

Welsh Intensive Care Society
Minutes of Council Meeting
Wednesday, 28th January 2004

Metropole Hotel
Llandindrod Wells

Present

Dr. D. Hope
Dr. G. Findlay
Dr. P. Temblett
Dr. C. Thorpe
Dr. P. Frost
Dr. D. Hughes
Dr. E. Major

04.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:-
Dr. B. Tehan and Dr. R. Self

04.02 Minutes from the last meeting on 15th October 2003

Dr. Hughes pointed out that his name only had one “t” in it and there was a need to distinguish between himself and Dr. Hope when using abbreviations “DH”.

04.03 Matters Arising

Register of Interests

It was confirmed that it is Council Members’ responsibility to keep the Register of Interests up to date. They need to inform Dr. Self, who keeps the Register, of any changes.
Audit of Use of Activated Protein C

Dr. Thorpe summarised the data he has so far collected. He has received forms recording 35 administrations of the drug. One prescription was apparently in the face of a contra-indication and four despite cautions. There were three complications reported, all bleeding. The outcomes were 14 dead and 20 alive. Information from the Eli Lilly Company indicates that 85 courses of the drug have been prescribed in the study period. Dr. Thorpe will send reminders to the various units. Dr. Hope will request Lilly to provide a regional breakdown of prescriptions to date. [Action CT & D. Hope]

Letter to GMC Regarding Ethical Issues

Dr. Hope has sent the letter to the Chairman of the GMC and a reply is awaited.

04.04 Summer Meeting

Paul Frost circulated a draft programme for the meeting to be held on 21st and 22nd June this year. Council congratulated him on the quality of the programme. Council decided that honorariums of £150 should be offered to the visiting speakers. George Findlay pointed out that an advert needs to be circulated, appealing for free papers. This will be in paper form and on the Topica e-mail list. [Action RS, PF]

04.05 Report on Meeting with Jane Hutt

Dr. Hope described the meeting in December, attended by himself, Dr. Major and Dr. Findlay with the Health Minister. The meeting was the result of a media story concerning Intensive Care bed shortages. There had been a dispute about numbers of Intensive Care beds in Wales and whether they had increased or not. That matter was resolved when the Welsh Assembly Government accepted the WICS figures. There was concern among those present that a strategic solution to Intensive Care bed shortage did not seem to be high up the political agenda.

04.06 All Wales Critical Care Development Group Update

Dr. Hope described the recent developments which are few and far between. The Group has not met and the three sub-committees have not been formed. This means the previous target of the implementation plan by February 2004 is not going to happen. Dr. Hope has e-mailed Andy Webb and David Salter, expressing his concerns about the slow rate of progress. Council asked Dr. Hope to write to David Salter, requesting an urgent meeting of the CCDG to discuss :

- a) slippage in implementation plan
- b) lack of progress on SAFF targets
- c) the lack of political determination

Council also suggested that Dr. Hope spoke to Andy Webb. Dr. Thorpe brought up the particular geographical problems in North Wales. In particular, there was a discussion about the discrepancy between WICS survey and the All Wales Critical Care Development Group's survey, regarding Intensive Care beds in Wrexham Maelor Hospital. The CCDG figures show 21 beds in Wrexham, WICS figures show 5 ITU and 9 HDU beds. Council confirmed that the definition used by WICS was reasonable and that the figures were accurate, according to their definition. Dr. Hope will bring up this discrepancy at the next meeting of the CCDG. [Action D. Hope]

04.07 Educational Meeting with Eli Lilly

Lilly are trying to organise a meeting in Swansea in the week of 15th March - date to be confirmed. This will be an educational meeting, focussing on use of Activated Protein C and there may be a visiting speaker, talking about Intensive Care networks.

04.08 Audit Secretary's Report

Dr. Thorpe briefly described the current STC Audit of Training Standards as this result will be of interest to WICS when all the data has been analysed. There have been no applicants for Fellowship grants and it was decided to re-advertise these. [Action RS]

04.09 Treasurer's Report

Dr. Hope had received a telephone call from Dr. Tehan, informing him of his intention to resign the Treasurer position and membership of WICS Council. Council wished to record its appreciation of Dr. Tehan's commitment to WICS over the past few years. Council decided to ask Dr. Tehan to reconsider his resignation, or at least delay it until the AGM.

04.10 Education and Training Report

Dr. Major suggested that Dr. Hope write to Dr. Chris Heneghan, congratulating him on his appointment as Chairman of the Intercollegiate Board for Training in Intensive Care Medicine. [Action D. Hope]

Dr. Major expressed his concern at the fact that no applicants had replied to recent adverts for CCST Training in Intensive Care Medicine.

04.11 Trainees Report

Dr. Temblett announced a draft programme for a WITS Meeting that he is arranging for the 23rd April 2004 at the Vale of Glamorgan Country Club.

04.12 Any Other Business

Dr. Hughes brought up the subject of job planning and suggested that a meeting would be useful to discuss how various clinicians around the country should approach the job planning process. Contractual matters are outside of the remit of WICS, however, it was thought appropriate if WICS facilitates a meeting of Intensive Care specialists, some time in September, to discuss this important issue. Council decided it would not be appropriate to issue any guidance itself. There is some guidance available from the ICS. Getting terms and conditions right is clearly important when trying to attract trainees to the speciality.

George Findlay brought up the subject of the National Service Framework for Renal Medicine that had been discussed recently on the WICS web site. WICS has not been approached for a direct input to this process and correspondence on the web site is just from individual clinicians.

Dr. Hope suggested that WICS might like to propose Dr. Major for Distinguished Membership of the ICS. Council unanimously supported this proposal and asked Dr. Hope to write a citation. [Action D. Hope]

Dates of next meetings:

April 28th
July 7th
October 13th