

Minutes for Welsh Intensive Care Society Council Meeting
Held on 2nd July 2003 at Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

Present

Dave Hope
Ed Major
Chris Thorpe
Brian Tehan
Paul Temblett
George Findlay

Apologies were received from Paul Frost, Richard Self, Dermot Hughes and George Findlay.

Dr Hope was congratulated on his election as Chairman, and Paul Frost on his election to Council.

1. Minutes of last Council Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were passed as correct apart from the omission that Brian Tehan had given his apologies.

2. Matters arising:

Study leave budget for converted posts

There was concern that the Postgraduate Dean had refused Study Leave Budget for recent SHO conversions. Council felt that any trainee should be entitled to funding for Study Leave from the Post Graduate Dean.

Activated Protein C

The minutes from the recent meeting of the All Wales Medicines Prescribing Group were discussed. They appear to be critical of WICS and its efforts to encourage rational prescribing and auditing the use of this drug. Dr Findlay and Dr Hope have spoken to Dr Lam of the Medicines Partnership group to explain that WICS has instigated a national audit of apc use and has produced a position statement. Statement and audit form are on our website and have been publicised through the WICS discussion group. Council members were encouraged to submit all their data to Dr Thorpe and encourage colleagues in other units to do the same. Dr Hope will write to all WICS members and ICU directors with the same message. He will also write to Prof. Walker to try and set the record straight. [action DHope]

Competing Interests Declarations of competing interests have not been forthcoming from all members of council. Council members who have not done so already were asked to send forms to the Secretary in the form of a 3 column table: date, nature of gift and approximate value.

[action DHughes, BT, PF, PT, RS, GF]

3. Election of Officers

Council decided that elections should be held for all offices. Brian Tehan was elected Treasurer, Richard Self was elected Secretary and Chris Thorpe was re-elected audit and research officer. As discussed at the last Council meeting, it was decided to make the organisation of the summer meeting a team-based task. Dr Self volunteered to oversee the academic programme. Council wanted to express its thanks to Sarah Malcolm for the excellent organisation of the Portmeirion meeting. Dr Findlay will ask if she would consider carrying on with the same role for another year. [action GF]

Brian Tehan has agreed to book Portmeirion for 2005 and 2007. [action BT]

A draft programme for the meeting should be available by October '03. [action RS]

4. Treasurer's Report Has recently been reported at the AGM.

5. Audit & Research Officer's Report It was pointed out that Activated Protein C data should be anonymised before being sent to Chris Thorpe to comply with the Data Protection Act. Drs Hope and Findlay will amend the form to include ITU and hospital mortality and post it on the website. [action GF, DH]

Paul Temblett submitted a request for a travelling fellowship grant for an elective study visit to Prof. Gattinoni's unit in Milan. Council agreed in principle to the request. He will contact the treasurer with an estimate of his costs. [action PT]

6. Training Report Three CCST posts have been advertised and we are awaiting response. One post is to start on the 1st December 2003 and two posts on 1st February 2004.

Nine posts have been converted from Trust posts to SHO posts, three in Morrision and six in Llandough. All posts have ICM approval and provisional RCA approval pending the next college visits.

7. WITS Chairman's Report The Vale meeting was very successful. Hywel Roberts has been elected secretary to WITS. There is a plan to have a further meeting next year as a stand-alone meeting. Council took the opportunity to congratulate Paul on the quality of the meeting.

8. Any Other Business

- a) NICE have asked WICS for help on guidance for Activated Protein C use and it was agreed that this would be a good idea. We are to communicate with the other bodies involved to provide a joint submission. Dr Findlay is going to email Saxon Ridley initially to suggest a joint approach and Dr Hope is to reply to NICE in the affirmative. [action DH, GF]
- b) Letter about difficulties experienced in transferring large patients in ambulances was noted from Paul Woodford. It is currently beyond WICS's ability to be able to help with this but council expressed their concern. Dr Hope will reply. [action DH]
- c) Letter from Martyn Read concerning a problematical issue on withholding and withdrawing life-prolonging treatments. There is a concern that what is good practice in the Intensive Care Unit may not be compatible with what is written in

the GMC guidelines. Dr Hope is to ask Martyn to draft a letter on this issue to the GMC that could be approved and sent by Council. [action DH]

- d) CMO Ruth Hall has requested to meet with representatives from WICS. Dr Hope and Dr Findlay volunteered to meet her. There is no agenda but rather it will be a 'meet and greet' session. Dr Major felt it would be important to emphasise the difference in IC working compared with other specialities especially in the ability to be able to earn extra income. There are obviously no elements of insurance work or private practice resulting in no extra income throughout the working life. To ensure that Intensive Care remains attractive, consideration should be given to extra incentives.
- e) An email from Chris Heneghan has been received by Dr Hope regarding the workings of the AWCCDG. Chris expressed concern that the process of implementing the standards has unleashed a plan to centralise intensive care patients into one large unit into each of the regions, using transfer teams to collect patients from the other hospitals in the region. He suggested that the Standards document, which was produced by WICS has been changed without consultation. Dr Hope will request the latest version of the standards and other CCDG paperwork to clarify the situation. Debate on the topica site was encouraged.

9. Date of next meeting

It was decided to rotate future meetings between different days of the week.
Next meeting is October 15th 2003.

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