Care Society's statement

[CT]

The drafts will be e-mailed to Council before they are approved. Dr Thorpe discussed a proposed audit of the prescribing of APC across Wales. The draft form provided by Dr Findlay was adopted on condition that some alterations be made to reflect the European datasheet. It was suggested that the Pharmacists could be instrumental in performing and policing this audit as long as the information is shared with WICS. Dr Thorpe will approach the relevant people.

[CT]

6 Meeting Secretary's Report

Dr Dermot Hughes announced he has arranged a Summer Scientific Meeting at Portmeirion on 27th and 28th June 2003. He also announced that he had been approached by members of the South West England Intensive Care Group to see whether WICS members might be interested in attending one of their meetings, which are held in Newport. The Council were keen on this idea and await an invitation.

7 Audit Secretary's Report

Dr Tehan had received one request for a grant to help with the travelling. However, the application was incomplete and at very short notice, so it was refused. Dr Ravi Taneja submitted a grant application to Council for £3000, for disposable costs in a study he is designing regarding lymphocyte function. Copies of the grant application were distributed and a decision will be made at the next Council meeting on 15th January 2003.

Council decided to have a regular six monthly review of applications for research and travelling grants. Dr Self will arrange six monthly advertisements with closing dates etc. [RS]

The recent audit of training needs performed by Dr Thorpe has been submitted for publication in the Forum section of Anaesthesia.

8 Treasurer's Report

WICS account is currently in credit at approximately £18,000. There are 54 full members and 13 associate members. [DAH]

Two of the associate members need changing to full members.

9 Any Other Business

Dr Major pointed out that the Education and Training report was omitted from the agenda, but the points he wished to raise had been covered in other items.

Dr Major raised the subject of conflict of interests. He was specifically concerned with the use of WICS mailing list at Topica for non-WICS business and he also indicated that WICS Council members should not be perceived to be too closely related to the pharmaceutical industry. There was some debate about what should or should not go on the Topica mailing list. As the list is unregulated, it is currently at the discretion of the List members with posting rights. (Approved by the WICS Secretary). The general feeling was that this should continue. A disclaimer will be added to the mailing list information section, pointing out that the postings are the individuals' views and not those of WICS or WICS Council. [DAH]

Dr David Hope suggested that to ensure transparency and probity, it would be wise for WICS Council members to keep a register of interests with the WICS secretary. This would be publicly available on request. The Council unanimously supported this idea. [DAH]

10 Date of next meetings

Jan 15th 2003

April 9th 2003

July 2nd 2003

Oct 15th 2003